

Introduction to the Initiatives of the Youth Exchange and Support Space (Sakura Living), etc.

~ Creating spaces to connect youths with society ~



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1 Overview of the Organization

(Public Interest Incorporated Foundation, Yokohama Youth)

《Philosophy》

To contribute to the growth of youths, who are the leaders of the future, by fostering a society where all youths are watched over by the people around them, and where they can grow amongst connections with people, and by providing opportunities for youths to learn and grow independently through various experiences.

《Activity pillars》

(1) Provision of opportunities for youth experiences

Eg.: Provision of experiential activities at youth facilities, etc.

(2) Development of human resources in the field of youth work

Eg.: Dispatch of lecturers targeted at regional orga

(3) Promotion of regional youth development activities

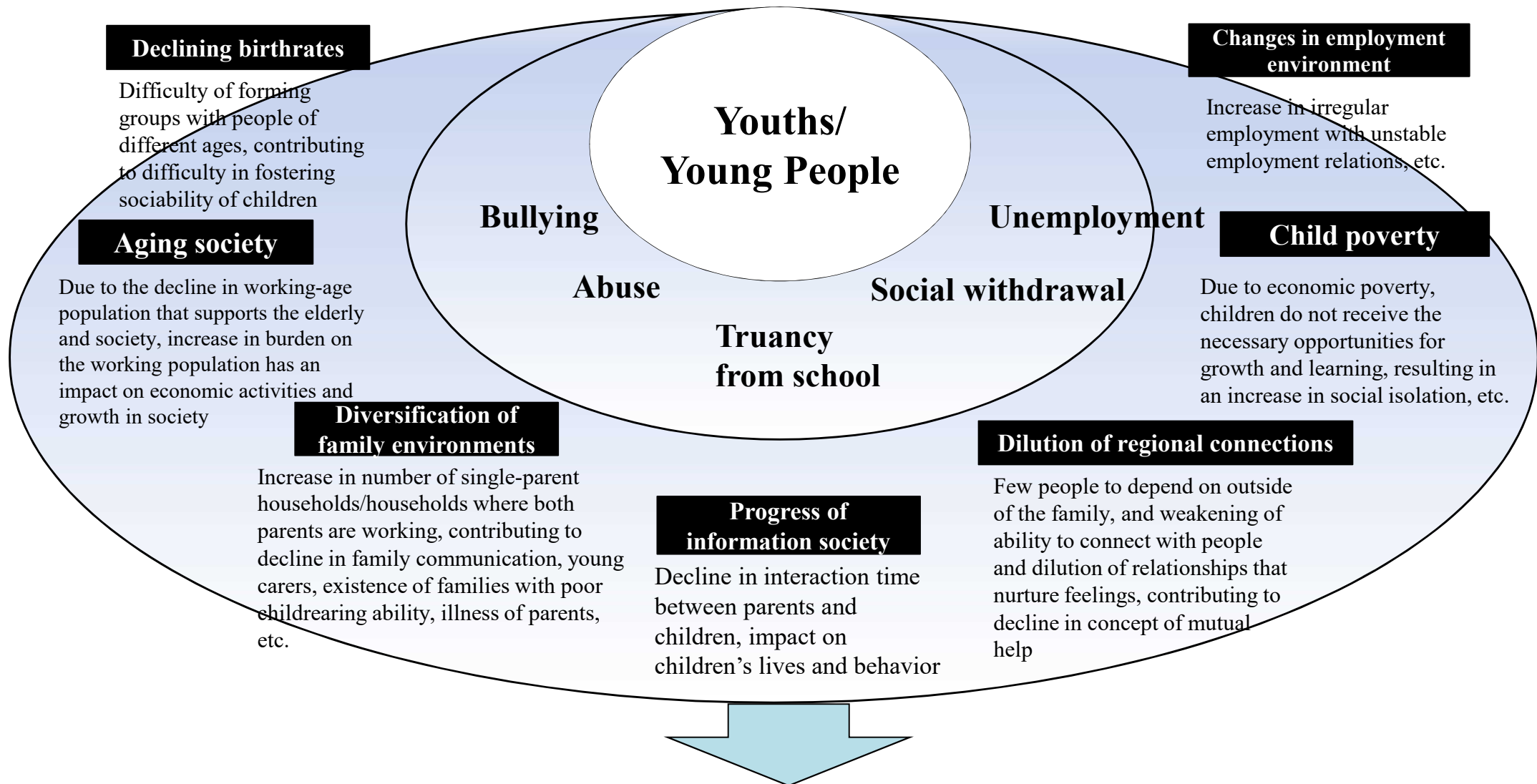
Eg.: Implementation of model businesses that connect regions with schools

