

Indirect education of earth science: a case study in Sakurajima

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Almost Japanese don't have good impression for earth science. For example, minor, uninteresting, worthless and so on. In this situation, it is difficult to do the direct education of earth science in Japan.

On the other hand, the themes of earth science are various, and the objects are closely related with our life and familiar nature. The questions of schoolchildren are almost (60%) about earth science, and it indicates that people are originally interested in the earth scientific phenomena. The image of the term of earth science may cause the decline of the curiosity for Japanese.

Then, I propose the indirect education of earth science, that make the people find the relation between earth science and our life and familiar nature. I tried many experimental program in Sakurajima. For example, volcano tour, nature (plants) tour, history tour, sea kayak tour, experience of pottery, experience of agriculture, exhibition of old postcard, and so on. In addition, I coordinated some synthetic experimental learning for the school.

The exhibition of old postcard was held in Kagoshima prefecture community center which is located near the downtown. The postcards are printed pictures of large eruption in Sakurajima 90 years ago. Total visitors are 1057 people during seven days, and it is very good result compared with other earth scientific museum. Almost visitors are not so interested in earth science, but the result of questioner shows the exhibition was good for dissemination of the earth science.

In the synthetic experimental learning for a junior high school 280 students, first I lectured about Sakurajima volcano, and next divided twelve experience tour. The contents of experience tour are as follows; volcano, history, literature, sabo, animals in sea shore, ecology, Sakurajima drums, astronomical observation, pottery, processing of lava, fishery, and Sakurajima ferryboat. Some courses are related to earth science, but some courses are not direct relation to earth science. However, the pottery was used volcanic ash as glaze, the stone monument of the poem shows the features of volcano in the poem. The nature and culture in Sakurajima are closely related to the volcanic eruption and its disaster, and it is possible to approach for earth science from various themes. The result of questioner shows this method is useful to make the children's interest in earth science.