|  |
| --- |
| **The role of Yogo teachers and school health room in promoting health and development of students Part 5 of 7 – Introduction of gender diversity in elementary school** |
| **Background**  The term “gender” may have a broad meaning in other parts of the world. In Japan, sexual minorities are slowly becoming open about their same-sex relationships and gender identity disorder, however, it is far from becoming socially acceptable. In 2006, it became a national news when an elementary school accepted a second-grade boy with gender identity disorder as a female student. In 2015, Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology issued a guideline for school teachers in dealing with sexual minority students, however, many schools have been reluctant to implement it. Furthermore, schools that do not offer sex education do not have the means to educate students about sexual minorities. As students lack proper information and knowledge, sexual minorities often become target for bullying.  As a Yogo teacher personally knowing W with gender identity disorder, I decided to educate my students as well as other faculty members about sexual minorities by having W share personal experiences with them.  **Methods**   1. Learn facts from published materials as well as from W. 2. Co-teach sex education focused on gender diversity with homeroom teacher. 3. Encourage other faculty members to observe sex education class offered to students.   **Results**  By learning scientific facts about childbirth, students realized their uniqueness and preciousness, and they were able to positively portray sexuality. By meeting W in person, students became more familiar with gender identity disorder as something that could happen to someone close to them. Through this experience, students learned to respect and co-exist with sexual minorities. By offering other faculty members to observe the class, they were also able to deepen their understanding for gender diversity and sexual minorities.  **Discussion**  Japan has a long way to reach world standard in terms of sex education. As Tokyo Olympics approaching in 2020, now is the chance to educate students about gender diversities. Utilizing UNESCO’s “International technical guidance on sexuality education,” school-based sex education program should be implemented and guaranteed.  **Keywords**  Health equity |