In order to promote the development of infrastructures and improvement of the quality of vocational rehabilitation services, the National Institute of Vocational Rehabilitation (NIVR) conducts research on vocational rehabilitation services, development of techniques, and training of professional personnel.

1 Research on Vocational Rehabilitation

Research Based on Various Needs

In order to develop policies for vocational rehabilitation for persons with disabilities and improve employment support techniques at Local Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities as well as Employment and Life Support Centers for Persons with Disabilities, hospitals, and special needs schools, the NIVR conducts the following research based on the current situations surrounding persons with disabilities and trends in the development of disability-related measures.

1 Pioneering research on vocational rehabilitation for persons with developmental disabilities, mental disabilities, higher brain dysfunctions, and intractable diseases


2 Research that contributes to solving problems at Local Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities and other agencies providing vocational rehabilitation services


3 Research for developing effective support tools and other methods for local work support agencies


4 Research that contributes to the development of national policies

- “Research and Survey Concerning Employment Situations of Persons with Disabilities”, etc.

Dissemination and Use of Research Results

Research results are integrated into Research and Survey Reports, Material Series and various manuals, and are distributed widely to related facilities, administrative agencies, employers and employers’ organizations, etc., together with brochures and summaries that compile such data.

In addition, various tools developed by the NIVR are provided to work support agencies, including Local Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities, for use in employment support practice.

These accomplishments are listed on the NIVR website (http://www.nivr.or.jp/english/), and available for download. Some of them are also available for sale.
Employment Support for Persons with Disabilities

Vocational Rehabilitation Research/Practice Report Meeting

Targeting personnel at employment support agencies, institutions in the field of welfare, medical care, and education, and persons in charge of employment management at business offices, the NIVR holds Vocational Rehabilitation Research/Practice Report Meeting every year as a venue for presenting the results of the research conducted by the NIVR and activities by these institutions, as well as for information exchange among them.

Development of Effective Vocational Rehabilitation Methods

The NIVR develops and improves support methods for persons with developmental disabilities, mental disabilities, and higher brain dysfunctions, for which traditional methods of support are ineffective due to the increasing severity and diversification of such disabilities.

Effective support methods developed through actual support for such individuals are integrated into Reports on Practical Support Methods and Support Manuals, and are provided to Local Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities and the relevant agencies. In addition, Support Technique Dissemination Training is also conducted.

Education and Training of Vocational Rehabilitation Specialists

Training of Vocational Counselors and Vocational Training Instructors

The NIVR offers systematic training according to position and years of experience to vocational counselors and vocational training instructors for persons with disabilities stationed at Local and Large Region Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities in order to provide them with knowledge and skills as vocational rehabilitation specialists to improve the quality of their services.

Training of Vocational Rehabilitation Staff in the Welfare and Medical Fields

Targeting personnel responsible for employment support for persons with disabilities at Employment and Life Support Centers for Persons with Disabilities and other related organizations in the welfare, medical and educational field, the NIVR offers the following trainings to have them acquire the basic vocational rehabilitation knowledge and skills required for employment support and improvement of the quality of their services.

Education and Training of Job Coaches

This program is carried out for training job coaches, some who are stationed in Local Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities, and others who belong to welfare institutions, etc. (dispatched type) and companies (assigned type).

The training aims to promote acquisition of the technical knowledge and support methods required to become a job coach by combining training conducted at the NIVR with regional training conducted at Local Vocational Centers for Persons with Disabilities.

Support Skills Training of Job Coaches

This training is for job coaches with a certain amount of practical experience, and aims to improve their skills in supporting workers with disabilities and employers in areas such as employment management and task redesign.

Training of Personnel Responsible for Employment Support at Employment and Life Support Centers for Persons with Disabilities

The objective of this training is to provide the knowledge and support methods necessary in performing the tasks of personnel responsible for employment support at Employment and Life Support Centers for Persons with Disabilities, as well as to improve their support skills.

Employment Support Practical Training

This seminar, whose target is personnel responsible for employment support for persons with disabilities with more than 2 years’ practical experiences at institutions involved with labor, welfare, medical care and education, provides practical capabilities for employment support according to each disability (mental disability, developmental disability and higher brain dysfunction).

Employment Support Skill Improvement Training

This seminar targets personnel responsible for employment support for persons with disabilities with more than 3 years’ practical experiences in order to improve their employment support techniques utilizing the outcomes of research and support methods developed in the NIVR according to each disability (mental disability, developmental disability and higher brain dysfunction). It also aims at improving human skills required to collaborate with other institutions.