

# **Qualitative Research Regarding the Psychological Difficulties Experienced by Child Care Staff**

A case study of coping mechanisms when they are faced with the sexual activities of their client

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The purpose of this study is to test a hypothesis regarding times when the staff of child care institutions might feel discomfort when they are confronted with a situation involving child prostitution. To examine this hypothesis, I conducted an investigation into psychological problems using group interview methods. As a result, the text mining data indicated three outputs. The first was that staff regard student prostitution as their own experience. In the 1990s, in Japan, the prostitution of children and students was a social phenomenon, thus staff share this episode as a traumatic experience even now. The second is a feeling of helplessness. Even if the staff of child care institutions want to face this problem, they do not want to face the sexual problems of the client, as children in institutions have many other difficult and irresolvable problems. The third is the difficulty of sex education in Japan. In Japan, sex education is a very political issue; thus the Japanese educational system does not provide an environment that can solve such educational problems.