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Desistance Needs of Young Offenders in Japan, and the Countermeasures



Professor Kayo KONAGAI, Ph.D.

Department of Community Development
Rikkyo University, Japan

Outline

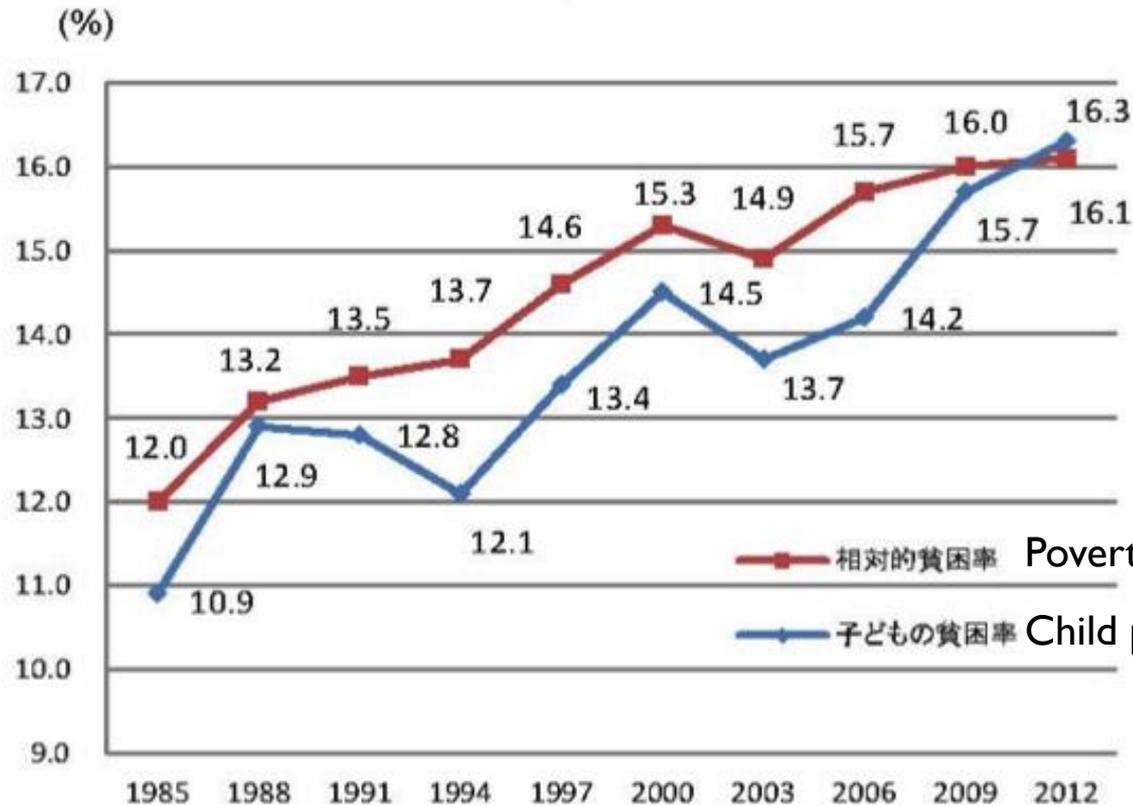
- 1 Life Situation of Young People in Japan
- 2 Life Situation of the Repeated Young Offenders and their Recidivism Risk
- 3 Discussion on Desistance Needs of Young Offenders in Japan
- 4 Necessary Support for Young Offenders
- 5 Effective Schemes that Meet the Needs of Young Offenders

1 Life Situation of Young People in Japan

- Repeated juvenile offenders commit considerable amount of crimes in the decreasing trend of juvenile crimes.
- Many of them grew up in hard environment and fall into the difficult socio economic status to commit offences. Such features reflect the difficult lives of certain group of deprived young people.
- Child poverty and its consequent hardship in adulthood is the social problem in Japan.
- Thus a lot of researches are conducted to explore actual conditions and factors of child poverty.

