

Gender-Based Violence in Contemporary Japan: The Case Study on Examples of DV in International Marriages

Abstract

Gender equality is a highly discussed topic to some extent. However, when it comes to domestic violence (DV), gender-based violence (GBV), or any form of abuse, society, as well as its head, represented by the government and other authorities, is very reluctant to discuss these issues openly. Especially when international migrants and local citizens are involved. Japan is not an exception. Consequently, the primary goal of this study was to understand the background and the situation regarding the horrific reality of domestic violence statistics. This manuscript, illustrating the nationwide statistics, primarily focuses on the country's international household, highlighting measures, national programs, and the steps Japan is(was) taking to stop, prevent, and/or decrease this issue.

Currently (the spread of COVID-19 highlighted how critical the situation is), Japan is becoming even more intolerant of this problem. The country is trying to provide prevention measures and show the response of the government and/or society to this issue. Highlight the problem of GBV and DV in various studies. It is needed to underline that recently some significant developments have been witnessed in the field: programs of prevention, protection, and elimination efforts. However, as this study illustrated, Japan is nowhere close to illuminating, discussing, and finding solutions to the issue of DV, GBV, and abuse in international marriages. Hence, the main objective of this work was to highlight and investigate this topic. The fieldwork and interview data analysis, as well as historical context analysis, data analysis, and data interpretation research methods, were implied. This study has once again highlighted the need to investigate this topic and put strategies for preventing and reducing violence in international families.

Keywords gender, domestic violence, Japan, gender inequality, abuse

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Introduction

It can be assumed that it all started in 2016 when the announcement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) caused global attention to the problem of gender inequality. Many scholars and sociologists would probably argue, stating that it all started in the 20th or 19th century when, first, the suffrage movement and then, a feminist movement illuminated the problem of gender inequality. However, when it comes to gender inequality issues and the preventive and empowerment programs that governments are considering, it is crucial to emphasize the results that scientists can now study rather than the time when it all began. Nowadays, practically all countries (at least all 191 UN Member States) are supporting the implications of the feminist movement. Through the long and persistent struggles of feminists and suffragettes, many nations are now illuminating not only the importance of equal rights between men and women (such as voting rights, reproductive rights, working rights, access to education, etc.) but digging deeper, highlighting the issues of gender inequality or gender segregation in education, work or other institutions, as well as illuminating the importance of preventing and solving gender-based violence (GBV), abuse, harassment, gender bias or any other gender-based discriminations in society.

It is possible to state that many of the GBV issues mentioned above are certainly addressed in many countries. To be more specific, for instance, Japan has made significant progress in recent years in terms of the prevention and control of domestic violence (DV). There are numerous online resources, centers, hotlines, and even shelters. However, when it comes to the topic of GBV, DV, and abuse in intercultural marriages, it is evident that there is an essential lack of information, data, and research regarding DV in international households, as well as the lack of federal programs, attention, and necessary institutions (“Gender Equality Bureau,” 2022).

For example, as a result of the survey conducted by the author this year over 14 DV centers and organizations in Japan, it was shown that most of these facilities provide help only in Japanese (in some rare cases in English, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, or Spanish). Moreover, there is almost no data/statistics regarding DV in international households (out of **14 centers** only **two** centers provided unofficial data, and **three** centers refused to disclose data. The rest

(**nine centers**) do not provide or collect any data regarding DV in international marriages (Tab. 1; Tab. 2)).

Hence, it is necessary to highlight that the main specificity and objective of this study were to emphasize the existence of a problem, investigate the current situation, and try to provide tools for solving/preventing this problem.

Materials and Methods

In this study, a thorough **historical context analysis** (qualitative research method) was required to comprehend the specifics of gender inequality, as well as to analyze the current situation regarding GBV and DV in the country.

The **data analysis and data interpretation research methods** of such resources as the *SGD Index*, data submitted by the *Gender Equality Bureau* and *World Health Organization, Overview: Gender and Human Rights* written by Tsujimura, Nukatsuka, and Yatagawa (2021), and facts and figures from *The Asia-Pacific Journal* helped to organize or categorize data and statistics related to GBV and DV in the country.

