



KIDS' DOOR
NPO法人 キッズドア

Initiatives and Issues on Empowerment Toward the Economic Independence for Children and Youths

NPO Kids' Door

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Specified Non-profit Organization Kids' Door

Commenced activities in 2007.

NPO established in October 2009.



Official English HP

Vision:

To realize a society in which all children can have hopes and dreams for the future

Contents of activities:

Implementation of free study groups and experiential activities for children from single-parents families or needy families, and operation of places of belonging where children can feel safe at.

Activity venues:

Tokyo, Tohoku (support for recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake)

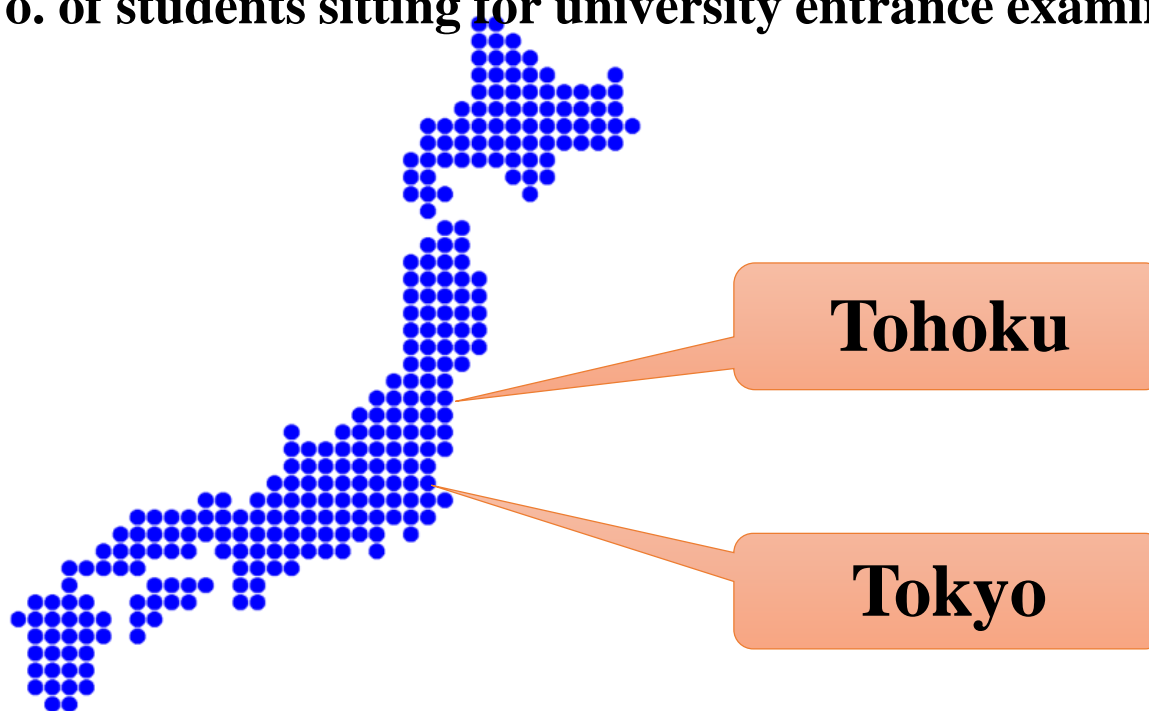
About NPO Kids' Door

Track record of free study groups/operation of places of belonging by Kids' Door in FY2017

No. of projects	No. of study groups locations	No. of registered students	No. of registered volunteers
33 projects	62 locations	2,064 students	1,085 volunteers

