

**[Meeting report]****Child abuse and neglect as a health issue  
for maternal and child health care system in Japan****Yoshihisa YAMAZAKI MD <sup>1)</sup>**

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**Abstract**

From a view point of maternal and child health (MCH), the strategies and measures for child abuse and neglect were reviewed.

A child abuse and neglect has been dealt as an issue of child welfare system for a long time. The “Sukoyaka family 21” (a National Campaign for MCH) changed the concept after 2001. It was clearly recognized as a health issue for MCH in Japan. But in spite of many countermeasures based on the law, the outcome did not improve until now, like as death case did not decrease.

Maternal and child health care institutions can undertake three kinds of role; (1) protection of children at an emergency medicine, (2) psychiatric therapy for children with mental trauma and (3) prevention by collaboration with MCH sector and medical institution.

The clinical experience at Aichi Children’s Health and Medical Center (ACHEMEC) revealed that the continuity of psychiatric therapy was well maintained by a “Sodan” (listen, talk and support) activities by public health nurses who belong to the ACHEMEC and also by the persons who take care children and parents in a community. ACHEMEC implemented “Hallo Family Card” project to facilitate a supportive activity by cooperation with MCH and medical institutions in a community. It was an effective tool to strengthen the relationship of parents and supporters.

MCH sector should cover 100% children and parents in a community for preventing child abuse and neglect, cooperating with medical sector and child welfare sector. A child-rearing support should be started from pregnancy and sustained through childhood period, and carried over school age and adolescent period collaborated with school sector to establish children’s social independency

A second phase “Sukoyaka family 21” aims that every child can grow healthy and happy at all municipalities in Japan. The MCH staffs will be expected to build a social capital in a community as a platform of the national campaign.

\*“Sukoyaka” means healthy and happy in Japanese.

**keywords** : child abuse and neglect、 maternal and child health、 multidisciplinary team support 、 social capital