



2018 Deaf Studies Conference

Deaf Women's Participation, Movement, and Rights: Learning from the Experiences of Deaf Women in Japan

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Gender Equality Ranking of the World

Rank	Country
1	Iceland
2	Norway
3	Finland
4	Rwanda
5	Sweden
11	France
12	Germany
15	United Kingdom
16	Canada
35	Australia
49	United States
71	Russian Federation
82	Italy
90	Brazil
100	China
108	India
114	Japan
118	Korea

Group of Seven (G7)
Group of Twenty (G20)

Economic Participation And Opportunity

Rank	Country
19	United States
29	Canada
43	Germany
53	United Kingdom
64	France
114	Japan
118	Italy

Educational Attainment

Rank	Country
1	Canada
1	France
1	United States
36	United Kingdom
60	Italy
74	Japan
98	Germany

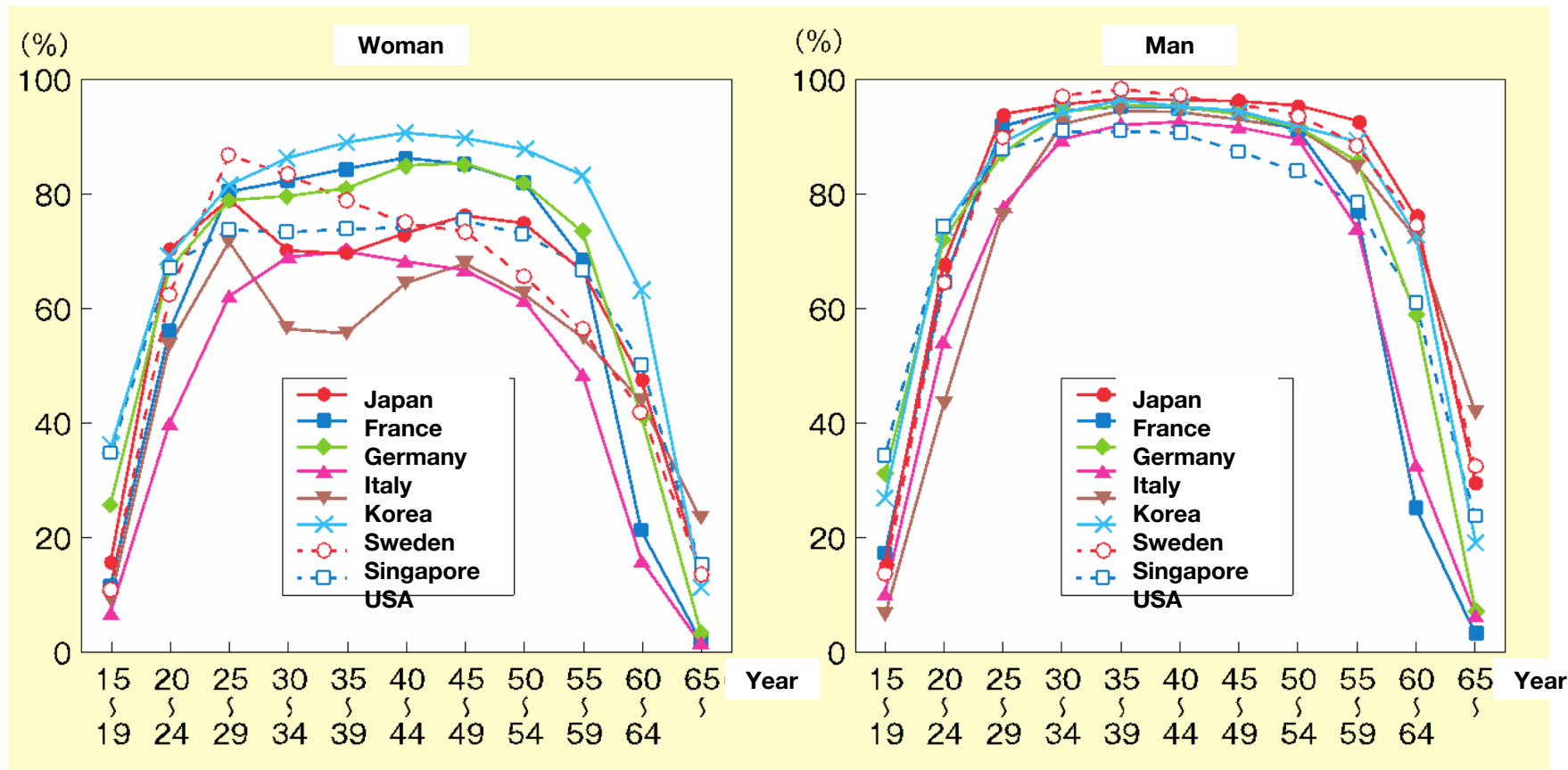
Health and Survival

Rank	Country
1	Japan
54	France
70	Germany
82	United States
100	United Kingdom
105	Canada
123	Italy

Political Empowerment

Rank	Country
9	France
10	Germany
17	United Kingdom
20	Canada
46	Italy
96	United States
123	Japan

