

Facing Children's Poverty In Japan

Present Situation:

Children's Poverty: **1 in 6 children** → Problems:
 • Lower academic level
 • Lower self-esteem

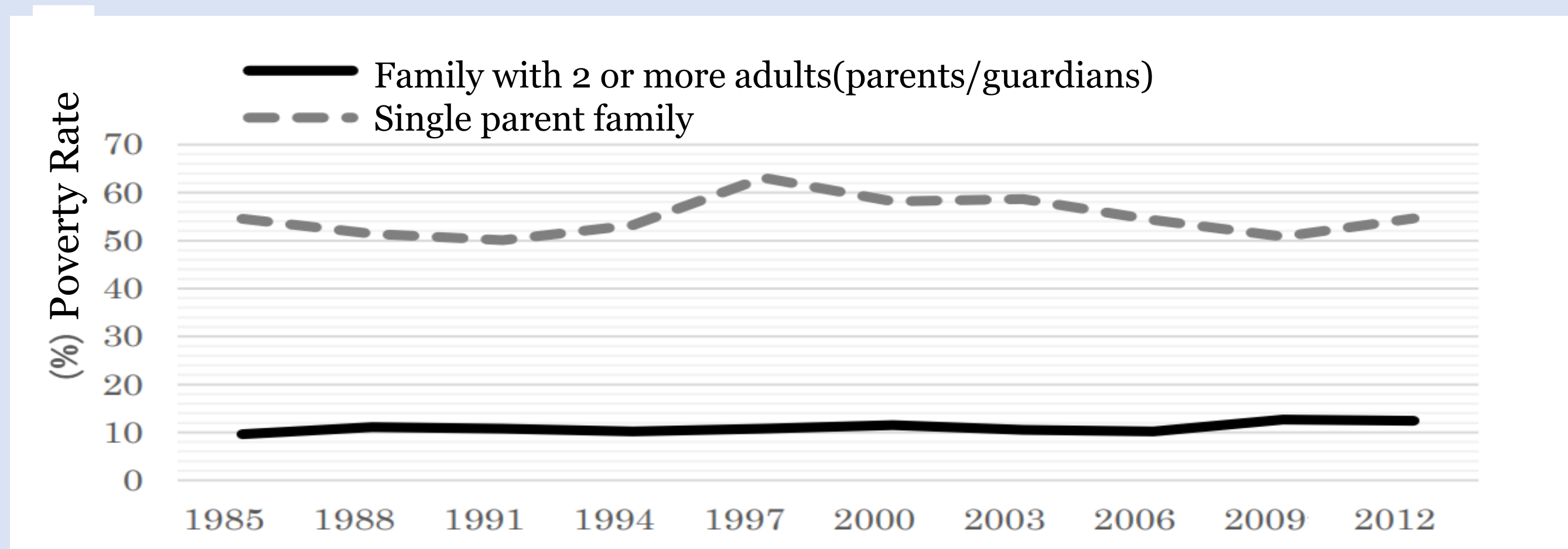
*Child development allowance recipients vs ordinary family

Problems children/parents have (Education related)	General (%)	Recipients (%)
Paying education expenses	27	48 (+11)
1 hour or less studying time	63	73 (+10)
Goes to cram school	58	30 (-28)
Has hard time understanding school lessons	18	28 (+10)

"Survey for formulating support plans for child poverty, in Kita-ku, Tokyo"

Causes:

- Single Parent → **Cycle of Poverty**
- Both parent work
- × Taking care of children



Looking at the children...

Regularly passive during lessons
 → Children come and chat with me about trivial things



