

Necessity of Basic Numeracy Skills in Career Education Programs

メタデータ	言語: English 出版者: 公開日: 2023-02-09 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: Itoh, Keiji メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	<a href="https://doi.org/10.57529/00002101">https://doi.org/10.57529/00002101</a>

# Necessity of Basic Numeracy Skills in Career Education Programs

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**Abstract :** This paper argues that the present career education policy in Japan tend to disregard basic mathematical skills of college students.

In 2011, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology regulated universities and colleges to provide students with career education programs in assisting them acquire skills necessary for acquiring a job after graduation. Universities in Japan, therefore, put a great deal of effort into job hunting training, teaching students inter-personal communication and problem-solving skills.

So called “zest for living” may be helpful in many business situations, but it takes labor and time to select suitable human resources through a series of personality tests and interviews. Most companies adopt an achievement test of basic academic abilities.

Such a paper examination just used as a baseline to cut off candidates? The answer is “No”. Students who cannot calculate irrational numbers can hardly understand economics or statistics. Grasping the actual situations on business cites requires comprehension of round numbers.

The results of the survey on students at university level who were asked to work on a mathematical calculation tasks taken out of high school entrance examination, showed a lack of basic numeracy intelligence among them. There were many students who could not see their errors, and the ability to apply their mathematical knowledge to construct a more complex fomula was clearly lacking.

**Keywords :** round numbers ; problem-solving ; basic calculation skill ; fractions ; equations