

Changes of high school vocational guidance after 2000's in Japan

– rethinking about hypothesis of “80's type of vocational guidance–

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The purpose of this paper is to examine developments after 2000's in the Japanese high school vocational guidance that has underpinned the smooth transition of high school graduates into labour market in Japanese society, focusing in particular on selection and distribution.

Japanese vocational guidance study for high school graduates on sociology of education has to date been regarded as centering on “Job Selection by High School Vocational guidance” in the sense of ongoing trust-based transactional relations between high schools and enterprises. “Job Selection by High School Vocational guidance” means that High School select student on meritocracy before selection by enterprise. “Job Selection by High School Vocational guidance” founded on trust between high schools and enterprises are an effective means of enabling the smooth transition of high school students from school to work, and are considered to have operated in unison with the spread of meritocracy through internal screening by schools based on grades.

Since 1990's, transition from high school to work has been worse in Japan and school-employer relations have weakened. But most studies of Japanese high school vocational guidance after 2000's are based on case study in Tokyo. The precedent study has a tendency to stretch the meaning of findings on only metropolitan area. Therefore, this paper tries to identify patterns of vocational guidance all parts of Japan. The results of analysis are summarized as follows:

- (1) Rules of high school selection and distribution have not very much changed.

Local labour market is so shrink that it may be difficult for graduates to find a job in future.

- (2) High school vocational guidance varies depending on function of job selection and distribution.

This paper shows four types. Type I is called “80's types of vocational guidance (most meritocratic)” centered on stable, trusting relations between schools and employer, and this can still be found at vocational schools in regions where the job market is still buoyant. On the other hand, Type IV is “free types of vocational guidance model (not meritocratic)”. There is no relation between school and employer. Type II is called “semi-80's types of vocational guidance (semi-meritocratic). Type III is “semi-free types of vocational guidance model”.

- (3) This paper tries to analyze 80's archive data, we found diversity of meritocracy of vocational guidance “Job Selection by High School Vocational guidance” was limited to some high schools.

- (4) According to non-metropolitan area survey, the position of high school graduate in regional labour

market varies industry structural differences between regions.

- (5) A pattern of the labour migration of new graduates from high school has course dependence. Attributes of birthplace has influence on vocational selection of high school graduates in rural area.

From the above, (a)creation of various patterns of vocational guidance,(b)making account of Japanese system of human resource development articulation to school culture,(c)rethinking about labour market position of high school graduates,(d)concern of “reschooling”,(e) Reevaluation and limits of high school vocational guidance about migration.