(4) Creating survey and research networks related to youths

Eg.: Implementation of city-wide surveys, youth organization network meetings in the city



2 Changes to the Social Environment Surrounding Youths and Young People



• Difficult to resolve/improve difficulties and issues through efforts only by the person involved or the family –

Diversification of risks

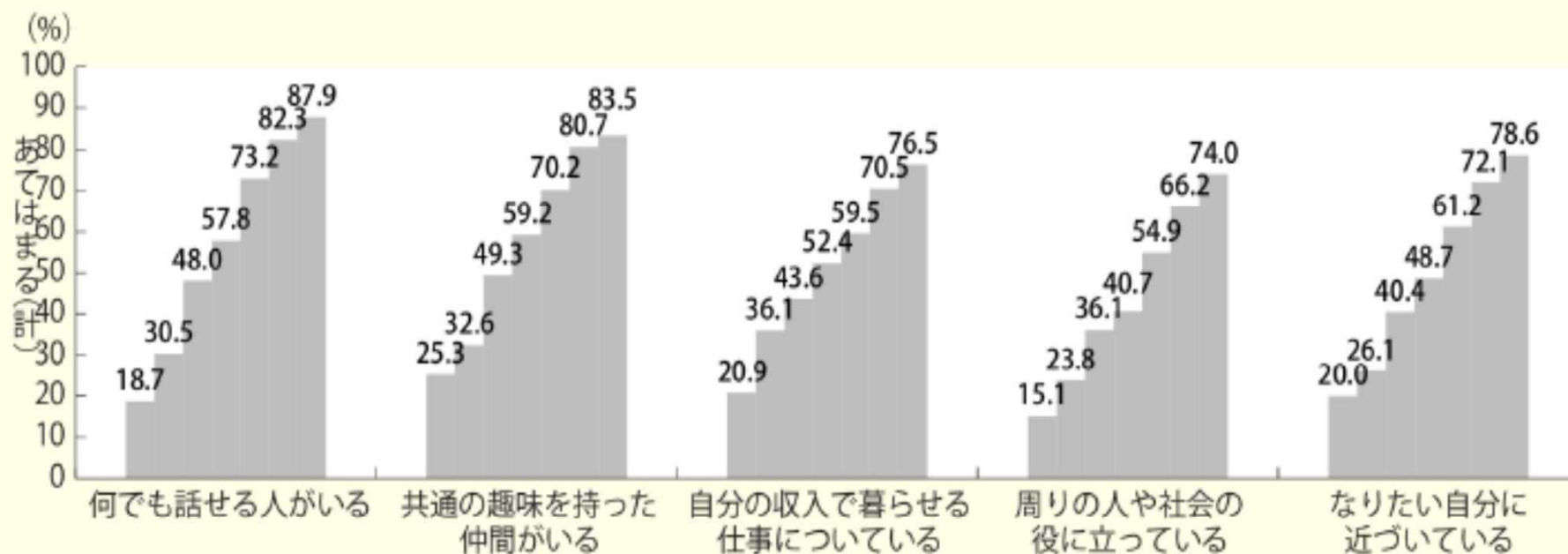
• Need for the active involvement of government bodies and regional organizations, etc. in youth issues –

Changes in historical context

3 Significance of Having a Place of Belonging During Adolescence (1)

As the number of places where youths can feel a sense of belonging increases, there is a growing trend for them to paint a picture of a positive future with regard to independent living, contribution to society, and interpersonal relationships, etc. (White Paper on Children and Young People 2017).

