

# Gender Education for the Future

## ~Voices from a Girls' School~



We are LABO2, one of the research teams in Showa.

We are conducting research on the theme of "gender awareness and education."

### Our Goal This Year

To produce an instructional plan addressing gender issues in our school



Two approaches

#### Q1. What is the gender issues existing in Showa?

##### • Questionnaire

We conducted a questionnaire about gender awareness for students in our school. The questions were the same as those used by \*Plan International for general Japanese high school students, and we compared the results of the research with that of our own in order to detect the bias Showa students have significantly. As a result, there was a significant tendency for showa students to answer "No" in a certain category of question, which is kind of "women are weaker than men." In contrast, there was a tendency for them to answer "Yes" to this question, "Do you think women are better at housework than men?" From that, We think this is because they don't have opportunities to compare themselves to boys, so they don't feel women are inferior to men. Also, for most girls, the closest man in their lives is their father. As a result, their understanding of men is largely based on their father, which means they don't have a comprehensive understanding of men.

##### • Interview

We interviewed our high school classmates about

- ① how gender influences their future choices
- ② what concerns they have for the future

##### The example of students' voices for each question

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ① "I think that gender disparity in employment sometimes makes a person reluctant to apply for a job." | ② "I'm anxious about studying abroad because as a women I don't feel I can stand the discrimination there." |
|--|---|

#### Q2. What is the best way to convey the information?

##### • Three activities

In order to get the students to be interested in gender issues, we had three activities in our school, which was connected to International Day of Girls, which was offered by Plan International and adopted by the UN in 2011. First, we made and posted a poster. Second, we placed introduction cards of gender-related books in our library. Third, we did fundraising activities to Plan International.

Which was the best way to impress the students? We are going to have a questionnaire to find it out.

\*What is Plan International?

Plan International is an international NGO working in partnership with children and girls in over 80 countries worldwide to achieve a world where everyone is equal.



##### Other activities

We are interacting with students from Finland, and their education system is one we aim to learn from. Last year, we visited Finland and found that there is less gender bias compared to Japan. This has become one reason why we see their education as a model.



#### What will we do next?

Based on the results of the questionnaire and interviews, we will clarify the gender issues at our School, consider the most effective ways to carry out educational activities, and utilize the results to formulate future instructional plans.