The fieldwork and interview were conducted to diversify samples/data. The interview and fieldwork were carried out by the researcher, who received online training as well as gained necessary information through attending lectures at Kyoto University. The researcher conducted interviews carrying knowledge about gender-related issues, including issues of DV, theory or philosophy of GBV, sampling and field activities, fieldwork ethics, research ethics, sample design, and the other essential information necessary for providing social studies, surveys, and interviews.

14 centers/organizations were chosen randomly. The data for this study consists of the transcripts of the digitally recorded data and email correspondence with DV centers and organizations that include all necessary information. In order to diversify samples, the fieldwork was conducted in different areas of Japan, including Kansai, Kanto, Kinki, Tohoku, Hokkaido, and other areas.

Literature review

First, it should be emphasized that gender inequality is a widely studied issue, not only in Japan but all over the world. It is strongly represented in the list of global *SDGs*, in the *GII index*, or in the *GGGR*, where the topic is addressed globally.

However, since this research mainly focuses on GBV and DV in Japan, to study this phenomenon locally, there was a need to analyze *Overview: Gender and Human Rights* written by Tsujimura et al.,(2021) and *Support and Legal Systems for Mother and Child Victims of Domestic Violence in Japan and Singapore* written by Ogawa et al.,(2020) to understand the history of the movement against DV in the country and highlight the most significant issues.

On the other hand, the analysis of the figures submitted by the *World Health Organization*, *the Asia-Pacific Journal*, and the report *Violence against Women: Current Situation and Challenges* (“Gender Equality Bureau,” 2022) provided data and statistics for the in-depth study of this topic.

Finally, *Scientific Objectivity* (2014) provided a tool to formulate and apply in practice “scientific objectivity.” This article offered the core idea about personal interests, individual viewpoints, judgments, and community bias and explained how they should and could not influence scientific claims, methods, or results. *Concept Creep: Psychology's Expanding Concepts of Harm and Pathology*, written by Haslam (2016), illustrated and provided a detailed explanation of concepts of abuse, bullying, trauma, mental disorder, addiction, and prejudice. On the other hand, *Emotional abuse in intimate relationships: The role of gender and age*, written by Karakurt et al.,(2013), was also a significant basis or framework for conducting this research and fieldwork.

Discussion

1. The problem of GBV and DV

1.1. A worldwide issue

First, it is necessary to highlight the nature of the issue on a global level. DV is a worldwide phenomenon without national, economic, religious, geographic, or cultural borders. For example, globally, in **2020, 243 million women** were subjected to sexual or/and physical abuse perpetrated by an intimate partner (Karakurt & Silver, 2013). Moreover, Karakurt and Silver (2013) explain that usually, psychological violence is reported by 48.4% of women and 48.8% of men. On top of it, 95% of men who use physical violence also use emotional violence (p. 806). Furthermore, referring to data from the World Health

Organization (2021), “in the world 1 in 3 women aged 15 are subjected to physical and sexual assault by an intimate partner or sexual violenceⁱ. <...> 1 in 4 young women (aged 15-24 years) who have been in a relationship have already experienced violence by an intimate partner by the time they reach their mid-twenties. (“WHO,” 2021)” Consequently, as it could be seen from the data above, the issue of DV, GBV, and other forms of abuse is a cutting-edge topic due to its frequency and level of seriousness among men and women. Therefore, since the 90-s, many countries have not been only addressing this issue but were trying to provide measures to prevent, predict and stop it. Japan was one of these countries.

1.2. In Japan

Next, to be more specific, it is necessary to highlight that, as specified by *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, in Japan, around **15% of women** reported violence in 2019 (the USA – 36%, Canada – 1.9%) (“Domestic Violence and Japan’s...,” 2020). Moreover, according to *Gender Equality Bureau*, the number of consultations is not static. Analyzing data from 2019 to 2021, it could be concluded that the number of cases of DV in 2020 was **1.5 times** higher compared to 2019. However, it is lower in 2021 (177,110 (provisional figures)) compared to 2020 (182,188). Although there is a decrease (it was more likely caused by COVID-19) compared to 2020, the number of consultations remains high, with around 14,000~16,000 consultations per month (“Violence against Women,” 2022).

