

***Precarious Children: Child Abuse in
Japan***

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JAPAN 311: Social Issues In Japan
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Paper Outline

- I. Introduction on Precarity
 - a. Statistics
- II. Current types of Child Abuse in Japan
 - A. Parental mistreatments
 - B. Japan's throwaway children
 - C. Human trafficking (children)
- III. International Criticism and Response
- IV. Japan's current resolutions to these issues
- V. Conclusion

How does it intersect with this class?

Week 2 Postwar Kyodatsu (Exhaustion) and Precarity

- Allison, Ch. 3: Ordinary Refugeeism: **Poverty, Precarity, Youth**

Week 11 Modern Lives/Old Issues

- “Schoolgirls for Sale: Why Tokyo Struggles to Stop the ‘JK Business’”

Shoplifters (2018) Japanese Drama Film



Child Abuse

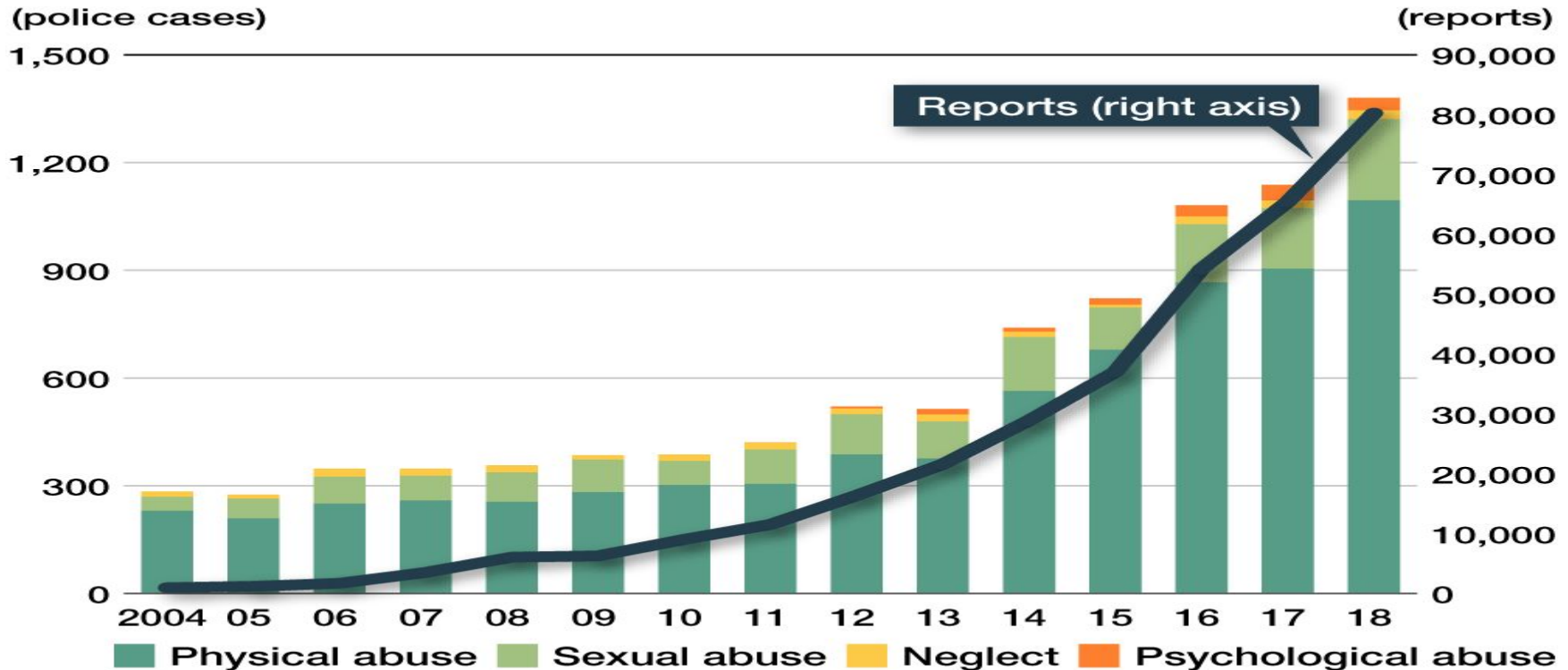
1. Parental mistreatments
2. Japan's throwaway children
3. Human trafficking (Children)
 - a. Sex
 - b. Prostitution
 - c. Pornography
 - d. Child abductions