Trend of Relative Poverty Rate in Japan

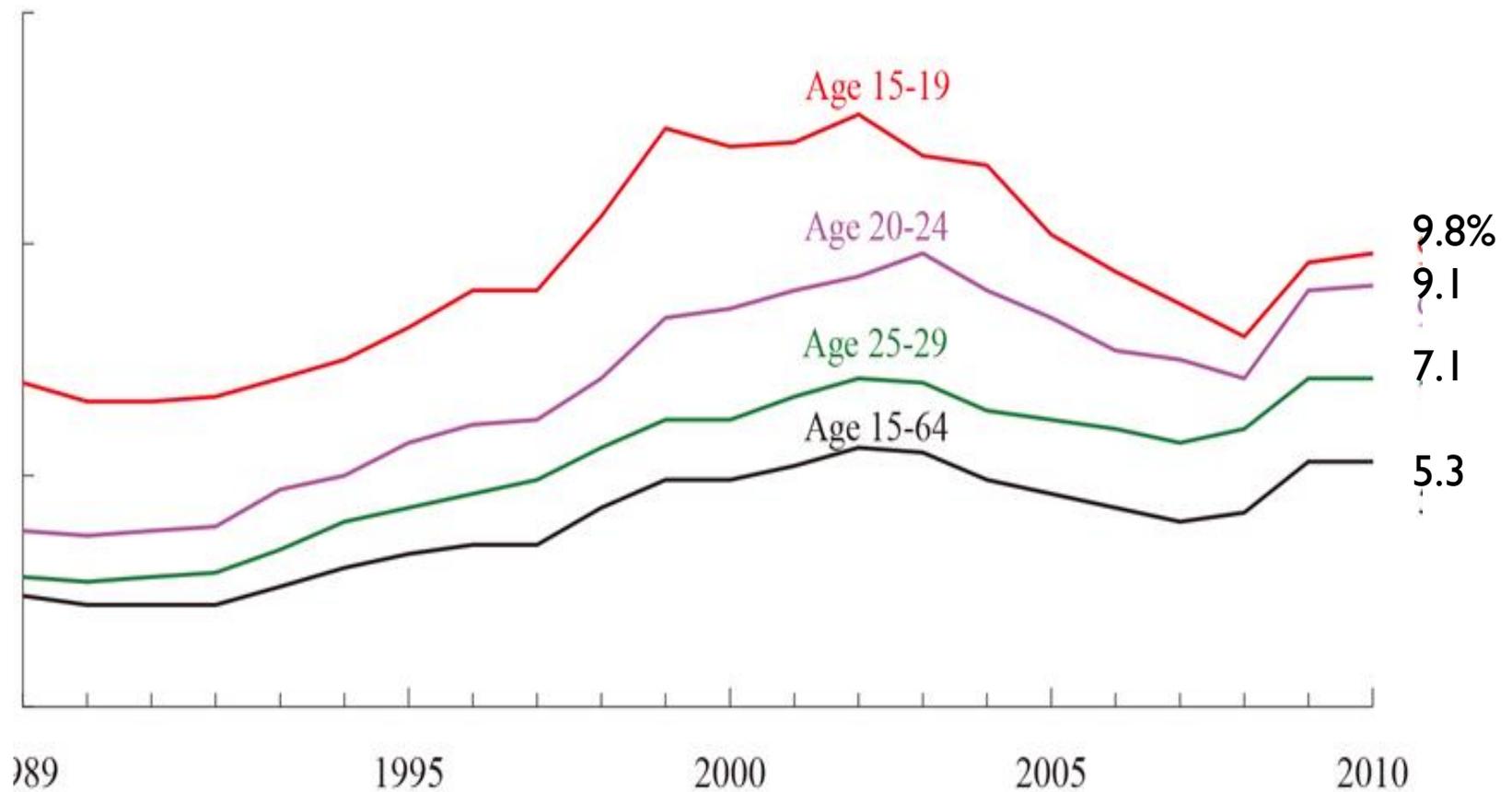
相対的貧困率の推移



Source : <http://www.hinkonstat.net/> 2015.4.30 access

* Average of child relative poverty rate is 11.3 in OECD countries

6 Unemployment rate of youth by age group (1989-2010)



employment rate" indicates the percentage of the unemployed to the labour force.

Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications ("Labour Force Survey")

Source: White Paper on Crimes in 2011

The Cohort Research by Prof. Akiko Ouishi

“ Child Poverty and its Consequence”, 2007

1) Subjects: 584 residents in one local area.

2) Findings:

- Cohort effect is found in the people who experienced child poverty.
- The living standard and family support of the child at the age of 15 affect his educational achievement.
- If family support could not meet the basic needs in his childhood, it might increase risk of poverty in his adulthood.

