

# Inheriting “Kagura” : A Shared Awe of Nature, Bettering the Community Spirit for the Next Generation



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## 1 Introduction

### What is Keichiku Kagura?

- Kagura is a Japanese traditional ritual which has dancing and music
- local traditional culture in the Keichiku area in Fukuoka
- 28 of the 30 groups are nationally recognized as intangible folk cultural assets



Keichiku



- originated in **Shinto**
- a **gratitude for nature**
- low **recognition**
- lack of **successors**

## 2 Methods and Results

### Watched 9 Kagura groups' performances

Each group has its own characteristics, glittering costumes and powerful performances

⇒ We felt its power and were impressed, but we didn't understand its real meaning.

### Participated in a local workshop

Told children about Kagura and Nature in our area

Used Karuta, Sugoroku and Kamishibai

⇒ The children enjoyed learning about Kagura.

In order to convey the significance of Kagura and the meaning in its dance, with Kamishibai so that people can enjoy learning about it, we did the following.



Action① Read Kamishibai to elementary school students

More than 98% of 60 students said, "I actually want to see the performance of Kagura."  
⇒ We found that children could understand our Kamishibai.



Action② Read Kamishibai to university students in Malaysia

They said, "I have a good understanding of Kagura." and "I want to use it in class."  
⇒ We found that even people from different cultures could understand our Kamishibai.



Action③ Display on Kagura in the library

We displayed a poster on Kagura, a distribution map of Keichiku Kagura and the Kamishibai we made.  
⇒ We found that many people got interested in Kagura.

## 3 Conclusion

Action①② We found that even children and people from different cultures could understand the stories of Kagura.

Action③ Libraries are an effective place in which to convey the meaning and the reasons for the existence of Kagura

Knowing the meaning of Kagura ⇒ Inheriting an awe of nature

Convincing and effective methods to preserve Kagura



Bettering the community spirit

A growing interest in environmental issues

## 4 Future challenges

To continue our activities, such as reading Kamishibai, displaying on Kagura in the library and analyzing the effect

⇒ To cooperate with the SG club, Kagura groups, other schools and the library