Moreover, in accordance with the data published by *Gender Equality Bureau*, in 2022, about **60%** of the consultations involved psychological DV, about **1 in 4** women in Japan have experienced violence/abuse from their spouses, and **1 in 21** married women reported having serious life-threatening fears. As can be seen, there are national statistics that provide a rather thorough picture of the various forms of DV, as well as their prevalence across different demographic groups and ranges of ages (“Violence against Women,” 2022).

However, when we are discussing the statistics that *Gender Quality Bureau* and *the Asia-Pacific Journal* provide, **three crucial aspects** are significant to keep always in mind. First, women make up the majority of the study population; second, foreigners are not included in the data (at least they are never listed as a group in any report); finally, unregistered cases are not included in the statistics. Registered examples eliminate the number of unreported cases (for example, in international marriages, among international students, between two foreign partners living in Japan, and among Japanese men and women who are reluctant to report the case of abuse or GBV). Hence, it can be assumed that the percentage of reported and unreported cases could be higher than 15% (“Violence against Women,” 2022).

Furthermore, statistics and data emphasize the necessity of addressing the issue of DV in international marriages specifically.

2. Prevention measures and some essential obstacles in Japan

As mentioned above, in past years, significant developments have been seen in the field. Japan is becoming even more intolerant of this issue. For example, the number of the nationwide network of shelters (Jap. 民間シェルター or ステップハウス), various NPO, and call centers are increasing in numbers and spreading all over the country (“Gender Equality Bureau,” 2022). Although some significant developments have been witnessed, it is vital to briefly list essential obstacles regarding DV and GBV among Japanese citizens and in international households.

2.1. Developments

① **Laws**

In terms of legislation, it is essential to draw attention to the *Fourth Women’s Conference in Beijing*, which took place in 1995. At this conference, 180 nations adopted a declaration denouncing violence against women, which led to the enactment of legislation prohibiting it. As a result, nowadays, at least 155 countries (including Japan) have implemented legislation making DV illegal (Weldon, 2011, p.41).

Japan illegalized DV (*The Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims; DV Prevention Act was implemented in April 2001*) significantly late. It happened only in 2001. However, it was a significant step toward gender equality and protection measures from GBV and DV in the country (Tsujiima et al., 2021, p.59).

② **Counseling centers, shelters, and welfare system**

Shelters and counseling centers are among the other noteworthy developments Japan achieved. Since the late 1990s, significant social changes have occurred in Japan due to international influence and the effortsⁱⁱ of Japanese feminists and activists. Currently, each prefecture has a list of government-run offices for consultations. These facilities provide preventative measures for all types of violence against women, including spousal abuse, sexual assault of children, sexual crimes, stalking incidents, etc. (“Gender Equality Bureau,” 2022).

Additionally, counseling centers and shelters provide temporary protection for victims of DV or abuse. Moreover, the Japanese national welfare system offers assistance and support in the form of medical insurance, a system that helps mothers with children who live apart from

their spouses or intimate partners, assistance in finding a job, or financial aid for study (Dales, 2009, pp.19-22).

Additionally, it is significant to highlight that in accordance with *Public Assistance Act*, the welfare system legally applies either to Japanese or to foreigners “with a status of residence, such as permanent or long-term residents, who are legal residents of Japan and who do not have restrictions on activities (“Gender Equality Bureau,”2022).”

③ Three options for support

The Gender Equality Bureau claims that Japan has three options for support. First, the police or support organizations offer consultations. Second, temporary protection is offered for those who want to escape from the abuser (for example, private shelters). Third, victims who wish to stay away from their abusers can write a petition and have an arraignment at the district court (“Gender Equality Bureau,”2022).

④ International network

Japan has an international network for victims of DV. There are non-Japanese speaking organizations such as The Asian/Pacific Island Domestic Resource Project, The Asia Task Force Against Domestic Violence, The Asia Women’s Shelter, and others (“Resources for Victims of Domestic Violence,”2022). *Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office* provides information about laws and organizations to assist victims of spousal violence (mainly in Japanese, however, there is some helpful information in English) (“Gender Equality Bureau,”2022). There is an English-speaking National Domestic Violence Hotline or SNS consultation in ten languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, and Nepali). Moreover, YWCAⁱⁱⁱ provides support and consultations in various languages too (Tab. 2).