The 6 Years' Panel Survey by Prof. Akio Inui, et al.

“Youth Cohort Study of Japan in 2007-2012”, 2014

1) Subjects: 1687 people of 17-18 yrs. old in 2007

→ 891 people of 24-25 yrs. old in 2012.

2) Findings:

- Educational attainment and job type of the young people are affected by the educational background of his parents and job type of his father.
- One third of the samples are dropped into unstable employment in 2012.
- The young people, whose educational background is high school graduate of general course, tend to work with unstable conditions, low payment and little training opportunity.

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- Time/form of transfer from education to work is strongly related with educational career.
 - Household income of the family affects on length of education of the child.
 - People with higher education and regular employment status tend to get higher income as well as vocational training opportunities. People with rather short educational term but regular employment status get second higher income, even though they are not provided with enough training chances.

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- Young people with long educational term and regular employment status tend to get high income and opportunities to enhance job skills. Young people with rather short educational term and regular employment status get second higher income, but lack of opportunity to enhance job skills. Then non-regular workers can only get the lowest income, which has nothing to do with educational back ground.

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- Young people who are deprived in education, employment, training and decant income tend to complain for their sever livings.
 - But they are apt to put their ill fate down not to social injustice but to their own responsibilities.

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- There are various public services and social security systems for the people with difficulties in employment. But they tend not to use these resources. Especially the vocational training scheme of the government is seldom used. They often seek jobs using his small circle of friends.
 - They suffer from uncertainty for the future.

2 Life Situation of the Repeated Young Offenders and their Recidivism Risk

The Ministry of Justice conducted two surveys for young recidivists in 2004 and 2011.

(1) Follow-up Survey

- 1) Subjects: 644 Juvenile training school (JTS) parolees of 18 or 19 yrs. old in 2004.
- 2) Object: To explore their recidivism up to 25 yrs. old and the risk factors.

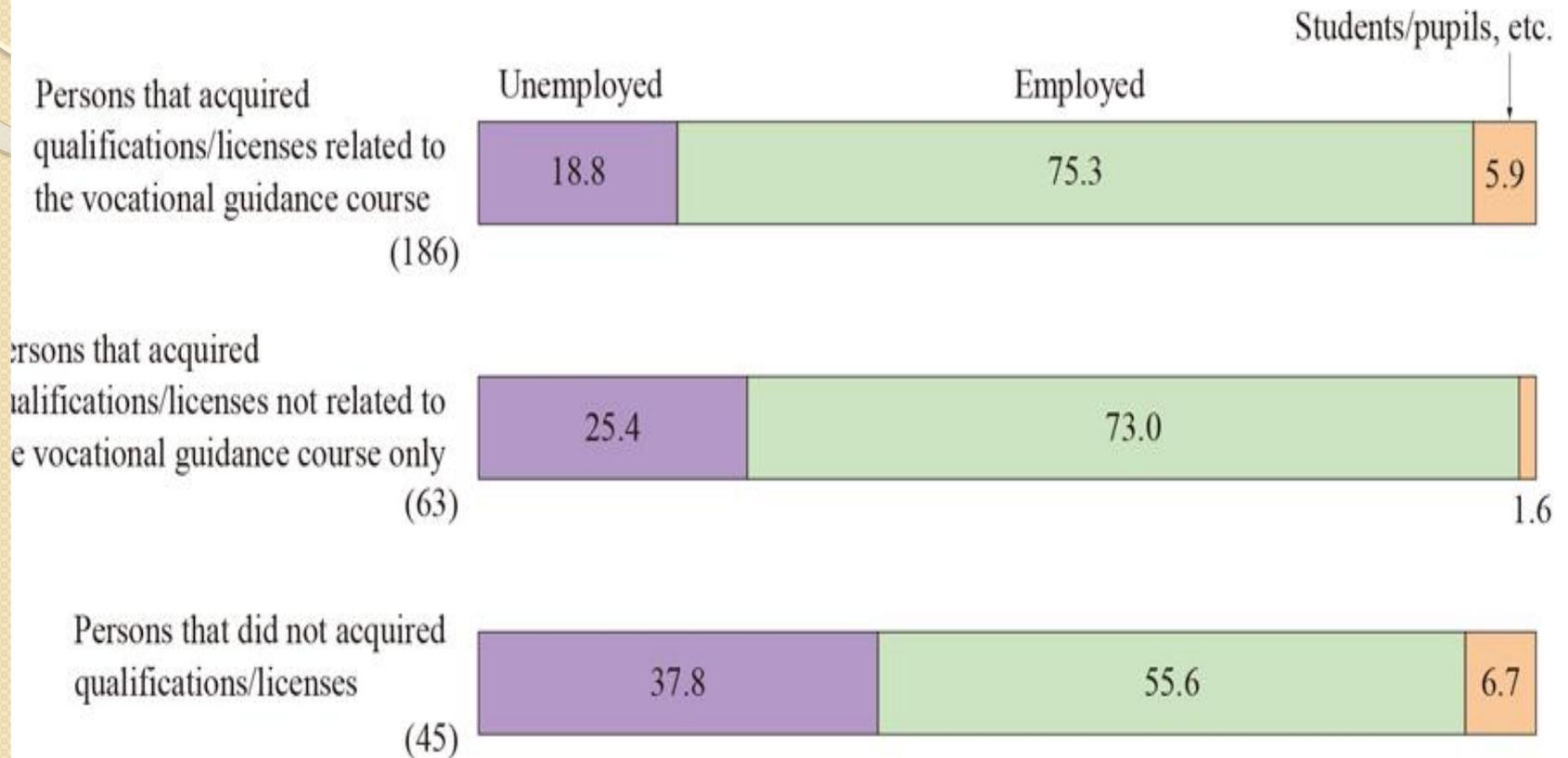
3) Findings:

