

## **A PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM MODERNIZATION, GLOBALIZATION AND URBANIZATION**

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### **Introduction**

The Silk Road was a commercial route which connects China, Central Asia, west Asia, and Europe. The starting point in the east of this Silk Road is called Shosoin in Nara, and the most western point is Rome. Merchants carried various products back and forth from more than 2000 years ago. This trade also brought cultural exchange and a mutual understanding of the countries around the Silk Road. However in recent years, modernization, globalization, and urbanization have greatly changed the life of people.

Uzbekistan which prospered as a relay place of the Silk Road is located in the center of Eurasia. Samarkand, a world heritage city, has many important and historical sites which many Japanese travelers visit for sightseeing. For the Japanese, it is an opportunity to study the diversity of lifestyle and customs, to get in touch with a different culture from Japan. Although natural gas, gold, cotton, etc. are the mainstream industries of Uzbekistan, in recent years development has brought about the problem of the environmental pollution of emission of carbon dioxide and a decrease of river resources. Although a rich life can be got by developing nature, environmental pollution and destruction are brought about simultaneously. Japan has advanced technology which takes the environment into account. As such it should respond to helping Uzbekistan develop in a sound manner.

Japan has changed from an agricultural society to an industrial society. As a result, while information technology and the economy developed and life became more convenient, at the same time the destruction of natural environment, urbanization, dilution of relation neighborhoods, and various social problems have surfaced. For example, the present-day family has various problems which can even be called family pathology, such as divorce, abuse, restructuring, social withdrawal, depression, and alcohol dependence. These are considered to be also social problems, and the solution requires the mutual understanding between families, and understanding of the community which surrounds the family.

Although modernization, globalization, and urbanization had great influence on the development of a country, they also made various social problems. Although various solutions can be considered to these social problems, in my presentation I will focus on cultural succession and mutual understanding and examine these from a psychological viewpoint.

## Methods

The first topic is cultural succession. The presenter works at a university in Kamakura. At the university, "the tour around the Kamakura historical sites" is carried out. The purpose of it is to inspect historical buildings, such as Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, Kenchoji Temple, Engakuji Temple, Daibutsu of Kamakura, and Asaina Kiridoshi Pass, to think about predecessors' life and culture, and to understand the samurai's ancient city, Kamakura.

The next topic is mutual understanding. Various group activities with psycho-education are used to promote understanding of oneself and others.

## Results

Goryo Jinja in Kamakura has a “面掛 procession”(Menkake Gyoutetu) based on “伎楽”(Gigaku). “伎楽” spread in the countries around the Silk Road from India, and is said to have been introduced to Japan. And also, in Kamakura, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine, Kenchoji Temple, Engakuji Temple, Daibutsu of Kamakura, and Asaina Kiridoshi Pass, etc. which are due to be registered as world heritage sites, and many historical valuable buildings were built. From the students' reports it was clear that they learned about Kamakura culture and history very well and could understand Japanese culture, foreign culture, and noticed the importance of preserving that culture, i.e., cultural succession.

In recent years there are many students who are mentally immature, lack social skills, and are weak in experience of interpersonal-relations. The presenter has used group work with a small number of people so that participants can learn actively and not just be passive. Being aware of the feelings in oneself and others, asserting oneself and accepting others, and developing mutual understanding are ways to acquire deeper interpersonal relations.

Opportunities to experience cultural succession and mutual understanding are considered to be useful for decreasing environmental destruction and helping to diminish relationship difficulties, especially in the family.

## Conclusion

The Silk Road prospered from over 2000 years ago as a place of various cultural exchanges. In order to develop a mutual life culture, what was excellent in the foreign country was accepted; the good things one's own country were exported to foreign countries; and a mutual life culture was developed. It is thought that the Silk Road area also had exchange of the heart which is not only a thing. It has formed the attitude which values a thing with people.

Although modernization, globalization, and urbanization have increased efficiency, developed economy, brought about strengthening of the relation between countries and raised the quality of people's life, problems have also appeared simultaneously. As a result of the lack of relationships with people, the trouble in interpersonal relations leading to isolation and to various family problems have appeared. With urbanization the sense of being a part of a neighborhood has decreased. This has led to difficulties in protecting and passing on culture. In order to enliven the Silk Road areas and create an atmosphere of coexistence and

co-prosperity and further development it is necessary to continue having a viewpoint which understands people and things different from oneself and one's environment.

This presentation has focused on cultural succession and mutual understanding for college students who will support society in the future and bring the idea of maintenance and development of the culture of their own country, understanding of a foreign culture, and understanding of oneself and others.