

## Summary of Japanese Youth Feedback for WDR

(YDP Japan Network)

### Condition

Date of consultation : February, 22, 2005

Time of consultation: Around 7 p.m. ~ 10 p.m.

Place of consultation : Waseda University(Tokyo, Japan)

Number of participant : 10 (Male-5 : Female-5)

Attribution : University(undergraduate) students

### Summary

#### The transition from school

##### Pressing Issue

- Education in Japan lacks the system that allows the students to actively state their opinions and ideas.
- Cram education/ force-fed education
- Over emphasis on academic qualification
- General decline in academic standards
- Decline in academic enthusiasm/motivation
- Bullying at school
- Boycotting school (probably due to lack of motivation and class bullying)
- Class disruption and chaos
- Disparity in given opportunity and quality of education depending upon ones family's financial abilities. Thus, the academic qualification tends to reflect ones financial background at the same time.
- Compulsory education is not enough for the students in Japan to obtain good job or to pass on difficult exams (e.g. national exams).

#### The similarities in the transitions of young people in developing countries and in Japan

- Overemphasis on academic qualification
- Bullying
- Academic qualification is based upon ones economic/financial abilities and background
- The quality of education that one can receive greatly depends on how much one could

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pay for it.

-There is a necessity for acquiring more information and education outside of compulsory education in order to win the competition in society once we are out of school.

### The differences in the transitions of young people in developing countries and in Japan

-Lack of educational environment that allows students to speak out their opinions and ideas. \* This was specifically compared with western education system.

- Class disruption and chaos

### The transition to a healthy lifestyle

#### Pressing Issue in the transition

Increase of young obesity

Poor sex education taught in school and home

Rapid spread of HIV among the youth

Increase of (young) smokers

Increase of adult diseases and lifestyle (lifestyle related) diseases among the youth

Increase of mental diseases/psychological illness

Moral/social pressure that each individual feels due to the competition in society

Severe increase in suicide rate

### The similarities in the transitions of young people in developing countries and in Japan

Poor sex education taught in school and home

Rapid growth of HIV among the youth

Increase of young smokers

### The differences in the transitions of young people in developing countries and in Japan

Increase of obesity, adult disease/lifestyle diseases, mental illness and the pressure that each individual feels due to the competition in society.

## **The transition to work**

### **Pressing Issue in the transition**

- Increase of N E E T (those who are not under employment, education or in training) and workers that are not hired through regular employment
- The voluntarily separation from the work
- Lack of adequate education that provides technical training
- Absence of clear image on what work is like
- Absence of successor
- Regional disparity on salary and job opportunity
- Limited job opportunity based on nationalities and academic qualification
- Lack of maintenance/working environment for women to actively participate in work

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## **The transition to family formation**

### **Pressing Issue in the transition**

- Polarization in formation of family- people either get married at very early age or later in their age. Increase in early marriage / late marriage and not much in the median.
- Late marriage couples tend to be highly educated with high income while the early marriage couples tend to have lower income and the inferior education. Therefore, the environment to raise the children tends to greatly differ based upon either parents are

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married at early or late age.

- The age of nuclear family- thus there are no strong bonds among the family
- Increase of child abuse
- Declining birthrate and the rapid increase in growing proportion of elderly people

### The similarities in the transitions of young people in developing countries and in Japan

- The environment that the children are raised in greatly differs depending upon the parents' academic qualification and the salary.
- Child abuse

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- Polarization in formation of family- people either get married at very early age or later in their age. Increase in early marriage / late marriage and not much in the median.
- Late marriage couples tend to be highly educated with high income while the early marriage couples tend to have lower income and the inferior education. Therefore, the environment to raise the children tends to greatly differ based upon either the parents are married at early or late age.
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## The transition to citizenship

### Pressing Issue in the transition

- Low voter turnout
- Lack of interest in politics
- Lack of concern over society
- The political power is focused on particular groups by interfamilial relationship. In other words, most of the major politicians in Japan today are either second or third generation from family with strong political background.
- Absence of enough Youth organization
- Not enough credit given to volunteers and social contribution

### The similarities in the transitions of young people in developing countries and in Japan

- The political power is focused on particular groups or family by interfamilial

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relationship.

- Not enough Youth organization
- Not much credit given to volunteers and social contribution
- There are not enough NGO and the social contribution

### The differences in the transitions of young people in developing countries and in Japan

- Low voter turnout
- Lack of concern over society
- Lack of interest in politics

### **Reflection on our consultation**

- Not enough participants due weak PR
- Confusion and misinterpretation that occurred during the discussion due to lack of understanding about the purpose of WDR.
- There were great difficulties in comparing the situation in Japan and the developing nations due to lack of information and knowledge we had on the developing countries.

### **Remedial measure**

For the future reference; we should hand out the necessary information to the participants in advance (e.g. a month or two before our consultation) so the discussion would run smoother. It would be ideal if we had an advisor, a person with more understanding and knowledge about the WDR and the developing nation to help us in our consultation.