Labor Force Ratio By Age Class in Major Countries



M Shaped Curve Problem



International Trends on Gender Equality

Overseas

1848
第1回女性
権利擁護大会

1975
International
Women's
World Conference
(Mexico)

1979
Rochester
Deaf
Woman
Association

1960s
Women's Liberation
Movement

1960s
Civil Rights
Movement

1979
Convention on the
Elimination of
Discrimination
Against Women
(International
Convention) adopted

1985
Deaf Woman United

1993
Deaf Women Studies
Curriculum (NTID)

2006
Convention on the
Rights of Persons
with Disabilities
Adopted

1900

2000

Japan

1946
First
Exercise of
Women's
Suffrage

1970
The 1st Kanto
District of the
Deaf Women's
Assembly

1975
Launched
the JFD
Women's
Affairs

1971年
The 1st National
Deaf Women's
Assembly

1985
Enforce Equal
Employment Act

1999
Promulgate
Basic Act for
Gender Equal
Society

2014
Ratified the
Convention on the
Rights of Persons with
Disabilities

2016
Deaf Women
Studies Project
(NTUT)



Background : Deaf Woman in Japan

- ❖ **Deaf Women have various problems due to the complexity of having social gender differences and obstacles due to the gender of women in addition to various individual life events such as education, work, marriage, childcare, nursing care and so on.**
- ❖ **There are aspects that the environment surrounding deaf people and the problem faced by gender and deaf women are not clarified.**
- ❖ **Currently there are few opportunities for information provision and awareness to promote empowerment for deaf women**



Research Method

- ❖ **Research design**
 - ❖ **Qualitative research using life history interview method**
- ❖ **Target**
 - ❖ **One deaf woman who born during the Second World War and lived through the late 20th century**
 - ❖ **Those who have extensive experiences of women-related activities and actively participate in society, they spin-off their lives on their own initiative and judge that their experiences can be sufficiently translated into language**
- ❖ **Research period**
 - ❖ **6 months**
 - ❖ **Performed 10 times, about 90 minutes to 120 minutes per time**
- ❖ **Data collection**
 - ❖ **Based on the recorded content, create a word transcript**



Ms. Riuko Oikawa



Year (Age)	Event
1942 (0)	Born in Iwate prefecture. Immediately afterwards, crossing Manchuria
1945 (3)	Left from the Manchuria by defeat
1954 (12)	Developed osteomyelitis, spent about 10 years to fight illness while repeating hospitalization (~21 years old)
1966 (24)	Joined the National Center for Deaf People
1967 (25)	Worked for a printing company and began to act as a deaf woman
1979 (37)	Started to work at the Japanese Federation for the Deaf Headquarter
1994 (51)	Retired due to physical condition, devoted to local activities
2015 (73)	Received the award for social contributors



Cut the New Path of a Deaf Woman in Japan

Deaf Woman Movement

Computing
as a deaf
women's
leader

National
Deaf
Women's
Assembly

Negotiation
with the
Ministry of
Education

From steady social activities to pioneering activities as a deaf woman

Movement to
sign a driver's
license trial

The opportunity
to enter into the
deaf movement

Origin as a deaf woman to build a career

Tamaura bed school
time

National center for deaf
time

Origin as a Deaf Woman to Build a Career

Tamaura Bed School Time

1956 to 1966
Age 14 to 24

- ❖ Facilities for children with disabilities who can not attend school because of illness
- ❖ Circulate notes (mailing) with other deaf people, or to and from each other's home
- ❖ Knowing the various activities of deaf people by reading several materials such as magazine and/or newspaper describing about deaf people around Japan



National Center for Deaf Time

1968
Age 26

- ❖ Turning point in life
- ❖ Deaf people gathered from all over the country (deaf school, mainstreaming)
- ❖ There were a lot of deaf women and have learned from them
- ❖ Working at a printing company at the same time as graduation



From Steady Social Activities to Pioneering Activities

The opportunity to enter into the Deaf movement

1967
Age 25

- ❖ Sign Language Club 'Kodama-kai'
- ❖ The only club in Kanto area, the second place to set up a sign language club in the country
- ❖ A place where deaf and hearing people get together
- ❖ Encounter with various women active in society



Movement to sign a driver's license trial

1968
Age 26

- ❖ Mr. Mitsuo Toishita whom met in the Tamaura bed school time, challenged the law at that time and make a trial
- ❖ Road to the signature movement to revise the Road Traffic Act
- ❖ Thirty thousand signatures from all over the country gathered, submitted to the Diet
- ❖ It seems that Ms. Oikawa and other deaf women supported behind the scenes were also big



Deaf Women Movement

Commuting as a deaf women's leader

1970
Age 28

- ❖ "Minobe Dialogue Meeting"
- ❖ The 1st Kanto area deaf women's convention held
 - ❖ Lecture by woman movement leader, politician Ms. Fusae Ichikawa
- ❖ The women's movement was showing high marks worldwide

1971
Age 29



1981
Age 39

National Deaf Women's Assembly

- ❖ The first nationwide Deaf women's rally meeting in Kyoto was held and about 600 people gather.
- ❖ "A meeting of tears"
 - ❖ Infertile surgery / forced sterilization surgery, home abuse etc
- ❖ Increase in the number of people who give birth to their own will

Negotiation with the Ministry of Education

- ❖ Negotiate for the National Women's Education Hall to be recognized as a venue
 - ❖ A room that a mother and a child can stay together
 - ❖ Installation of alarm clock and doorbell
- ❖ Mr. Fusae Ichikawa Lecture

Deaf Movement Rooted in Life

Focus on local activities

1993 – Now
Age 51 to Now

- ❖ Deaf representative of Adachi-ku Deaf Association
- ❖ Facility Manager of Community Activity Support Center
- ❖ Day care service for elderly deaf people
- ❖ Currently, there are few day care service for elderly deaf people in Tokyo



Awards for social contributors

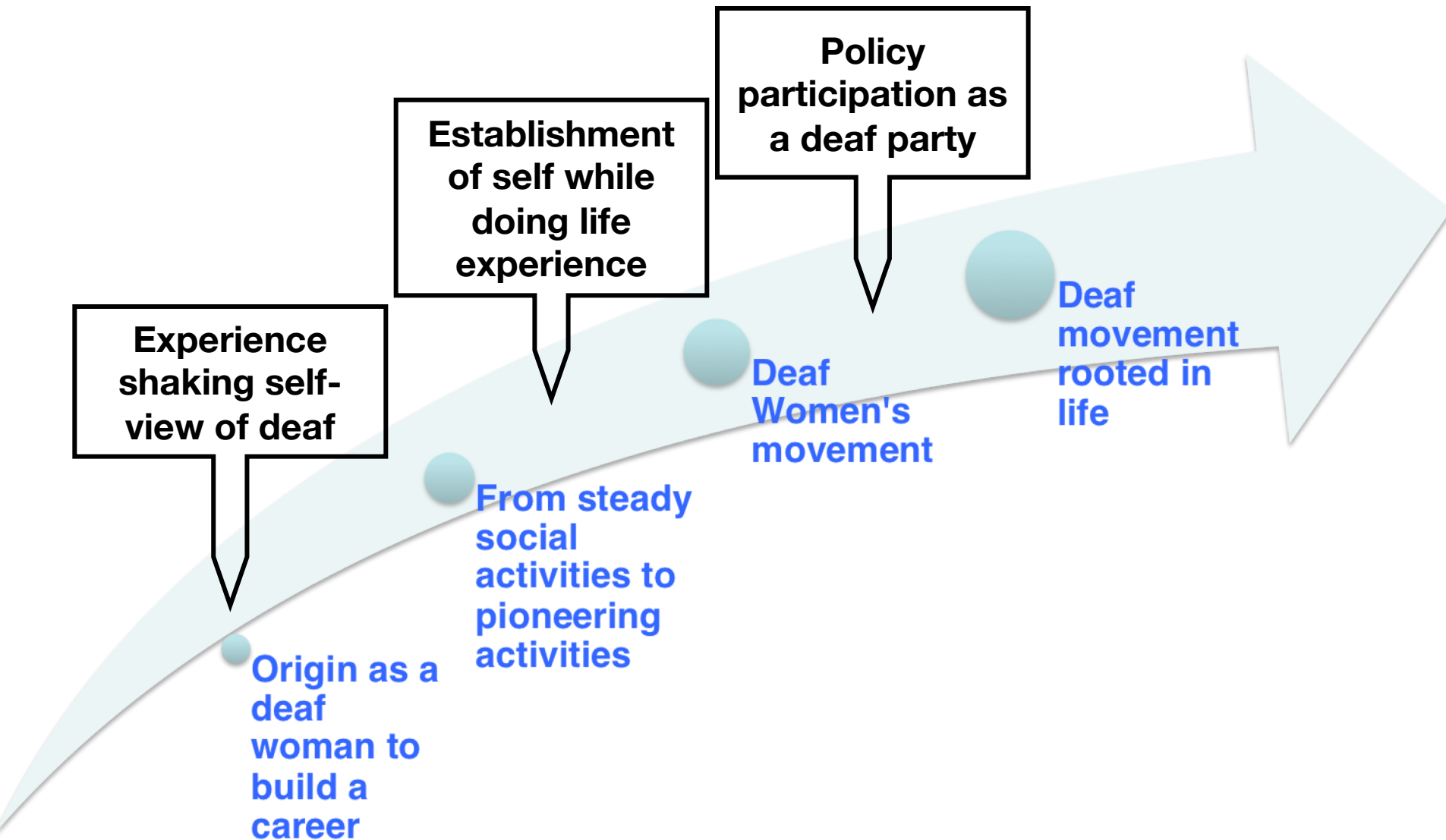
2015
Age 73

- ❖ Long-term social contribution recognized
- ❖ Currently working to build at least one elderly home for the Deaf in Tokyo
- ❖ "A society where elderly deaf people can live with peace of mind"





Deaf Woman's Transformation of Life View





Deaf Women Studies Project

Research/Study

Questionnaire Survey



Interview Survey



Teaching Material



Education Enlightenment

Website



Lecture / Career Education



Regional Contribution

Workshop



Lecture Meeting



Pubic Meeting





Thank you