



World Assembly for Women: WAW!2022 Concept Note

(Reference) Current Situation and Challenges Concerning Voice of Youth

According to the World Economic Forum, it will take another 132 years for the world to achieve gender equality ^(Note1). What should be done now to build a gender-equal future for the next generation? The percentage of women in their teens and twenties moving out of rural areas continues to be higher than that of men in the same age group ^(Note2), and it has been pointed out that one of the factors contributing to the outflow is deep-rooted gender stereotypes. Each area needs to work to resolve these challenges. Without creating rural areas that are attractive to women, the sustainable development of local communities will not be possible. At the WAW! 2022, we would like to actively listen to the voices of youth for the future. It is the youth who are directly involved in gender-related issues now such as education, employment, marriage, and childbirth. It is the youth who will build a new society. We would like to seriously consider how we can reflect their voices in the present.

According to a survey of 700 high school girls in Japan conducted by the Girl Scouts of Japan in 2020, the topics they would like to learn at school in the future include career planning, law and voting rights in daily life, financial planning, digital literacy, sex education, menstruation and other topics related to female sexuality and reproduction, programming, leadership, and entrepreneurship ^(Note3). The survey also noted that 47% of high school girls, nearly half of all respondents, reported that they were restricted in some way because they were girls. Specifically, they were forced to give up their choice of profession or study abroad, and while they were not expected to do any heavy lifting, they were forced to do housework or help around the house, among other burdens.

We also need to remind ourselves that unconscious assumptions based on gender (unconscious bias) affect much of the education that high school girls

desire, such as career planning, political participation and leadership, digital literacy, and entrepreneurial methods.

We are not completely free from this bias, even though things are changing dramatically around employment, marriage, and childbearing. While acknowledging the premise that there are sexual differences between men and women, we would like to search for wisdom in our efforts to achieve an inclusive and gender-equal society together with youth.

(Note1) [World Economic Forum, “Global Gender Gap Report 2022”](#) p.5

(Note2) [内閣府男女共同参画局, “令和4年版男女共同参画白書”](#) p.140 (Japanese)

(Note3) [公益社団法人ガールスカウト日本連盟, “「ジェンダー」に関する女子高校生調査報告書 2020 ～声をつなぐ～」](#) p.46 (Japanese)