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National survey of Japanese elementary and junior high school students with callous-unemotional traits

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Statement of the Problem: Callous-Unemotional Traits (CU traits) have been adopted as one of the specified features under Conduct Disorder (CD) in DSM-5. CD is directly related to antisocial behaviors including delinquency. If CU traits could be detected in early life stages, we could prevent children from antisocial behaviors.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: I conducted national survey for screening CU traits among Japanese children and adolescents by using the Japanese version of the Inventory of Callous Unemotional Traits (JICU). A total of 4088 students (average age was 12.5 years old (SD=1.56), 2125 boys and 1963 girls) participated in this research.

Findings: Cronbach's alpha calculated by using all the 24 questions was 0.74, which indicated the JICU had acceptable reliability. Average total scores of the JICU was 26.5 (SD=7.91), which was almost the same score reported by Kumsta (2012) among UK sample. I found a certain level of reliability and validity of the JICU. Using 80 percentile score of the JICU as a cut-off for CU traits, 795 students were considered as having CU traits. I found there were no cultural differences between Japanese and American or European children and adolescents, who had presented with CU traits in the previous research.

Conclusion & Significance: We could adopt the previous American and/or European evidence based practices to prevent Japanese children and adolescents with CU traits from antisocial behaviors in the future.

Biography

Hirokazu Osada is a Professor at Department of Psychology, Senshu University, Japan. As a certified Clinical Psychologist, he has a long professional career of conducting early intervention/family intervention for children with neurodevelopmental disorders, especially for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ADHD. He also applied brief psychotherapy (solution focused brief therapy) especially for adolescents with ASD. As a researcher, he has mainly used an epidemiological method for screening target disorders in general population. Also, he has been using qualitative approach, when he conducts research for generating hypothesis in his target population. His other interest is focused on Trans-cultural Psychiatry.

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