⑤ Surveys and data

The institutional controls or coordination efforts have been buttressed in Japan too. Data collection, surveys, and other ways of gathering information exist. For example, *Gender Equality Bureau*, in a report *Violence against Women: Current Situation and Challenges* (2022), released comprehensive information on the situation in the country. Indeed, this report provides detailed data, including categorization by gender, occupation, age, etc. However, it is essential to underline that it primarily focuses on female cases of DV violence rather than male. It does not investigate and analyze the correlation between age, occupation, religion, environment, and frequency or reasons for abuse or DV. It also does not include cases of DV and/or abuse in international households.

2.2. *Essential obstacles*

① **Reluctance to report GBV or DV and self-blaming**

First, it is necessary to note that Japanese society is reluctant to report DV. Over 50% of victims of DV or abuse did not do it. In addition, according to Nakajima (2022), when it comes to the issue of DV and GBV, the most vulnerable topic is: that female victims tend to blame themselves (“self-blaming” is a psychological response to abuse) (“The Asia-Pacific Journal,”2020). In general, victims who experience such emotions usually do not report DV. Moreover, the other significant problem is that foreign residents are hesitant to visit DV centers or report abuse or violence. Due to language barriers, reluctance (self-blaming), and worries about their and their children’s future in Japan, they try to find other ways how to cope with DV alone (“The Asia-Pacific Journal,”2020).

② **Indirect victims**

DV or GBV, in most cases, affects either women/men (directly) or children (indirectly). Children may become secondary victims (e.g., witnesses of violence). Therefore, it is essential to emphasize the need for special assistance (that currently does not exist) for both direct and indirect victims. The present DV law does not recognize children as direct victims of abuse or violence. Moreover, it does not stress the importance of receiving special medical (and other) assistance for children (Ogawa et al., 2020, pp.2-13).

On the other hand, Ogawa et al. (2020) illuminated the additional problem that usually mothers and children face. There is only little privacy in public services (i.e., shelters for mothers and their children). Furthermore, some facilities impose different restrictions. The most common rule is that boys under a specific age are isolated from their mothers. Consequently, victims are left with no other choice than leave or not enter shelters. As mentioned above, the lack of privacy and the condition when children (boys) are separated from their mothers make women with children search for other options because mothers are no longer available to stay with and take care of their children. As a result, instead of getting help in proper facilities, women with children are forced to leave them (facilities). Finally, it can be assumed that children who are separated from their mothers may experience psychological trauma, which will not be treated because DV law does not recognize children as direct victims and does not provide assistance and psychological help (pp.2-13).

③ **Data and statistics regarding international households**

In terms of statistics and data (especially in international marriages), it can be presumed that Japan is dealing with severe difficulties. This topic is the study's primary focus. Thus, a

detailed explanation will be provided later in part three (*Data and statistics regarding international households. Fieldwork data analysis*).

④ During the fieldwork and interview with representatives from DV centers in Kanto, Kinki, Kansai, Hokkaido, and other areas, it was proven that in many cases, centers focus only on victims of DV rather than abusers. ^{ivvvi}

Most of the Japanese centers provide counseling for men. However, compared to counseling for women, the centers usually conduct it less frequently. ^{vii}.

3. *Data and statistics regarding international households. Fieldwork data analysis*

As it was discussed previously, in terms of statistics and data (especially in international marriages), it can be assumed that Japan is facing significant challenges. First, there are almost no statistics on DV in international marriages. For example, *Kyoto Municipal Gender Equality Center (Wings Kyoto)* ^{viii} reported that there were only two DV cases in this center **over the past few years**. The *Shibuya Gender Equality and Diversity Center <Iris>* ^{ix} provided general information on DV without any classification by race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, occupation, age, etc. Additionally, according to the center, **there is no concrete information** regarding DV in international marriages.

The other center, *Tokyo Women's Plaza* ^x, informed that there were no statistics regarding DV in international marriages too. However, non-official figures for 2021 showed that the number of cases (single consultation of non-Japanese residents) **was equal to 0.2% (61 cases)**. It was calculated from the amount of all cases for 2021.

