

To Select the Given

ともや かたやま

Tomoya KATAYAMA

The purpose of this paper is 1) to justify the rights of children to remain or to exit cultural communities and 2) to ensure their rights through the investigation of actual situations.

Homo sapiens possess a unique biological condition, that is, a dual inheritance system in which genes and culture are involved evolve together, which permits extraordinarily rapid development and the marked sociality of human beings. Cultural transmission is enabled by a biological difference in human neural systems from those of other anthropoids and is characterized by “norm-conformity.” This norm-conformity homogenizes the contents of cultural inheritance in a cultural community, which are evident in the nation-building processes of modern nation-states. Human beings inevitably need a cultural inheritance, since only this gives them an analytic system of thinking, images of non-present events, and broader social ties. However, some children face difficulties caused by the mismatch of genes and cultural inheritance. In these cases, the children need to exit from their birthplaces and move to other cultural communities that better match their genetic inheritance.

The move from one cultural community to another is quite costly for a child; therefore, this process is impossible in most cases. Considering the suffering of children in cultural communities where their gene inheritances are contrary to given cultures, we have the obligation to rectify the unfair situations and ensure their rights to exit. For this purpose, we need to adopt liberal multiculturalism policies throughout the world. Children whose gene inheritances match the cultures of their cultural communities clearly need not move. At the same, the relative gap of universal goods, such as incomes and employment, which should benefit all of human beings, compel children to move from places of origin to richer nations. Therefore, we also need to adopt global redistribution.