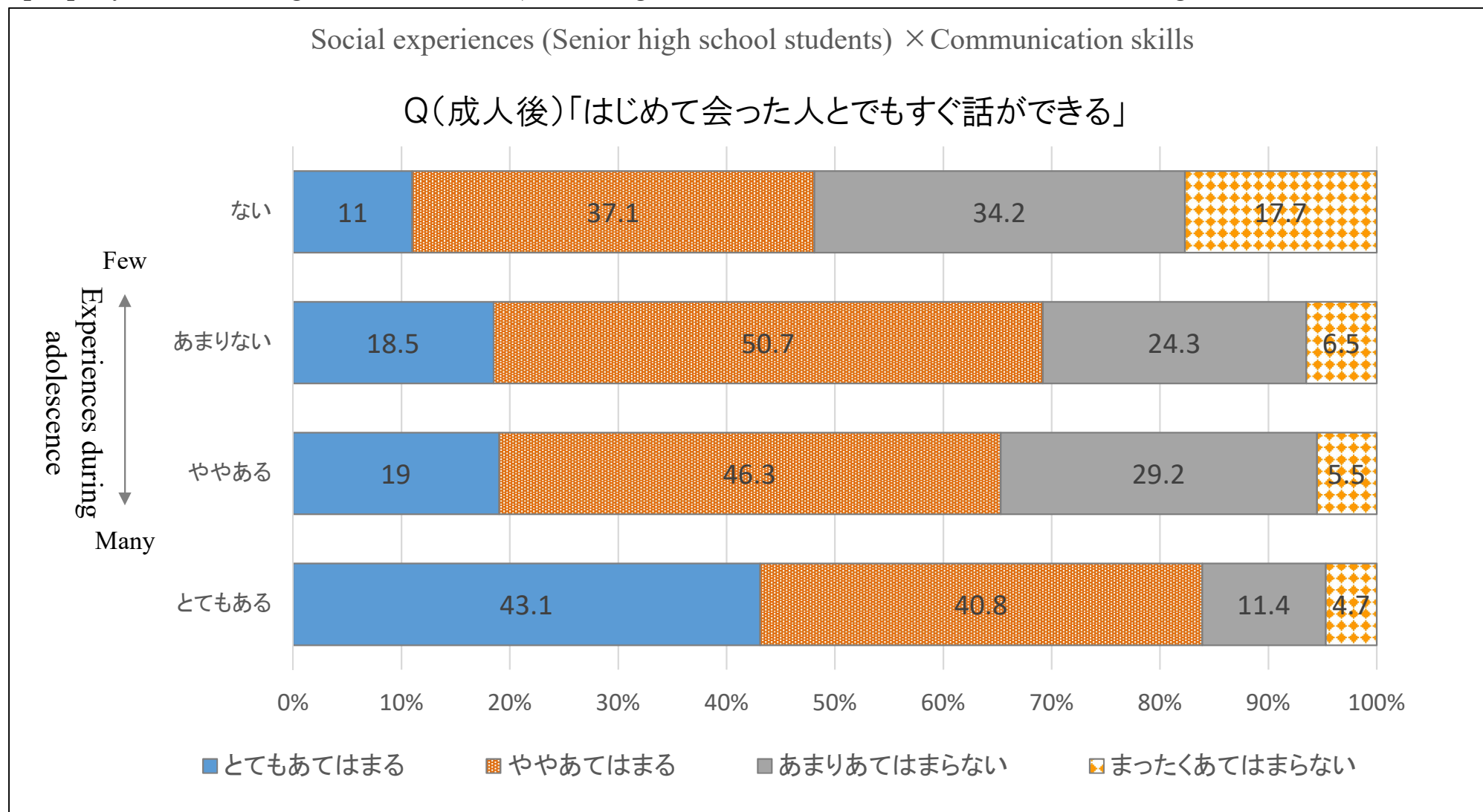
図表6 居場所の数と自己の将来像（10年後）



(注) 6つの場について居場所になっていると思うかをたずねた質問に対し、「そう思う」、「どちらかといえばそう思う」と回答した場の数別に、将来像に関する各項目について「あてはまる」、「どちらかといえばあてはまる」と回答した者の割合。

