

The role of the Volunteer Harassment Advisors and its Possibility — Some suggestions from the efforts of the UK universities —

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1. Aim

The aim of this presentation is to discuss the possibility and the role of the volunteer harassment advisors to stop harassment on campus in the UK. In Japan, it is common that harassment advisors of university are faculties or medical professions such as clinical psychologists and industrial counselors. On the other hand, in the UK, they are often volunteers and medical professions are usually hired from outside university. This research examines the role of the volunteer harassment advisors and the possibilities that they have for harassment prevention.

2. Data & Methods

This research is based on interviews. The outline of the research is as follows. 1. TARGET: Workers in the UK universities who are in charge of the prevention of the harassment. 2. NUMBER: Six workers out of five universities were interviewed. Two were working for the same university. 3. METHOD: Interview by meeting for one or two hours per person. The interviews were held from 4th May to 7th May 2015 at their workplaces. One of the six interviewees was a head of the office, four were staff and one was a faculty member who used to work as a Dean of the department.

3. Results

It was found that in the UK universities, volunteer harassment advisors are students, staff, faculties and the civilians from outside university. Some of them have an experience of being harassed in the past or taking care of the harassed in the past. In the UK universities, the quality of students' life is protected by the policies of academic standards and quality enhancement service. Under this policy, there are many kinds of advisors. One of them is advisors called "Personal Advisors" who listens to students about problems in their personal life. However, they are usually faculties. In contrast to the personal advisors, volunteer harassment advisors are diverse and they play an important role for harassment prevention.

4. Conclusion

From these findings, volunteer harassment advisory system is effective for these two reasons. One reason is that it is a support system of community based approach which support individuals by the network of the diverse social groups and the other is that they take population based approach that is effective for the primary prevention that stops harassment before it happens or prevent harassment from getting worse.

References

Tomoko Kawabata, 2015, "The Efforts of the UK universities on the prevention of the harassment", The 88th Japan Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Oral presentation, English Session, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan.