Innovative Research Program on Suicide Countermeasures in FY2022: Report on Commissioned Research Results

## Field 1: Suicide prevention for children and youth
## Topic number : R4-1-1

Research topic:

The Effectiveness of an Online Truancy Intervention Program on School Reintegration

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Summary:

  This study investigated the effects of the "room-K" online support program on non-attendance among elementary and junior high school students. Fifty-six elementary and junior high school students participated in the "room-K" initiative, provided by the approved specified non-profit organization Katariba, and offered a shared-type online educational environment. At the outset and six months into the program, students completed questionnaires regarding their reasons for non-attendance, self-study comprehension, ICT skills, and stress levels. Based on assessments and plans developed with psychologists and educators, the researchers implemented targeted interventions, including group and individual focused-discussions and educational programs, to address participants' needs. A cluster analysis was conducted to categorize students into two groups (Type A and Type B) based on reasons for non-attendance. The characteristics of each cluster were confirmed through t-tests. The results showed that Type A had significantly higher scores for multiple reasons for non-attendance than Type B, indicating that Type A was more aware of their reasons for non-attendance. In addition, a two-factor mixed ANOVA of Cluster (Type A/Type B) × Time (pre/post) was conducted to identify outcomes before and after participation in the program. The results indicated that the program led to an increase in self-study understanding and ICT skills, as well as a decrease in stress levels compared to before the program. These results suggest that the "room-K" online support program effectively enhanced students' learning capabilities and mitigated their stress, irrespective of their non-attendance.