

Urban Educational Problems at Osaka City and Educational Reform by Osaka City School Inspector Harutaro Suzuki

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The establishment of special educational considerations for children, learning in regular classes, who have disabilities and special needs can be cited as an important issue of today's school education. It is important to examine its historical lineage, including its relationship with regular education, when we conceptualize current and future modes of special needs education and special educational considerations.

So far, as part of that work, we had examined educational theory by Harutaro Suzuki (1875~1966), who was eminent for accomplishing the standardization of Binet intelligence measurement: in particular, efforts in "special classes" of Osaka Normal Elementary School and standardization tests for intelligence measurement were linked with "appropriate education according to ability" theory developed under the close relationship with special class organization. Based on this, the purpose of this study was to clarify Suzuki's recognition to educational condition in Osaka city and to concrete educational plan provided by Suzuki who was Osaka City School Inspector (1917~1929).

In Osaka city of Taisyo era, serious urban problems had occurred due to too rapid urbanization and heavy industrial conversion. Especially school children in Osaka city were exposed to the damage of urban educational problems. At first, Suzuki paid attention to high mortality at Osaka city, especially that of children, due to so bad hygienic condition. Suzuki insisted that school doctor should belong to the each school

one by one, and he introduced pioneering approach executed in foreign countries.

Suzuki executed two large investigations about actual condition of the non-attending school children. After finishing the report to Osaka city concerning those investigations, Suzuki started to organize special classes of public elementary schools in Osaka City.

Special class organization of Osaka City was lead by Suzuki, and the management solution and operating policy of special class in Osaka City were considerably influenced by Suzuki's "appropriate education according to ability" including intelligence measurement method.

Key words

Harutaro Suzuki, Osaka City School Inspector, Urban Educational Problems, Appropriate Education According to Ability, Special Class Organization

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