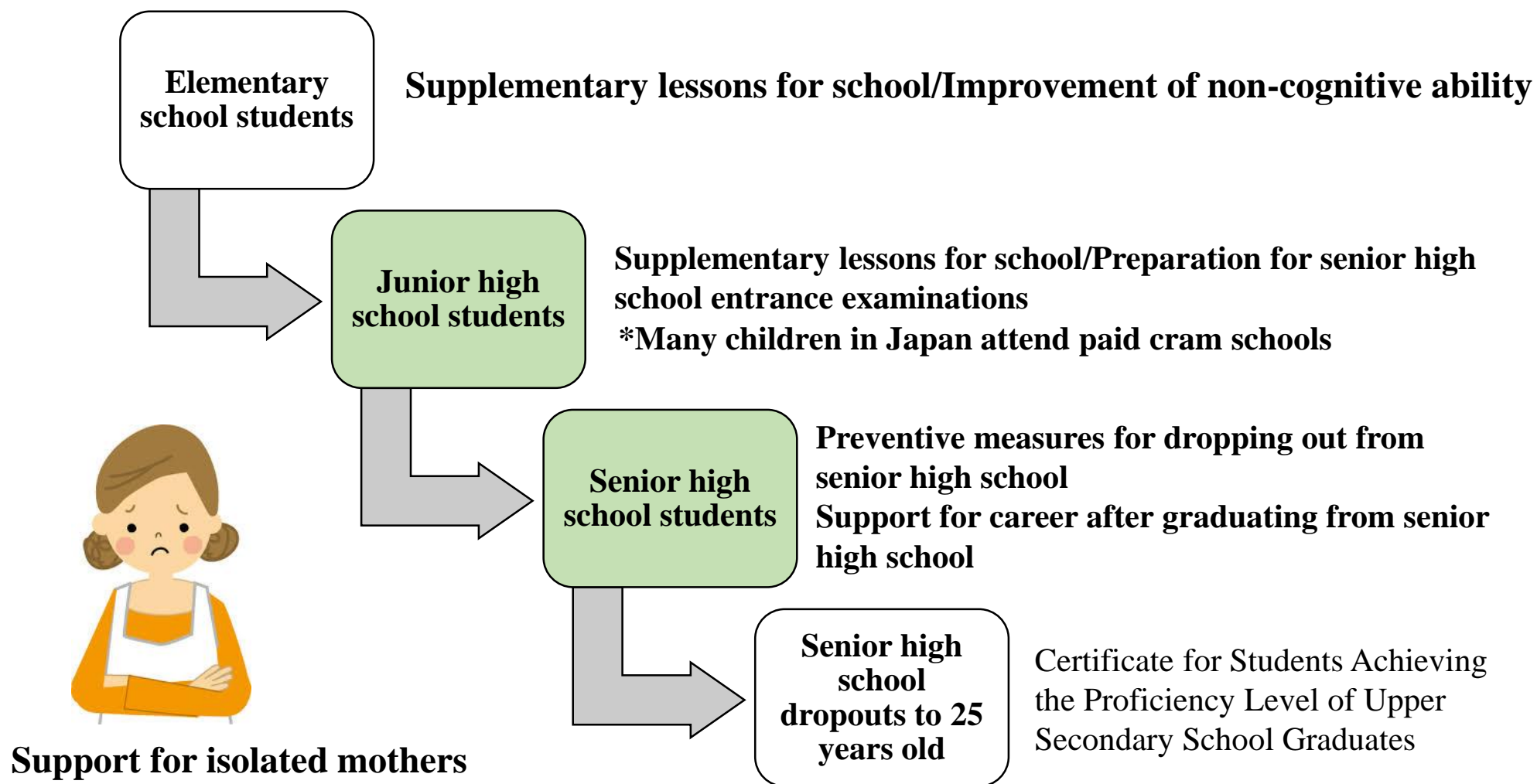
Advancing to senior high school: 221 students (Enrollment rate: 100%)

No. of students sitting for university entrance examinations: 17



About NPO Kids' Door

Provides learning support for children and youths age 7 - 25 from low-income families. Primarily junior and senior high school students.



