

# Contemplating the Meaning of Life as the Sibling of a Juvenile Delinquent

Paying attention to the power of shouldering burden

OYAMADA Mariko

Graduate School of Science for Human Services, Ritsumeikan University

Keywords: sibling, perpetrator's family, contemplate the meaning of the experience

In recent years, crime rates have risen. Against this backdrop, society often places the same amount of blame on the parents as they do a juvenile perpetrator.

Forms of support are available for parents, but up to now, the same type of support does not exist for the siblings of the juvenile perpetrator.

This study intends to show how the siblings of former juvenile delinquents still shoulder conflict amid their role in their family and in society, meaning of experience.

With this background in mind, this study targeted three siblings of juvenile delinquents, and interviews were conducted with each of them.

The results indicate that 1) siblings do not recognize their juvenile siblings as criminals, 2) one of the roles they play within the family is overcoming conflict in relationships, and 3) siblings contemplate the meaning of the experience. They have power due to shouldering these burdens.