

Keynote 2:

Child poverty from the perspective of juvenile delinquency: How we define poverty changes children's future

1. Who I am

(1) Teruko Yamada, president of Cocoro-soda-teru Project

Served as specialist in juvenile delinquency remedial measures at Okinawa Prefectural Police headquarters and stations for 14 years

(2) Work interactions

- Juvenile offenders (juvenile criminals, underage offenders, status offenders, juvenile delinquents)
- Juvenile victims (victims of crimes, abuse, bullying, etc.)
- Guardians
- Educators, education-related institutions, etc.

(3) Cases covered

- Child prostitution, production of child pornography
- Sex crimes (rape, incapacitated rape, carnal abuse, etc.)
- Adult entertainment/sex industry-related (crackdowns on hostess bars, call-in sex services, sex parlors)
- Theft
- Bodily harm (fatal), battery
- Child abuse (physical, neglect, psychological, sexual)
- Drug-related (stimulants, etc.)
- Organized crime-related
- Cyber crime-related

(4) Background

Driven by the desire to assist troubled youths, I took this to the next level by launching the Cocoro-soda-teru (=cultivate a heart) Project to help develop a society that supports youths before they become troubled.

(5) Cocoro-soda-teru Project (seminars)

- Foster pride and self-esteem: Cheerful, healthy lifestyles; talks for supporting emotional well-being
- Take an interest in juvenile delinquency-related issues: Where delinquency starts and ends
- Improve crisis management skills (preventing sexual victimization and child abuse): Ways to protect oneself
- Career development education (for selecting job and career path): How to go about your personal journey in life
- Crime/delinquency prevention (being neither an offender nor a victim): Internet-related trouble, theft, bullying, delinquent acts

(6) Target audiences

- Children, students (kindergarten, elementary, junior/senior high, college)
- Guardians, community residents, school faculty/staff, related organizations, US Armed Forces Japan Association of DoDEA Principals*

*Official English translation was unavailable for the association

- Police academies
- Okinawa residents (newspaper articles)

2. The key to breaking the negative cycle is to take action against “emotional poverty”
Emotional poverty (insufficient pride/self-esteem)
Negative cycle→ Repeats in environments that do not nurture life skills (ability to think, choose, and act on one’s own)
- Emotional poverty and the negative cycle -> Same applies to juvenile delinquency issues
3. Images of delinquent youths
4. The “right” way to nurture delinquent youths (negative cycle)
5. Coordinating actions for transforming the vicious circle of delinquency (schools, community, government, healthcare)
6. Factors that give rise to juvenile delinquency
 - (1) Decreased ability of families to educate their children
 - (2) Unilateral approach to education/guidance
 - (3) Decreased ability of communities to prevent delinquency
7. The concept of degeneration as a factor contributing to delinquency
8. Characteristics of delinquent youths
 - (1) Poor respect for norms (shoplifting)
 - (2) Low pride/self-esteem
 - (a) Emotional poverty and negative cycle of victims and perpetrators of abuse (physical, neglect, psychological, sexual)
 - (b) Developmental disabilities
 - (c) What happens to youths with poor self-esteem
Boys -> Transition to violent behavior
(Trying to find purpose of existence through force and dominance)
Girls -> Transition to sexual misconduct
(Selling sex to gain the false feeling of being needed)
 - (d) Sexual victimization (*Enjo kosai* compensated dating, call-in sex services, prostitution, sex not for compensation)
 - (3) Poor communication skills
 - (4) Lack of judgment and crisis management skills
9. Why does delinquency become a serious issue?
10. Summary
What does it take to overcome poverty?