

Considerations of Views on Peer Support

Fieldwork in British Columbia, Canada for a Peer Support Program

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In this research, I focused on peer support programs, which are systems within schools used to address students' problems. After looking at the current problems that students are facing, along with what can be done, I considered how peer support can continue to be used to great effect in the future.

In order to learn more about peer support, I went to Canada and conducted fieldwork. When Japan decided to employ peer support programs, Canada's system was used extensively as the base for Japan's new system. As a result of my research, I learned that peer support advisors (volunteers that help students) use their own personal experiences to help students in need of support. The reason why Canada has been able to use peer support so well, I found, can be attributed to the fact that it is a multicultural country, along with having long used the system within the country's education system. In order to devise the best peer support system for students, I have found that, instead of using previously instituted methods, it is better to, through trial & error, learn what can best be done to support students based on their specific location and circumstances. If peer support is used in the right way in Japan, it could help many students and could improve the educational system. I believe that we should continue to improve Japan's knowledge of peer support so as to devise a better system for students.