*Testimonies

“When I was 5 my mother threw me in a trash bag. My mother was dating a mean man. My neighbor one day saw my mother beating me up in front of our house and called the police. I was taken away from my mother and I remember kicking and screaming when they took me away. I had an older brother who was 7 but died from starvation. It was then just me and my 2 month year old brother. I was allowed to take my brother with me when I was taken away from my mother. I lived in a institution from the age of 5-10. During my time there I refused to talk and sleep and never cried no matter what happened to me. My brother was everything to me; He was all I had. A year after I was put into institution my mother committed suicide” source: *Japan's Throwaway Children | 101 East | 日本の捨て児*

Statistics

Number of Child Abuse Police Cases and Reports to Child Guidance Offices in 2018



Compiled by *Nippon.com* based on data published by the National Police Agency Juvenile Division.

Throwback Children

39,000 children in Japan live in different kinds of institutions across the country

Delay mental and social development

Small space

PURPOSE

Forced Labor

Slavery

Prostitution

Sexual Exploitation

Removal of Organs

Exploitation

MEANS

Coercion

Use of Force/Threat

Fraud

Abduction

Control

Coercion

ACT

Recruitment

Transport

Transfer

Harbouring

Taking away one's
right to freedom



Human Trafficking

So What? Main argument?

1. Corporal punishment not banned
2. 1 out of 10 kids placed in foster homes/ kids are in institutions
 - a. Preventive systems to strengthen families and avert out of home placements have not be adequately developed.
3. no laws against human trafficking in Japan for minors, Japan is the only developed country that has not ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, which 186 other countries and territories participate in, leaving victims vulnerable.
 - a. sexual commodification of children in the mass media and popular culture form some of the root causes of the sexual exploitation and trafficking of children in Japan.

Push Factors

Effects globalization

Economics

Culture of denial

Modern slavery

Major events



Sources:

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Child abuse soars to record high in Japan amid fury at 10-year-old girl's death at home <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/02/08/child-abuse-soars-record-high-japan-amid-fury-10-year-old-girls/>

The Difference We Made: IT'S A PENALTY 2018 GLOBAL CAMPAIGN IMPACT REPORT <http://itsapenalty.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2018-Impact-Report-IAP.pdf>

Japan: Children in Institutions Denied Family Life/Alternative Child Care System Failing Thousands of Children <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/05/01/japan-children-institutions-denied-family-life>

Japan's Throwaway Children | 101 East | 日本の捨て児 <https://youtu.be/150yAoCnA64>

United States Department of State, *2018 Trafficking in Persons Report - Japan*, 28 June 2018, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b3e0b0da.html> [accessed 1 December 2019]

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

How does it relate to me?

Mother of two

Husband Child Abuse

Sister in Law Sex Trafficking Victim in the Border

Women support group in Salinas,CA

Comparisons to the U.S.

POLARIS PROJECT U.S 2002

Palermo Protocol 2000 (UN)

LIGHTHOUSE CENTER FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN JAPAN

Formerly polaris project japan

Founder Shihoko Fujiwara

Manga Blue Heart / educate youth about human trafficking

Japan's Human Rights Commitments and Pledges January 2019 <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000175306.pdf>

Rights of children In addition to existing measures to eliminate child pornography, Japan formulated the Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation in 2017, which is a national basic plan expanding coverage to all aspects of the sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, in order to eliminate child sexual exploitation. Japan has promoted various measures for raising public awareness, protecting and supporting victimized children and strengthening crackdowns in accordance with the Plan. Furthermore, in the same year, Japan revised the Penal Code and strengthened the penal provisions against sexual offenses, such as creating a crime of sexual intercourse by a person having custody of person under the age of 18. Through these measures, Japan deals with sexual offenses more strictly than before.

Combating trafficking in persons Based on its 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Japan promotes prevention, eradication and proper victim protection of trafficking in persons by strengthening cooperation with relevant foreign authorities, international organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as by working closely with domestic organizations.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed a draft Bill bans parents, guardians and others legally responsible for caring for children from physically punishing them.

Compliments?

Constructive Criticism?

Feedback?