

Commuting Challenges for High School Students in a Declining Population Area in Japan and the Potential for Citizenship Education

Toyonaka High School (Nose Branch) in Osaka Prefecture in Japan is located in a mountainous area, and in recent years, the number of students who wish to enter the school has been decreasing, and the school has been losing capacity due to “commuting issues,” such as applicants giving up on entering the school because of the commute to the school.

This action research project aims to improve problem-solving skills by providing high school students with a new means of transportation, the electric power-assisted bicycle (e-bike), to support their learning about transportation and to help them understand regional problems the Nose area is facing. In addition to providing e-bikes, the project has also provided traffic safety education to improve driving skills and traffic safety awareness of students and citizenship education to deepen students’ understanding of local issues.