

Do you think that reading and writing make our life better?

Why? / Why not?

手順(1)の②と関連づけて

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In the summer of 1994, a group of Japanese volunteers built a small school in a village in Cambodia. They worked hard together with Cambodian college students. The schoolhouse was built in three days. The cost was only 500,000yen.

Many of the village people have never studied at school. Now they are learning reading and writing for the first time in their lives. They have waited for this chance for a long time.

Japanese volunteers are calling this kind of small school a “terakoya” after the name of many private schools in the Edo era. And they are calling their activities the “Terakoya Movement.” It started in 1989. It has been playing an important part in the international literacy movement.

発問例) 1st paragraph ① Who built a small school in Cambodia in 1994?

2nd paragraph ② How do you think the village people felt about that?

3rd paragraph ③ Why are Japanese volunteers calling this kind of school a “terakoya”?

How has the “Terakoya Movement” worked?

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In the Edo era, there were hundreds of terakoyas in Japan. Many children learned reading, writing, and arithmetic there. At one time, more than 700,000 children were learning at terakoyas.

Because of terakoyas, the rate of literacy in Japan was higher than in many other countries. That helped the rapid development in the Meiji era.

Literacy is not only important for a happy life but also for the development of a nation.

The “Terakoya Movement” is great. So far, Japanese volunteers have built and opened more than 5,000 terakoyas throughout the world—in Africa, Central and South America, as well as in Asia.