

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, reaching approximately 300,000 in the 2023 academic year. Prolonged school refusal can lead to a loss of learning opportunities, impaired social relationships, and psychological strain. Therefore, appropriate support is necessary, but public support remains insufficient. Furthermore, until 2023, there has been little clarity on how the various support systems in Japan have affected children and families.

In research 1, a pre-post comparison design was employed to evaluate the overall effectiveness of an online school refusal support program called "room-K," offered by the certified NPO Katariba, on 56 elementary and junior high school students. Regardless of the reasons for school refusal, the results showed that six months after starting the program, participants had higher levels of self-study comprehension and ICT skills and lower stress levels compared to before the program.

Additionally, in research 2, a single-case design was used to visualize the effects of individual interventions. Data were collected from seven elementary school students who participated in an online educational support program "room-K" operated by the NPO Katariba. Ultimately, data from two of these students were used. The results showed an increase in social capital and a decrease in loneliness for one student. However, for the other students, the indicators and interview observations did not align, making it impossible to visualize the effects. Moreover, it was challenging to collect baseline data during periods when relationships were not yet established in the support setting, highlighting the limitations of using single-case designs (SCD) as a measurement method.

Overall, the findings suggest that a detailed examination, including data collection procedures, is necessary to visualize the impacts of effectively using SCD in support settings. Additionally, considering the burden on participants, a careful support system needs to be established.

* 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.