Free study groups for junior high school students



One-to-one tuition provided by volunteer university students



Experiential activities: Experiencing the fishing industry



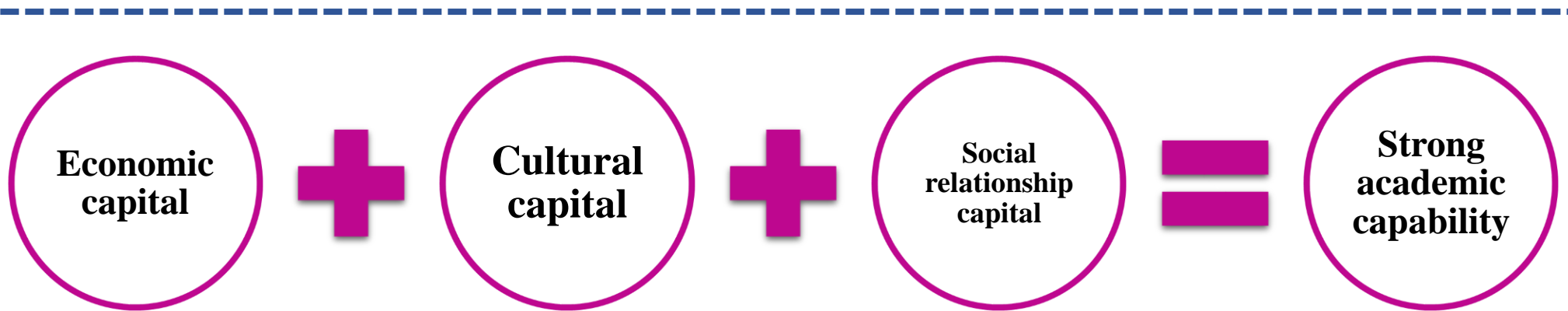
Meals at the place of belonging



Christmas party at the place of belonging for senior high school dropouts



In providing support to children and youths from poor families, in addition to **economic capital** (support for learning and life), it is also important to fulfill the need for **cultural and social capital**.



Cultural capital: Things (books, artworks, etc.), values (emphasis on academics, expectations of academic qualifications, etc.), behavioral patterns (effort, delaying the satisfaction of wants, etc.)

Social relationship capital: The overall means that can be utilized to watch over, care for, and nurture children who are embedded in a human network

