

# Exploring possibilities on how to support Filipino children in a sustainable way

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## Abstract

Our school has been **financially supporting** poor families in the Philippines through Child Fund Japan (CFJ) for 40 years. So, we visited them and tried to find out if our financial help was supporting them well enough. When we saw the poor families there, we immediately noticed the chain of poverty and the lack of education. In particular, we were shocked at the children's serious tooth decay. We conducted a survey on the children's oral hygiene in the Philippines and Japan. From the result, we suggest that **we should support them not only financially but also educationally**. Furthermore, we thought about what high school students could do **in a sustainable way to cut the chain of poverty and the lack of education**.

## Introduction

Most of the students in Seishin Girls' High School don't know what the lives of poor families really are like because we hadn't interacted with the local people. Therefore, we visited them in order to disseminate **the actual condition** to the other students and have them understand the significance of 100 yen.

100 × 737 ppl = ¥73,700

ChildFund Japan

What we saw



## Thesis

~ Main Factors of the Children's Serious Tooth Decay ~



Sustainable Ways of Supporting the Filipino Children

Financial Educational

## Methods

~ Comparison With Japan ~

- report from CFJ office
- report from Okayama Prefecture
- survey by questionnaire

## Result

① The rate of tooth decay in CFJ center and in Okayama

	number of respondents	need treatment	need extraction	need prophylaxis
CFJ (age6-20)	335 (97.10%)	239 (71.34%)	139 (41.49%)	75 (22.39%)
ES	32,107	40.50%	no data	2.60%
JHS	20,542	35.80%	no data	4.20%
SHS	22,632	43.10%	no data	3.50%

②A CFJ families' occupations and monthly salary

occupations	peso	Yen
domestic helper	₱3,500	¥7,350
factory worker / sales person	₱6,250	¥13,125
tricycle driver / construction worker	₱6,600	¥13,818
jeepney driver	₱7,500	¥15,750
guard	₱7,580	¥15,918

②B CFJ families' expenses to go to dentist

**dental treatment**

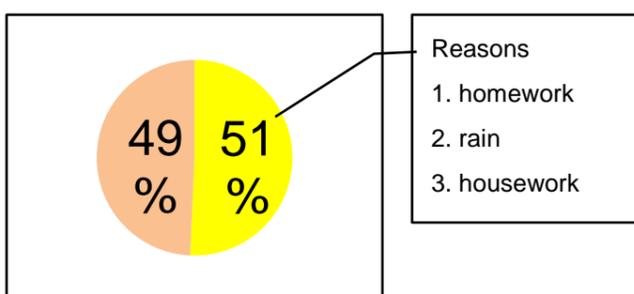
- dental filling 400~500 peso
- prophylaxis 350~1,000 peso
- tooth extraction 200~500 peso
- + **transportation expenses** 18 peso

**Average Dental Treatment**  
₱500 = ¥1,050

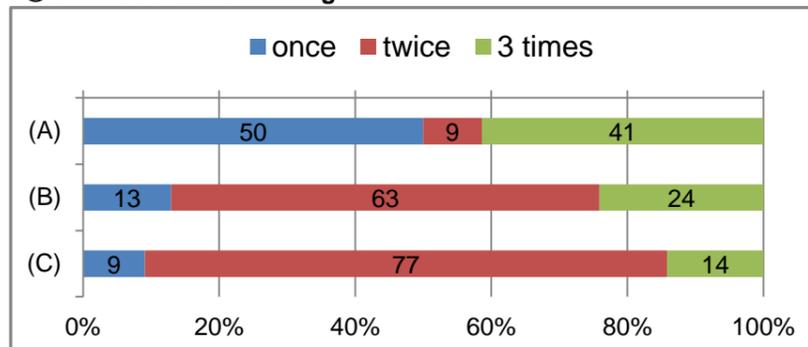
Even though CFJ supports a part of the dental fee, the families can't afford the rest of the fee.

③ a public school in the Philippines families' average monthly salary ₱12,810 = ¥25,748

④ Rate of CFJ a children who received a guidance of oral hygiene at CFJ (2018)



⑤ Habit of tooth brushing



(A) CFJ  
(B) a public school in the Philippines  
(C) Seishin Junior High School

## Conclusion

The rate of children who have tooth decay in CFJ is much higher than that in Okayama. However, they are reluctant to see a dentist. The reasons seem to be the high cost for going to a dentist, compared with their salaries, and the lack of guidance on oral hygiene. I assumed that CFJ children can't afford toothbrushes or don't have habits of tooth brushing. However, most of them brush their teeth with their own toothbrushes every day. The only problem is the improper way of brushing. For example, half of them brush their teeth only once a day, usually in the morning. So, I concluded that they need both financial and educational supports.

~ Sustainable supports that we can do ~

Financial Support

disseminate the result of this survey to increase the number of supporters

Educational Support

- make **picture books in Tagalog** for the children in the Philippines
- make a cheerful song of tooth brushing and show them a proper way of brushing



Example of picture book

~ Recommendation ~

surveys on the other factors that affect dental health, such as diet habits, the manner of brushing, and the professional education on oral hygiene from dentists