

12. Improvement of Education and Learning that Promote Gender Equality and Facilitate a Variety of Choices

■ Education and Learning that Promote Gender Equality

In school education and social education, awareness of self-reliance is cultivated and education and learning that promote the principle of gender equality are further improved. Efforts to raise awareness are also made so that people involved in such education can understand the principle of gender equality.

The National Women's Education Center (NVEC) promotes investigative research that contributes to the formation of a gender-equal society and construction of a women's archive that collects and provides articles related to women who have made distinguished achievements, women's policies, etc., and strives to return those results throughout the country. And also, it sets a fixed time period to develop learning projects for gender equality, women's education and education at home etc., create training materials, and conduct pioneering practical training for instructors to participate in.

■ Improvement of Education, Ability Development, and Learning Opportunities that Make a Variety of Choices Possible

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is implementing measures and policies to promote formation of a life-long learning society in which a variety of learning opportunities are secured throughout people's lifetimes and the results of learning are appropriately evaluated. This is making it possible for both men and women to fully utilize their uniqueness and abilities and participate in every field in society.

For example, it is working to improve learning opportunities in order to develop female human resources who participate in regional development. It is also working to improve opportunities for men to learn about gender equality, in order to eliminate men's perceptions of fixed role division in which only men bear the household finances and make it possible for men to also have a variety of choices.

13. Gender Equality in Science and Technology, and Academic Fields

■ Creation of an Environment to Expand Women's Participation in Research

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is conducting "Supporting Activities for Female Researchers" to support efforts to create environments in which female researchers can balance childbirth, child-rearing, and nursing care with research so that they can utilize their abilities to the fullest extent. It is also expanding support through Special Fellowship for Young Scientists by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science so that outstanding researchers can make a smooth return to their research activities after taking a break for things such as childbirth or child-rearing.

■ Promotion of Girl Students' Selection of Science Courses

As part of its efforts to raise young students' interest in science and technology, the Japan Science and Technology Agency is conducting a program called "Support for female students in choosing science courses". Such projects support female junior and high school students' selection of science courses by providing opportunities for them to interact with female researchers, engineers, university students, etc. who are active in science and technology fields, conducting lessons on experiments and guest lessons, etc.