On the other hand, *Kyoto Family Support Center*, *YWCA*, *Olive Kagawa* ^{xi}, *Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence* ^{xii}, and *Rindo Heart Nagano* ^{xiii} were reluctant to disclose any data or did not have any specific data regarding DV in international marriages at all (Tab. 1; Tab.2).

Moreover, it is crucial to emphasize that centers place a greater emphasis on female victims of domestic violence rather than male victims. Age, occupation, religion, and environment are not investigated or analyzed in relation to the occurrences and causes of DV. It was witnessed either in a report submitted by the *Gender Equality Bureau* of Japan or in reports released by *Iris*, *Tokyo Women`s Plaza*, and *Kyoto Wings*. Furthermore, none of the

centers mentioned in this research provide a specific consultation with a psychologist for male abusers. ^{xivxxvi}

Table 1. The table of DV centers targeted in this study © author

Center	Enquiry	Date of enquiry	Results	Details
1. Wings Kyoto	Email and interview	The interview was conducted on July 22 nd , 2022	Data collected	There are <u>no registered cases or statistics</u> . However, from April to July 2022, there was one consultation regarding DV and abuse in international marriage between a Japanese husband and a French wife. The Center also stated that they have about one person per year or two.
2. YWCA	Email	July 23 rd	Rejection	No data disclose
3. Kyoto Family Support Center(Jap. 京都家庭支援総合センター)	Email	July 23 rd	Rejection	No data disclose
4. Tokyo Women`s Plaza	Email and interview	The interview was conducted on August 3 rd , 2022	Data collected	“Tokyo Women's Plaza” informed that there are no statistics regarding DV in international marriages. However, according to the data for 2021, the number of spouse and single

				consultation cases of non-Japanese residents <u>was 0.2% present in all cases (it is about 61 cases)</u> . It is unofficial data.
5. Shibuya Iris	Interview	The interview was conducted on August 3 rd , 2022	Data collected	No data regarding DV and abuse in international marriages
6. Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence in Hokkaido (Jap. 性暴力被害者支援センター北海道)	Email	August 8 th	No response	No data
7. Sexual Violence Victims Support Center Hokkaido "SACRACH" (Japan. 性暴力被害者支援センター北海道 さくらこ)	Email	August 8 th	Received response (negative)	No data
8. Hakodate, Southern Hokkaido "SART" (Jap. 函館・	Email	August 8 th	No response	No data

道南 SART (サー ト))				
9. Ishikawa Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence "Purple Support Ishikawa" (Jap. いしかわ性暴 力被害者支援セン ター「パープルサポ ートいしかわ」)	Email	August 8 th	No response	No data
10. Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence "Rindo Heart Nagano(Jap. 性暴力 被害者支援センタ ー「りんどうハート ながの」)	Email	August 8 th	Rejection	In terms of confidentiality, Rindo Heart Nagano does not disclose any information
11. Center for Victims of Sexual Violence One Stop Lake Biwa SATOCO(Jap. 性暴 力被害者総合ケア ワンストップびわ	Email	August 8 th	No response	No data

湖 SATOCO (サトコ)				
12. Nonprofit Organization Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence, Hyogo(Jap. NPO 性暴力被害者支援センター・ひょうご)	Email	August 8 th	No response	No data
13. Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence Auribu Kagawa(Jap. 性暴力被害者支援センター オーリブかがわ)	Email	August 8 th	No response	No data
14. Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence Yuasaido Kumamoto (Jap. 性暴力被害者のためのサポートセンターゆあさいどくまもと)	Email	August 8 th	Received response (negative)	Regarding domestic violence occurring within international marriages, we have no data to offer, as we have not received any consultations to date

Table 2. The table of DV centers. Multilingual help. © author

Center	Language	Consultation for men
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Wings Kyoto	Japanese	Yes (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)
YWCA	English, Chinese, Tagalog, Thai, Japanese	No
Kyoto Family Support Center(Jap. 京都家庭支援総合 センター)	Japanese	Unclear
Tokyo Women`s Plaza	Japanese, English, Chinese Korean, Thai, Tagalog	(Every Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday)
Shibuya Iris	English, French, Chinese, Korean,	No
Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence in Hokkaido(Jap. 性暴 力被害者支援セン ター北海道)	Japanese	Unclear
Sexual Violence Victims Support Center Hokkaido “SACRACH” (Japan. 性暴力被害 者支援センター北 海道 さくらこ)	Japanese	No
Hakodate, Southern Hokkaido “SART” (Jap. 函 館・道南 SART (サ ート))	Japanese	Unclear

