

# Study on features of nature experience and roles of migrants in Ishikawa Prefecture

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Nature experience from environmental education has become an urgent task for education in Japan. Today, the number of nature schools which allow us to have nature experience programs is increasing. "Networking nature school" is one of the types of them. There are only two in Japan, and one is in Ishikawa Prefecture. It is called "Ishikawa Nature School." In this school, anyone will be able to hold nature experience programs through using networks of people act as nature experience instructors. In such activities, we expect migrants to find local attractiveness from different point of views, and to advise effective nature experience programs to understand local nature and culture. The objectives of the study are to clarify the features of "Ishikawa Nature School" and to consider roles of migrants as main actors in nature experience programs.

## 2. METHODS

Firstly, program data of Ishikawa Nature School from 2009 to 2016 was analyzed to clarify what kind of groups are joining and changes of programs year by year. Secondly, interview surveys were conducted to the person who firstly came up with idea about Ishikawa Nature School and to the people migrate to Ishikawa and hold natural experience programs. Thirdly, questionnaire surveys were carried out to the nature experience instructors in Ishikawa Nature School.

## 3. RESULTS

### (1) Analyzation of program data

136 groups held nature experience programs in 8years. 30% of them were held only one year. Some programs were held the same way even though the host had changed. Fewer programs held in Noto district compared to other two districts, Kaga and Kanazawa. Half of programs were for anyone, but only 10% of programs were for children.

### (2) Interview

When Ishikawa Nature School launched, they divided the whole groups into three, one for eco-tourism type held by private sectors, two for facilities-based type held by environmental division of Ishikawa prefecture, and three for children type held by board of education of Ishikawa prefecture. Though instructor training, instructors are connected as a network and this stimulate other programs. The structure of Ishikawa Nature School made migrants to act in Ishikawa more freely. Interviewing to migrants, it is revealed that there are several effective ways for migrants to learn about local situation and get skills.

### (3) Questionnaire

The ratio of the groups in which continue their programs next year and have migrants was 37.9%. Many people vote that "they suggest us something new" and "they make the use of their own specialties" as roles of migrants. In the future, they expect migrants to "activate interchange with other people" and to "success group leader".

## 4. DISCUSSION

As members of Ishikawa Nature School, various kinds of groups hold nature experience programs throughout Ishikawa prefecture. Sometimes system has changed but they keep offering programs flexibly as whole. For migrants, Ishikawa Nature School also offers the chances to learn. As roles of migrants, they not only suggest something new from different point of view but they are also deeply embedded to their areas and find out the real tasks for the area. After that, each of them tries to tackle those tasks from their own specialties.