

The survey of consciousness about earthquakes which the high school students in Shiga prefecture have

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In recent years, while the number of earth science course in high schools is being reduced, even if the new guidelines for teaching see the 2nd year, it is hard to say that the rate of those who study earth science has increased. It must be said that this tendency is further accelerated by the reduction from 4 to 3 of the standard units of earth science. Combination change of the elective subjects in government-sponsored entrance examination for universities has similarly contributed to it. On the other hand, there is also the reality in which it is almost certain that the next Nankai Earthquake will occur within a few dozen years, and in Shiga Prefecture, the evaluation of the probability of earthquake-occurrence at the active faults in the west coast of Lake Biwa is very high as an inland active fault. Probably, the present young men are bearing responsibility, when such a big damage earthquake occurs. However, it is very uncomfortable that they go away into society while a chance to form the right knowledge about earthquakes and the right posture over disaster prevention has not been given to them. Then, the survey of the consciousness of high school students in Shiga Prefecture was conducted to consider as the basic data for overcoming the present condition. Part of results is as follows (A numerical unit is %). Consequently, it has been checked anew that opening a earth science course at high school by a special teacher is needed.

** The candidate for investigation: 6 high schools in Shiga Prefecture.

** The number of effective replies: 640.

Q1(1). Have they learned about earthquakes at elementary or junior high schools?

Learned: 75, Probably learned but had forgotten: 23, Not learned: 2.

(2). [To those who have learned] Which subject is it (that you have the strongest impression)?

Science: 78, Social studies: 4, Synthetic study: 3, Morality: 2, Others: 4.

Q2(1). After becoming a high school student, have they learned about earthquakes?

Learned: 60, Probably learned but had forgotten: 6, Not learned: 34.

(2). [To those who have learned] Which subject is it (that you have the strongest impression)?

Earth science: 59, Social studies: 2, Others: 3.

Q5. Do you know the following term? How much can you explain?

(2) Preliminary tremor (5) Nankai and Tonankai Earthquake (6) West Lake Biwa active faults

I know it very well and can also explain. (2)34, (5) 5, (6) 7.

I know it and at least a half can be explained. (2)36, (5)15, (6)16.

I know it and can explain a little. (2)21, (5)24, (6)23.

I cannot explain, although the term is known. (2) 9, (5)43, (6)28.

The term is not known. (2) 0, (5)13, (6)25.

Q6. How much can the difference between the following two terms be explained?

(1) seismic intensity, magnitude (2) earthquake, ground motion (3) Southern Hyogo earthquake, the Hanshin Awaji great disaster

I know it very well and can also explain. (1)30, (2) 3, (3) 6.

I know it and at least a half can be explained. (1)25, (2) 9, (3)13.

I know it and can explain a little. (1)25, (2)16, (3)23.

I cannot explain, although the term is known. (1)17, (2)39, (3)51.

The term is not known. (1) 2, (2)32, (3) 7.

Q9. Do you think that a big earthquake will happen in Shiga Prefecture by 2050?

Surely: 15, Probably: 50, Probably not: 15, Should not: 5, It don't understand: 18.

Q13. Do you take measures against an earthquake disaster (less than three)?

Carrying-out bag: 20, Flashlight, battery: 39, Water, emergency provisions: 38,

Radio: 17, Furniture may not fall: 29, Preventing falling items: 9,

Checks of evacuation areas: 23, Family contact: 15, Nothing has been carried out: 24.