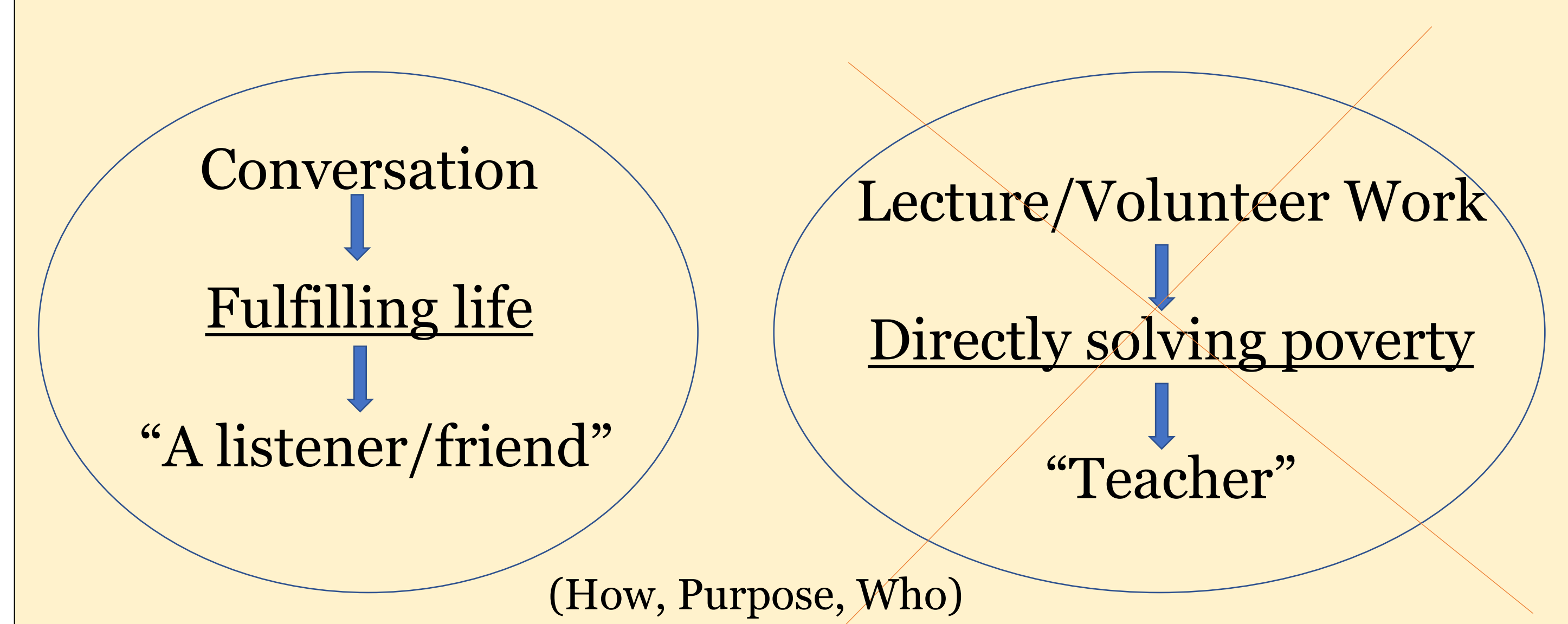
"I have a friend who is very smart and..."

*Seemed like it was an enjoyable, fulfilling moment
Realized children smiling is what I wanted to see

Analyzation:

Children want a listener...

Children in Poverty tend to spend more time alone
 → Need someone to listen to them



Becoming their **"close sister"**

→ Improvement in communication/social skills

What can I do to get children out of the vicious cycle?

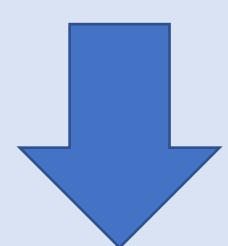
【Hypothesis 1】

"If children acquire higher academic ability, then they can get out of poverty in the future."

Approach 1

Teaching English at **"Children's Cafeteria"**

- Improvements in English level and growth in curiosity



Result:

- Boredom, sleeping children, etc.
- No dramatic changes in the academic level



How can I become the "close sister"?

【Hypothesis 2】

"Building strong relationships with the children is the key to enriching children's daily lives and eventually the future"

Failure at Children's Cafeteria

→ How should I get close to the children there?

Approach 2

Learning how to build relationships at a local elementary school after-school program

*Difference I realized from the field work

Elementary School	Children's Cafeteria
Energetic, extrovert, high communication skills	Passive, shy, not very talkative

Through activities we did...

→ Succeeded in creating a stronger bond

Future Prospects

Adopt the same kind of activities at Children's Cafeteria

