

Making all People become The Full-member of The Society: New direction of lifelong learning policy and activities in Japan

Professor Dr. Makino Atsushi, University of Tokyo, Japan

Abstract:

Japan is simply shifting from a society model to another model. The past model was based on an industrial society of expanding reproduction made possible only by an expanding population. The model we are heading toward is a consumer society that asks its members to develop its sustainability by diversifying and diffusing their sense of values. We see that the basic ideas for society must be shifted from quantity to quality, uniformity to pluralism and diversity, expanded reproduction to sustainability, universal to specific, unity to diffusion, and from centralization to networking.

There, children, who have so far been regarded only as the subject of protection, education, and training, and seniors, who too have been a marginal presence if not the subject of care and support, are welcomed as fully qualified members. It is expected that, by organizing a variety of learning activities among themselves, creating new values, and ultimately transforming their own lives, residents will see new values born among them, which will in turn create new needs that will drive the community's economy.

The key-word of new direction of lifelong learning policy and activities in Japan is 'all people become the full-member of the society.'