

Report 5.

Fundamental Research on Social Inclusion and Human Support



Yoshiyuki Koizumi

(Graduate School of Core Ethics and Frontier Sciences, Professor)

Originally, my expertise is philosophy and ethics. Recently, I have been studying the history of social welfare and the history of ideas of psychiatry and psychology. Those are my main fields of study, so I'd like to interact with you.

In regard to this project, our team is called the fundamental research team. I'd like to briefly report on the challenges of our team. The main phrase of this project is "inclusion," that is, inclusive society and the cooperation among university research institute, community and citizens. I'd like to raise the four major macro-trends that enable this kind of project. First is the trend after the nursing care insurance system was introduced in 2000 in Japan. This mainly targets the elderly, people with rare diseases and people with disabilities. Under such circumstances, among medical services, public health, welfare-related various institutions and professionals, new corporations were created. In that process, the functions of various institutions and facilities have been newly divided and reorganized, and the new participation of families and citizens were promoted.

Against this background, of course, there was an increase in benefits by the nursing care insurance system. The benefits amounted to approximately 7 trillion yen in 2010. For your information, the home electric appliance source amounts to about 7 trillion yen per year, so that's the size. In Japan this trend was triggered by the introduction of nursing care insurance, but this can be said to be very similar to the trends of other advanced nations. In that regard, there are plenty of research and practices. Here, I'd like to enumerate those words that were

introduced and used in Japan. They are integration, coordination, collaboration, inter-sector, linkage, network, and transition, so translation as well. If you hear these words, probably the outline of this trend will come to mind.

The second trend is the arguments on social exclusion and social inclusion. Mainly this targets the various minorities, minority ethnicity, immigrants, the poor, and people with disabilities. In this regard, there is a huge amount of research and practices. The third trend relates greatly to our project. The relations of psychiatry, mental health, clinical psychology and judiciary have changed historically. Concerning this point, there is plenty of research and practices, however as far as I know, a sufficient analysis has not yet been done. The fourth is the trend of collaborated research between industry and university. This includes collaboration among industry, military and universities. And cooperation among industry, government, universities, and the private sector is greatly promoted. This is closely related to us and this project. In recent years, university research and education might have changed significantly.

In general, there are these recent four trends. But how can we express or grasp them politically? They were expressed as the third way, new public, or new civil society—by these kinds of slogans. This is the point where we need to deepen our discussion. Based on this macro background, our project has become possible, or can be positioned.

Our fundamental research team has a mission to pursue the fundamental theory of the project of each team. For that purpose, of course, it's a premise for us to precisely study those four trends that I explained, but they are beyond our capacities. Also, they are not something requested of us. Therefore, our fundamental team escorts the project of each team, and will observe what it's done, what is going on. That should be our primary challenge. If I generalize it, it would be the following.

The relations among the various organizations, facilities, professions, families

and citizens, can be expressed by the word, cooperation. What I'd like to ask about cooperation is the following. There are three points. First, what the cooperation is aiming at as a whole. On further reflection, under cooperation, what is aimed at by each actor? This may sound like a very simple question, but now we should ask it once again explicitly. Secondly, how the cooperation functions as a whole. Of course, this relates to the discussion of the evaluation method, like evidence-based one, but should be somewhat separated from it—how it functions. Thirdly, under the cooperation, those various actors who participate in—how have they been transformed? As far as I know, the various organizations or professions, or the contents of their professions, or their ethical code, have changed obviously in recent years. Those three questions are raised. They are all related to the facts. What is being said, what is being actually conducted or functioning, and what is going on should be observed accurately. That is our challenge.

Finally, these three questions must be rephrased into ethical ones. That means, if I rephrase only the first question, it is: What should we aim at through cooperation? What should we aim at? How should we function? How should we change? I have briefly explained about our team, some of our issues in this project against the background of macro trends. Thank you very much.