

Abstracts

The Increase and Background of the Jobless Youth: An Examination of the Jobless Youth in the Transition from School to Working Life

Reiko Kosugi (The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training)

In Japan, conventionally there has been a smooth transition from school to working life upon graduation. However, the transition system has changed in recent years, leading to an increase in youth unemployment, the so-called 'freeters', and also inactivity among young people. This paper examines the inactive jobless youth as a new policy subject. First, the issue of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in the UK is introduced, suggestions for Japan are considered, and the "Japan-type NEET" is defined. Second, the Japan-type NEET is analyzed according to existing statistics. Third, the factors behind the increase in such young people are explored using interview research by The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training. Based on these arguments, the desirable youth policy is considered.

The Socially Excluded and the Jobless Youth: The Policy Measures of UK and Sweden

Michiko Miyamoto (Chiba University)

EU nations, which have been tackling the unemployment of young people since the late 1970s, began to include the issue of unemployed youths in social policies, and treated them as "the socially excluded" in the mid-1990s. The series of policies on risks involving the prolonged transition from adolescence to adulthood are called transition policies, of which employment policies are the main constituents. This paper discusses the situations of young people in the UK and Sweden who are excluded from employment opportunities and are socially isolated, in terms of the social and economic contexts, and also examines the overall trend in the EU. The second half of the paper considers the recent crisis in the transition period in Japan and the characteristics and challenges of policy measures in comparison with policy development in the EU.

Career Decision of Japanese University Students: Psychological Determinants and Intervention

Tomoko Adachi (Osaka Kyoiku University)

Career decision problems of Japanese university students from the perspective of career psychology are discussed. We investigated the relationships between tekishoku-shinkou, ukemi, and yaritaikoto-shikou, which have been linked to inappropriate career attitudes and vocational indecision in Japanese youth. Results indicated that ukemi led to vocational indecision, but tekishoku-shinkou and yaritaikoto-shikou did not. Nonetheless, it is suggested we have a duty to direct youth with a strong tendency of tekishoku-shinkou or yaritaikoto-shikou to collect information, to think about the self and the working world, and to think about work. An experimental career education program at a Japanese university was conducted to for making students (1) understand their vocational interests, (2) understand the working society, and (3) understand career decision-making by matching (1) and (2). Results indicated that this program was effective in improving vocational motivation and self-efficacy for career decision making, and decreasing the level of vocational indecision.

Situations of Social Network of Jobless Youth and Assistance Measures

Yukie Hori (The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training)

This paper examines examples and conditions of social networks of jobless young people, and considers what support is possible. Findings are: a) school is a starting point of support, b) it is necessary to expand public employment and support activities which are not restricted to paid employment, and c) various support should be offered from an early stage. The problem of social networks and employment of young men is considered to be related to not only unemployment, but to the whole of young men's problems.