

Professional Development Program for Science Teachers in International Cooperation: Case Study in JICA Training Program for Young Leaders of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

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The mission of Ochanomizu University, which has a history of women's education stretching back 130 years, is to support the growth of women, regardless of nationality or age, and the development of their qualifications and skills. Ochanomizu University has been conducting the Afghanistan Women Teacher's Training program on behalf of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since FY2002. This is the tenth year of our project working to strengthen education for Afghanistan. We designed an appropriate training program for Afghanistan science teachers to improve the quality of science teaching in elementary and secondary schools. This study presents the curriculum of a professional development program for science teachers from Afghanistan containing science practices, lectures, and visiting an elementary school and Board of Education. In order to examine the effectiveness of this program, we carried out a survey using a questionnaire for 20 trained participants. The questionnaire results showed that participants felt that our program met their expectations regarding acquiring skills for 'syllabus planning', 'lesson planning' and 'teaching methods.' Also, we found that the program has had a positive impact on the participants' attitudes toward improving the quality of science teaching in elementary and secondary schools.