Becoming18 Years Old: A Turning Point

- When power structures and commissioners of juvenile welfare offices cross paths with juveniles -

SUGIE Taro

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University **Keywords:** child consultation centers, 18 years old, child welfare

Child consultation centers fulfill administrative functions for coping with various problems involving juveniles. Cases of child abuse often become a central duty, and the commissioners of juvenile welfare offices are often busy with correspondence and are currently in short supply.

As per many case examples, Juvenile A runs away from home and from an overbearing father, and then comes under the jurisdiction of a juvenile welfare commissioner. In this specific case, Juvenile A was 17 years old at the time.

The juvenile welfare commissioner aimed to provide guidance to Juvenile A so as to help him "enter high school and get his life on course" and to instill in him a feeling of living for himself, not for his father. However, the services provided by the juvenile welfare office ran into difficulties, as Juvenile A was approaching the age of consent, while also facing financial problems.

Still, Juvenile A did not give up hope, and the juvenile welfare commissioner continued to provide support. Through many strenuous efforts, aided by a mayor from a distant location, the goals and dreams of Juvenile A were finally able to be realized. Various relationships were formed, and Juvenile A realized the dream of making it to university and even into other advanced levels of education.

In deference to the initiative at hand, Juvenile A moved forward, and eventually nobody considered him to be an ill-treated child. Mind in deference to Child Rights existed, and the specialty as each child welfare employment person and "intellect of the practice" interacted there.

Such an instance of enabling a juvenile welfare commissioner to engage in such a work can bear many fruit and, as a result, may lead to improvements in child welfare.