



Vocational Education in a “Mature Society” of Japan: Implications on Research Approach for Vocational Education and Training

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to describe the actual situations of economic and social circumstances in “mature society” of Japan. It also discusses about the role of vocational education and its relationship with the economic development. Since the 1990s, Japan has witnessed low economic development, ageing workforce and unstable employment for the younger generation. Hence a longitudinal study was needed to examine the role of vocational education in a mature society. The study was not only focused on the role of vocational education on the economic domain but also on human development and well-beings. The study abstracted six factor scales concerning vocational skills and verified the positive role of students who studied vocational and specialized courses (substantial knowledge and skills) and system construction, especially for higher vocational education based of the vocational key competencies derived from a longitudinal survey.

Keywords: Mature society, vocational key competency, specialized courses, higher vocational education, Japan