

The Effectiveness of an Online Truancy Intervention Program on School Reintegration

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Summary:

In Japan, the number of students refusing to attend school has been increasing, with the latest data showing approximately 300,000 cases. While local governments and NPOs have been implementing various support programs to address this issue, there have been few published works examining the effects of these domestic support initiatives on children and families until 2023. Research from the previous year demonstrated that online school refusal support programs had some positive outcomes, such as reducing stress levels in children. However, the prior year's study, which employed a pre-post comparison design, did not clarify the process of change in observed scale scores.

In this year's research, a single-case design (SCD) was adopted to visualize the effects of individual interventions and investigate the suitability of using SCD to measure the effectiveness of support in practical settings. The subjects of the study were seven elementary school children and their parents who participated in an online educational support program 'room-K' operated by the certified NPO Katariba. Data from two children and their parents, who provided long-term data, were utilized for visualization. The results showed an increase in social capital and a decrease in loneliness for one of the children. For this child, the indicators aligned with the interview observations, but for the other child, the indicators did not correspond with the interview observations, making it impossible to visualize the effects. Additionally, it was difficult to collect baseline data during periods when relationships were not yet established in the support setting, highlighting the limitations of using SCD as a measurement method.

Consequently, when employing SCD, it is essential to thoroughly understand the application conditions and evaluate the effectiveness of support interventions using content and procedures that do not impose psychological burdens on the participants. This approach is necessary to ensure that the effects of support are appropriately assessed through a collaborative process.

* In the preparation of this report, Kanno Yuta also made a significant contribution to the drafting of the report, primarily in relation to section 5.