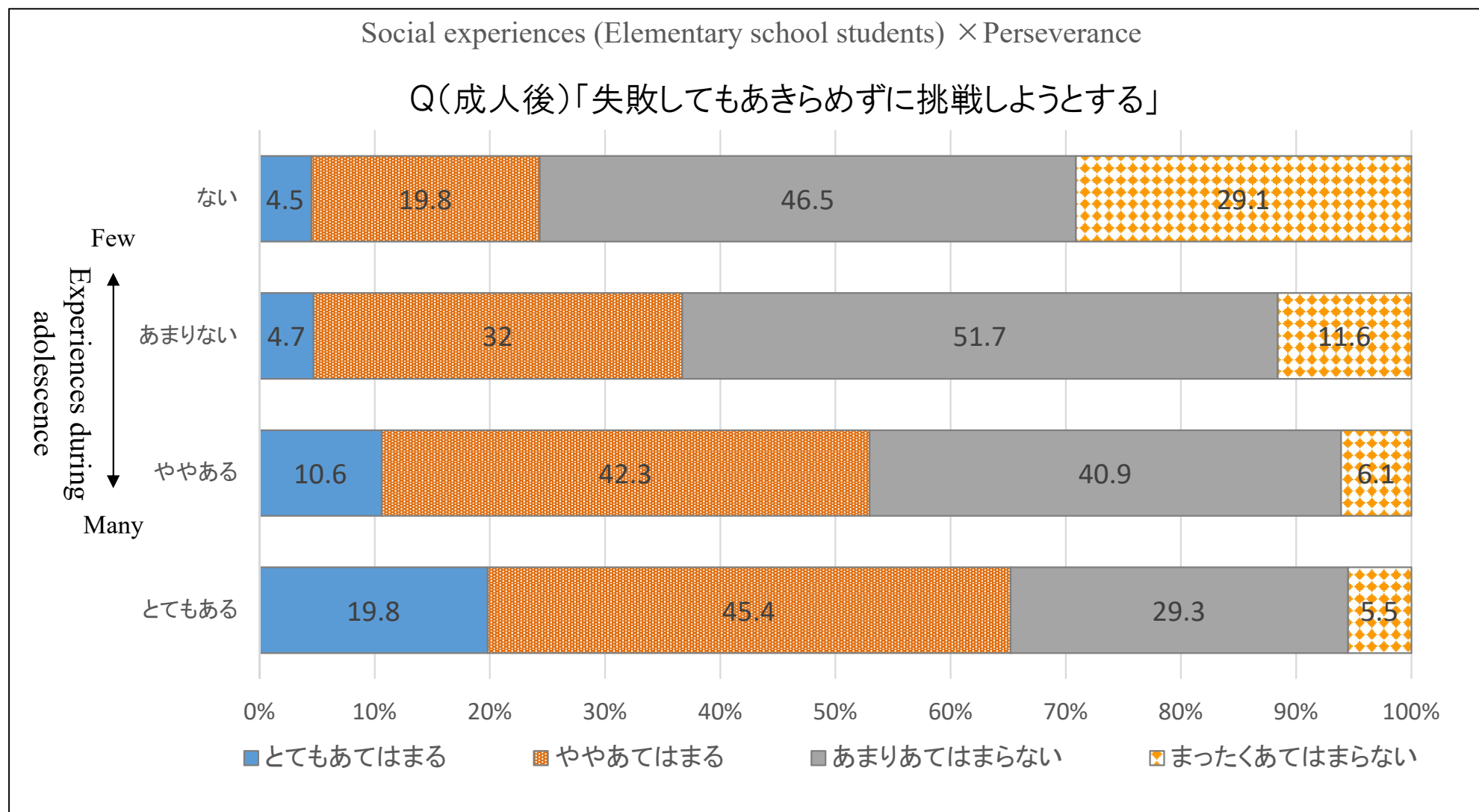
4 Significance of Having a Place of Belonging During Adolescence (1)

The greater the number of people with the opportunities for social experience such as regional activities and volunteer activities during adolescence, the higher the level of communication skills (“Ability to engage in conversation quickly with people you are meeting for the first time”) and the greater the “motivation to tackle new challenges.”



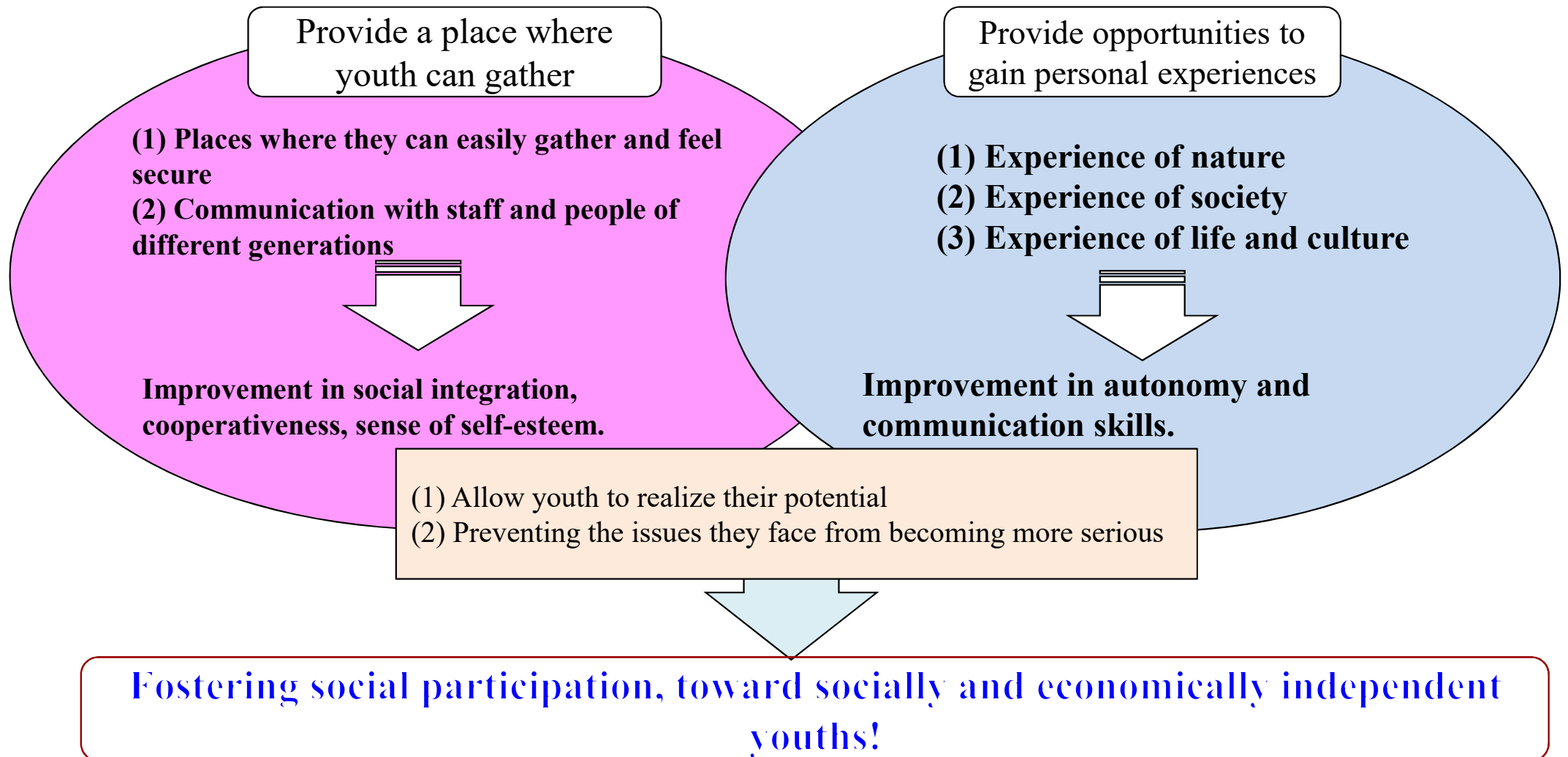
5 Significance of Having a Place of Belonging During Adolescence (2)