Source: Survey materials from Professor Hiroaki Mimizuka, Ochanomizu University

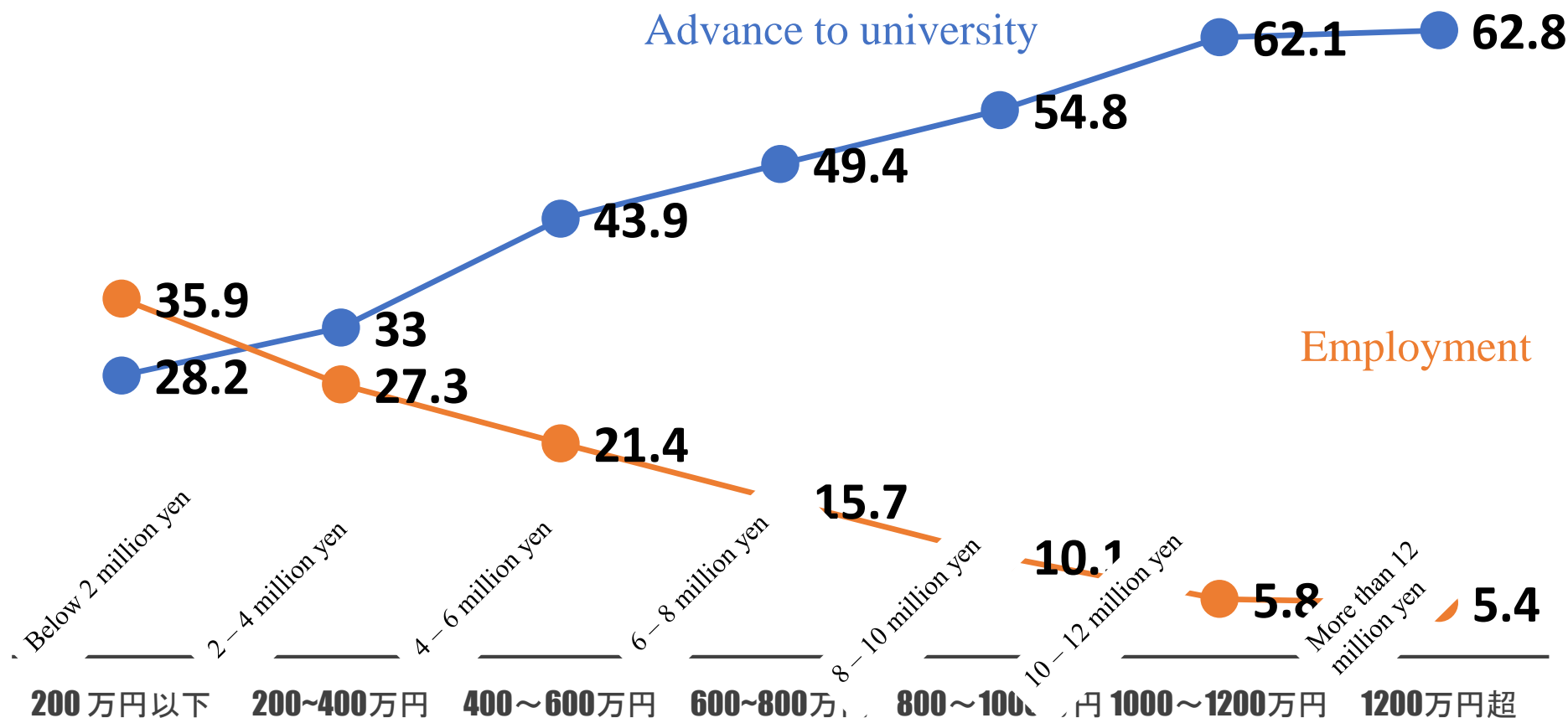
- **Compulsory education in Japan lasts till junior high school, so there is mostly little or no support for education and the nurturing of youths after graduation from junior high school.**
- **As a result, youths from low-income families have to earn their own living expenses while studying, which in turn leads to dropping out of school or other consequences.**
 - **Unable to go to school as they are working part-time to cover the costs of attending senior high school**
 - **Unable to go to school as they cannot afford to buy seasonal commuting tickets for school**
 - **Repeating school years as they are unable to attend cram school, etc. despite poor academic performance→Dropping out of school**
 - **Isolated due to poverty and inability to make friends, which in turn leads to dropping out of school, etc.**



Dropping out of senior high school is not the students' fault for being lazy, but the result of falling victim to a skewed society.

Issues in Supporting Youths in Japan

Paths after graduating from senior high school,
categorized by income of both parents



Source: Department of University Management and Policy Studies, Graduate School of Education, The University of Tokyo (2007)

Issues in Supporting Youths in Japan

● Current support provided: Employment support is a welfare system that youths who have dropped out of senior high school can utilize

As they are still children of 16 or 17 years old, they do not like attending occupational training alongside with adults.

**Dropping out of
senior high school for
various reasons
16 – 18 years old**

Despite having dropped out of senior high school, do not want to work. Also do not have the skills to work.
Unable to become regular employees.
Unable to sustain part-time jobs.



Period spent as NEET or hikikomori 10 years or more

Social loss

**Youth Support Station
16 - 39 years old
Employment support
Independence
consultation support**

**Difficult to make these youths independent due to long
period of social isolation.
Takes effort, cost, and time (Require support of more than
one year in some cases)**

● Preventing youths from dropping out of senior high school and relearning project to provide support for achieving upper secondary school graduate certifications

Provision of places of belonging that can be used for free, as well as free meals, for senior high school students from low-income families and youths up to 25 years old who have dropped out of senior high school

4 – 5 days per week 15:00 – 20:30

- Free learning support for students who are close to dropping out of senior high school due to poor academic performance – Prevent dropping out
Free learning support to obtain upper secondary school graduate certification for youths who have dropped out of senior high school
- Meals support to maintain their health

In cooperation with high schools and welfare organizations

- Follow-up on schoolwork before students drop out
- Seamless support after they drop out

→
Employment without social isolation or blank periods (Happiness for person in question and family)

Employment, marriage, birth, etc.

Through support from the early stages, it is possible to eliminate the period of social isolation and to minimize economic loss and welfare support.