

**Topic-Setting Program to Advance Cutting-Edge
Humanities and Social Sciences Research**

(Responding to Real Society)

Progress Report
(Summary of Final Report)

[Project on the Impact and Effectiveness of Poverty Reduction
Programs for Children and Adolescents]

Core-Researcher: Aya, ABE

Institution: Tokyo Metropolitan University

Academic Unit: Graduate School of Humanities

Position: Professor

Research Period: FY2015-10-1 - FY2018-9-30

1. Basic information of research project

Research Area	Interrelationship between institutions, culture, public spirit, and socioeconomic systems
Project Title	Project on the Impact and Effectiveness of Poverty Reduction Programs for Children and Adolescents
Institution	Tokyo Metropolitan University
Core-Researcher (Name, Academic Unit & Position)	Aya ABE, Graduate School of Humanities, Professor
Project Period	FY2015-10-1- FY2018-9-30
Appropriations Plan (¥)	FY2015 2,530,000 JPY
	FY2016 4,180,000 JPY
	FY2017 2,890,000 JPY
	FY2018 1,580,000 JPY

2. Purpose of research

The purpose of this research project is 1) to evaluate the effects of recently implemented programs to combat poverty of child and youth, 2) to study the interplay of policy, public opinion and those related to the programs implemented.

The research project tries to gain knowledge on three topics in particular. The first topic is evaluate the impact of learning support programs for children from poor family background and those on welfare. The second topic it to assess the interplay of the public opinion on formulation of programs to combat child poverty. The third topic is understand how measures against child poverty is justified theoretically by previous scholars in multi-disciplinary fields.

3. Outline of research (Including study member)

Topic 1: Inui, A. (leader), Tanno, K., Okabe, T., Murota, S., Hamatani, N., Kobayashi K., Nozaki, T.

To evaluate the impact of the learning support programs for poor children, in-depth interviews of former participants of the programs and their parents, as well as survey of participants and parents were conducted. For the in-depth interview, all in all, 25 youth and 21 parents were interviewed. For the survey, answers from 125 child-parent pairs were collected (response rate 88.8% for children, 48.8% for parents).

Topic 2: Horie, T. (leader), Abe, A., Mizushima, H., Odagawa, H., Suzuki M.

To understand the role of media and formation of public opinion on poverty reduction programs such as the Public Assistance, a public opinion survey of 2000 adults were conducted in 2016. Using the data, the analysis was conducted on how people form the opinion of “poverty” and “being on the Public Assistance”, and what kind of media (newspapers, tv,

radio, internet news sites, blogs, twitters, etc.) had impact on forming those opinions.

Topic 3: Okabe, T. (leader), Matsushita, T.

To understand the theoretical background which led to government to implement measures against child poverty, a literature survey was performed in the areas of education, sociology and social welfare.

4. Research results and outcomes produced

Topic 1:

From the interviews, former participants of learning support programs did not view the program just as a place to study, but also as a place of acceptance and a place to receive wide range of social experiences. From the survey, the direct impact of the programs on the academic achievement of children could not be proved, but there was definite progress of mental well-being of children.

Topic 2:

For the opinion on public redistribution of income, strong effect of underlying principle of “self-responsibility” was detected. Also, the lack of understanding of risks and social security system in general, a gender-biased model of policy making were other factors against the public supporting redistribution. However, against our hypothesis that information from the internet is contributing to people forming opinions against Public Assistance, there was no such evidence. Instead, traditional mass media, especially TV, had the largest effect on people’s opinions. Newspaper media was on the whole more balanced effect compared to other types of media.

Topic 3:

The theoretical justification for supporting measures against child poverty has changed over time from that of “charity” to “investment” .