The greater the number of people with the opportunities for social experience during elementary school, the higher the level of sociability and motivation to participate in society after becoming adults, and the stronger the trend of perseverance (“Continue challenging without giving up even after failure”) and empathy.



6 Building a Foundation for the Growth of Youths and Young Adults Toward Promoting Social Participation

In order to foster a sense of self-esteem and self-affirmation, and develop skills toward social participation, we should provide a place where youth can gather and gain diverse experiences.



7 Examples of the Creation of Spaces for Connecting Youths with Society (1) – Overview of Sakura Living

Youth Exchange and Support Space (Nicknamed: Sakura Living)

～ Fostering the ability to “connect with society/Survive in society” through encounters with various people, ways of thinking, and experiences ～

■ Time: 9:00 - 22:00

■ Users: Mainly youths from junior and senior high school to 24 years old

*Use by approx. 40,000 youths every year

*Also open to adults when rooms for rent are available

【The youths who visit the space】

<Youths who visit after school>

- From senior high school students with top-ranking results, to senior high school students attending school part-time while working

- Junior and senior high school students attending band, dance, and theater rehearsals

- Junior and senior high school students studying for examinations

<Youths with nowhere to go>

- Truancy from school (junior and senior high school students), senior high school dropouts, youths who have left jobs at an early stage

- Mother-and-child families, households under livelihood protection, no sense of belonging or comfort at home

- Developmental disorders, weak at communication



8 Need to Create Spaces Where Youths Can Gather

Changes to the inner lives of youths

Antisocial (Group) → Non-sociable (Individual)
(Visible issues/Outer) (Invisible issues/Inner)

- Build relationships through everyday involvement
- Easy to capture the issues faced by youths and backgrounds to the issues
- Youths can visit freely without hesitation as it is not a professional institution
- Provides points of contact between youths and society (prevents isolation)

~ The important thing is to have an open space, and to “chat” rather than “consult” ~



9 From a Place to Gather, to Social Participation

From place (of belonging) to society ~Significance of social experiences~

- Understanding self through encounters with people of different occupations, ages, and values
- Opportunities to be recognized by a third party who is neither the parents nor teachers
- Learn survival skills while depending on others
- Increase in pool of human resources who look toward society after becoming adults



Importance of group activities rather than individual activities!



10 To Foster the Ability for Social Participation Among All Youths

What is required in order to promote social participation among youths

- Development and expansion of spaces that are close to youths
- Uncovering of regional organizations, corporations, and partners who can be resources for providing social experiences
- Building relationships where the face of the supporter (adults) is visible (Going beyond sectors/domains)



Find their own “place of belonging” = (Role) in society

