

Our action to prevent child poverty

1. Introduction

Morioka Chuo High School has 24 sister schools all over the world. We discuss the SDG's with overseas students at annual 21st CHUO International Education Forum. This year, our group discussed "Child poverty" and we visited a food bank to deepen our understanding. We have been collecting school uniforms to help children in poor conditions.

2. Each country's situation

Argentina: 48% of children are poor. 20% of the children live in extreme poverty. Poverty has been defined as a household's inability to financially cover a basic basket of goods and services, and extreme or absolute poverty is defined as a household's inability to meet the financial cost of a basic food basket. 3.5 million children live in poverty (due to both insufficient income and deprivations) and the total number of children living in no monetary poverty is 6.3, which leaves 2.8 million unaccounted by official figures.

Australia: More than 22,000 children in South Australia live below the poverty line. Poverty rates are increased in rural areas due to less employment and education South Australian poverty rate of approximately 12.6%.

Singapore: 10~14% of Singaporeans struggle to afford basic necessities. 43.45% increase in families relying on government financial assistance from 2012 to 2015.

Common Ideas

1. More awareness needed not just in Japan.
2. We feel good when we help others.
3. We have to prevent poverty cycle by the education.

Taiwan: In 2015, the gap between the rich and the poor in Taiwan was the second highest in history. Children under 12 in poverty account for 18.34%, nearly 120,000 poor children in Taiwan. About 71.5% of poverty children suffer from unbalanced education due to the lack of education fees.

Vietnam: 1. There are 5,6 million poor children. 2. Current problems (26,6% of child poverty focus on mountainous areas. 11% children don't receive education. 170,000 children are abandoned and live in poor conditions.) 3. Culprits (Poor education, Low income, Food and water shortage, Poor living condition)

Okinawa: Okinawa's salary rate is the lowest in Japan. 1 in 3 children suffer from poverty. The Japanese government doesn't do anything effective. The Okinawan prefectural office provides information, and has support centers that work with schools, making a foundation that provides the needed support.

Iwate: Child poverty rate of Iwate prefecture was on increase from 1992 to 2012. It was 5.4% in 1992, it became 13.8% in 2012. The university entrance rate of Iwate prefecture is bottom 3 in all prefectures in Japan. If people don't go to high school, university or college, they will have no choice but to live under low-income and unstable employment when they become adults.

3. Fieldwork



Children's cafeteria



Food bank



Discussion



Chuo International Education Forum

4. Conclusion

Global Solutions.

1. Set up food banks or donation drives in every country to solve the problem of insufficient food and resources for children born into poverty.
2. Make academic guidance programs for students (where students teach other under-privileged children) and to ensure sustainability for the programs, we could initiate with school programs. Also, we could make a skills program with NGO for people who are willing to work.
3. Raise awareness by talking and posting about these problems. For example, crowd funding.
→ We will keep collecting school uniforms.