<p>Ishikawa Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence "Purple Support Ishikawa" (Jap. いしかわ性暴力被害者支援センター「パープルサポートいしかわ」)</p>	<p>Japanese</p>	<p>Consultation for all genders</p>
<p>Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence "Rindo Heart Nagano(Jap. 性暴力被害者支援センター「りんどうハートながの」)</p>	<p>Japanese</p>	<p>Unclear</p>
<p>Center for Victims of Sexual Violence One Stop Lake Biwa SATOCO(Jap. 性暴力被害者総合ケアワンストップびわ湖 SATOCO (サトコ))</p>	<p>Japanese</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Nonprofit Organization Support Center for</p>	<p>Japanese</p>	<p>No</p>

Victims of Sexual Violence, Hyogo(Jap. NPO 性暴力被害者支援センター・ひょうご)		
Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence Auribu Kagawa(Jap. 性暴力被害者支援センター オーリブかがわ)	Japanese	Unclear
Support Center for Victims of Sexual Violence Yuasaido Kumamoto (Jap. 性暴力被害者のためのサポートセンターゆあさいどくまもと)	Japanese	Yes

Results

It is important to note that, starting from the late 1990s, Japan made significant progress in reducing gender inequality and DV or GBV. As mentioned in this study, numerous facilities, groups, and hotlines in Japan provide care and support for victims of DV. A welfare system is buttressed as well.

However, it is crucial to note that Japan still has severe problems in terms of supporting foreign citizens and providing national statistics or data regarding DV or abuse in international households. The general absence of studies and data is a significant barrier to developing effective regulations against DV in international households.

On top of it, the lack of facilities or volunteers who can provide information, juridical help, or assistance in various languages is a significant impediment too (Tab. 2).

To address or improve the situation in Japan, the following ideas should be highlighted, stressed, and discussed.

First, additional effort and investments are needed to promote mental health for both Japanese and international victims of DV. There is a significant need to distribute full-scale information and advice services or centers regarding mental well-being to allay fear (self-blaming). Enrich the delivery of quality mental health services to patients and families.

Next, provide more social programs informing and raising awareness in society regarding the problem of DV in international marriages.

Finally, the solution to the problem of DV in international marriages mainly depends on a deep understanding of its essence. Data collection, surveys, and putting this problem on the social policy agenda are necessary.

Lastly, it must be noted that this study merely touched the surface of the problem. Subsequent and more extensive studies should be conducted. The author intends to expand on this in the future.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest in connection with the publication of this article.

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ⁱ The term sexual violence is an umbrella term that includes sexual assault, rape, and sexual abuse.

ⁱⁱ **In Japan:** the effort made by and the statistics submitted by Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Jap. 男女共同参画局); the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims (Jap. 配偶者からの暴力の防止及び被害者の保護等に関する法律); DV Consultation Navi, Domestic Violence Hotline Plus; mobilized shelters all over Japan, Etc.

ⁱⁱⁱ Young Women's Christian Association

^{iv} The interview was conducted on July 22nd, 2022.

^v The interview was conducted on August 3rd, 2022.

^{vi} The interview was conducted on August 3rd, 2022.

^{vii} For example, one per week in the case of “Wings Kyoto”, there are no female consultations in “Shibuya Gender Equality and Diversity Center <Iris>”, four times per week in the case of “Tokyo Women’s Plaza” (telephone consultations only).

^{viii} The interview was conducted on July 22nd, 2022.

^{ix} The interview was conducted on August 3rd, 2022.

^x The interview was conducted on August 3rd, 2022.

^{xi} The interview was tried to be conducted from July 22nd till August 9th, 2022.

^{xii} DV center in Kumamoto, email inquiry on August 15th

^{xiii} DV center in Nagano, email inquiry on August 18th

^{xiv} The interview was conducted on July 22nd, 2022.

^{xv} The interview was conducted on August 3rd, 2022.

^{xvi} The interview was conducted on August 3rd, 2022.