

SELECTIVE ABORTION AND RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION IN JAPAN

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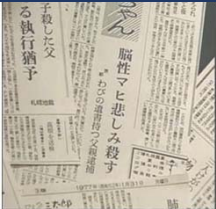
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Eugenic Protection Act "eugenic operation" including sterilization

In the years leading to World War 2, Japan strongly supported eugenics and legalized sterilization of people consider to be "inferior". In 1940, the Japanese Empire lead by Prime Minister Konoye passed the National Eugenic Act (NEA). People with various conditions including the mentally challenged, the disabled and people consider to have hereditary illnesses were targeted for sterilization. After the war, in 1948, the new Japanese government enacted the Eugenic Protection Act (EPA). This replaced the NEA and in many ways was much worse. It clearly stated in Article 1 that its purpose was "to prevent births of inferior descendants". The Act called sterilization a "eugenic operation" and enforced both voluntary and involuntary sterilization.

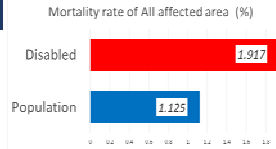
Why killing disabled baby is not a crime ?



In 1970, a mother killed her child with cerebral palsy (CP), but the general public sympathized with the mother, not with the killed child. The Green Grass, organization of persons with CP stated that non-disabled people had a strong egoism, that is, "inner eugenic thought."

The egoism held by non-disabled people was believed the main source of discrimination. The disabled members of the Green Grass critically challenged the fundamental assumptions of the Japanese society that had deeply believed in the eugenics and devalued disabled lives as undesirable. For example, from 1968 Hyogo prefecture had "office for preventing a baby of misery" promoted eugenic idea of "all disabled are misery, and must be eliminated". Due to strong protest against its acceleration of "inner-eugenic thought" in public, the office was closed at 1974. But still government proceeded another eugenic options. At 1973, ERA being revised and intended to make "fetus clouds", which would legalize the abortion due to fetus abnormality which medical practice could not find recovery or cure at the time. This must be a selective abortion. Strong protesting disability community was take place in the nation, and "fetus clouds" was abandoned at the time. At 1998, EPA were renamed to Maternal Protection Act, but people looked like to forget the discussion of "inner eugenic thought".

PWD Disaster Support Center In FUKUSHIMA

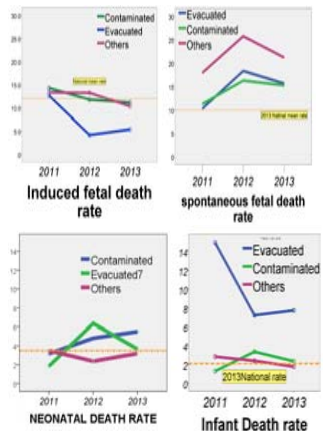


On March 11th 2011, The Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, and the tsunami reached shore 49 minutes later. NHK reported people with disability are the twice or more likely to death compared to the general in the area. Someone pointed it happened because of their immobility and because of lack of communication, and NHK summarized preparedness

and to the lack of disaster community accessibility in Japan. When we visited Minami-Soma City, we heard of a very brutal and graphic reality. Just at the borderline of the tsunami, there was a nursing home for the elderly. Here, people actually saw bedridden elderly floating on mattresses being washed away one by one. People who had climbed onto roofs witnessed this. There was nothing they could do to help. Among the witnesses, there must have been staff at the nursing home. There may have even been, among the witnesses, elderly at the nursing home who could walk just enough to get to safety. It is believed that most of the people with disabilities who could not walk died in the tsunami unable to escape. People who saw it happen, however much they tell themselves that there was nothing they could do, will feel that they let people die before their very eyes and did nothing about it.

"Prevent your Town from being Fukushima" by S, Kida.

	spontaneous fetal death rate	Live birth	number of spontaneous fetal death
2011	12.3/1000	15072	186
2012	15.4/1000	13770	212



I learned the words "spontaneous fetal death" at my daughter's abortion. One day my daughter called me, saying, "Mom, you'll have a grandchild next summer!" Just 3 weeks later, she had to get an abortion. According to a doctor who examined ultrasound, the underdeveloped fetus was not confirmed to alive. The diagnosis was silent miscarriage. It was before her 10 weeks pregnancy, her fetus was not included in the stillbirth children. During her sick-leave days, she knew surprisingly many of her friends got the same diagnosis before 12 weeks of pregnancy. Some of them lost their babies because of the same missed abortion as my daughter. After A- bombing of Hiroshima, many cases of deformed babies were reported in the history. "Hiroshima and Fukushima" and "affected fetus" are likely to incite our anxiety about consequence of radioactive contamination. A significant increase of spontaneous fetal death and infant mortality is found in Fukushima as left figures shows. When my daughter's fetus got diagnosed as underdeveloped, my daughter called me again, saying "Mom, even if my baby might have disability, I want to take care my baby for all my best to realize whatever the baby needs. I need your help, would you help me?" I promptly respond "Yes, off course!! The baby is already one of our family, we should help each other." I am really proud of my daughter. I respected her for choosing "non-selection" option. However, I still remember the ultrasound image of our aborted fetus. Thus, I strongly recommend you to take an action to prevent your town from being another Fukushima.

Don't fear too much, and save all lives.

Since the nuclear power plant accident, people are increasingly concerned about the effects of internal exposure. It is said that "in Fukushima Prefecture abortions are increasing beneath the surface" We also hear that young women of Fukushima say that they cannot get married. Here also, life is being taken away as a result of the nuclear power plant accident. This is happening because people fear the possibility of having children with disabilities and having to raise them. They fear because they see that human rights for people with disabilities are not guaranteed in this society. Eugenics labels certain types of people as inferior to others and tries to eliminate them from society. Today, eugenics does not have to be actively instigated by governments and medical professionals. It has tactfully been ingrained into people's notions so that eugenics is now disguised as people individually making personal choices not to bring these "inferior" beings into society. Lives of people with disabilities are being eliminated in this way.

PWD will never be non-disabled, but everyone can be disabled.

In this rapidly aging society, people are bound to live the latter part of their lives. Further more, since radioactive contamination in the land of Japan, everyone can be affected. There is much the society can learn from people with disabilities to make a better society for all. We, people with disabilities are a valuable resource to society. Given radioactive contamination of Japan, what we need to do is to build a society where everyone can enjoy an enriched life regardless of disability, age or health condition. What we need is a society that can support people with disabilities or people at serious conditions as well as their families. Not a society that plays on people's fears to make people choose to take away life. This should be the learning we gained from the nuclear power plant accident. This is the discussion we need to have. Let's not waste any more time in such useless discussion of bringing back nuclear power. Let's get start all together to think about how to overcome our egoism, inner eugenics which result to cause of inhumanity.

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