The recidivists, who are sent to prison up to 25 yrs. old, tend to have such features as;

- Unemployment
- Multiple problems in employment and income
- Grew up in poor family relationship
- Unstable housing

- The lower their educational career is, the more they tend to be unemployed.
- The unemployment ratio is low among the people who made use of the certifications to get jobs.

7-3-3-1-9 Employment status by status of acquisition of qualifications/licenses while in juvenile training schools (long-term treatment programs)



Excluding those whose employment status is unknown.

“Students/pupils, etc.” indicates students/pupils and full-time homemakers.

The figures in parentheses indicate the actual numbers.

The Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Justice

(2) Survey on Attitude of Young Offenders

- Subjects: 730 JTS inmates and 372 prisoners under 30 years of age in 2011.
- Finding: The ratio of the people who think “I easily give up solving difficulties” is my risk factor”.
 - 20 % of the first time JTS inmates
 - 37.5% of the repeated JTS inmates
 - 42.6 % of the first time prisoners
 - 47.5% of the repeated prisoners
- Thus the heavier his criminal career is, the more easily he gives up solving the difficulties.

3 Discussion on Desistance Needs of Young Offenders

- The problems of young offenders are similar to the problems of ordinary young people. Offenders just show the common difficulties of young people in a condensed manner.
- In the child poverty survey, factors on family and education have correlation with stability and conditions of employment, consequently stability of life.
- Majority of young offenders are underprivileged of both family support and education.

4 Necessary Support for Young Offenders

- Stable and decent accommodation
- Support for basic learning skills and knowledge
- Support to get high school diploma
- Support for vocational training and consequent job seeking in social context
- Stable emotional relationship with supportive person
- Support to enhance self confidence in social context

5 Effective Schemes of Probation Service that Meet the Needs of Young Offenders

- Emotional support and role model by Probation Officer and/or Volunteer Probation Officers
- Accommodation support by halfway houses and urgent housing/self help assistant schemes
- Support to expand opportunity and capability of job
 - Employment Support Centers
 - Cooperate Employment Schemes
 - Job Chief Schemes
 - Help to access social resources of training
- Learning support by BBS
(=Young Volunteers supporting young offenders)

Merits of Japanese Probation Service and Task

- In order to meet the needs of young offenders, community partnership (social service, education, employment support, medical service, NGOs, etc.) is important.
- Probation treatment is implemented within the probation area, which is same as neighbourhood community. It is proper area to outreach to the needs of offenders. In every area VPOs live at the center of social capital, and continue to make effort to strengthen partnership with local resources.

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- To make most use of community resources, information sharing among partners and risk management by probation service is inevitable.
 - Sound and effective “Partnership” shall be build on the firm probation service by the State.



Thank you very much
for your kind attention.

Kayo Konagai

Professor, Ph.D.

Rikkyo University, Japan

k-konagai@rikkyo.ac.jp