

Guaranteeing the rights to education of pregnant high school students in Japan:

Focusing on initiatives related to teenage mothers in the U.K.

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About this thesis

BACKGROUND

There are high school students who lose access to education because of pregnancy in Japan

SUBJECT

Guaranteeing the rights to education of pregnant high school students

About this thesis

PURPOSE

Clarifying the cause of losing access to education because of pregnancy and maternity among high school students

METHOD

- Comparing policies and laws between Japan and the U.K. about guaranteeing the rights to education of pregnant high school students
- Comparing social attitude in Japan and the U.K. towards the rights to education, having children and marriage based on previous works

Thesis Structure

Chapter 1: Current situation of pregnant high school students in Japan and the U.K.

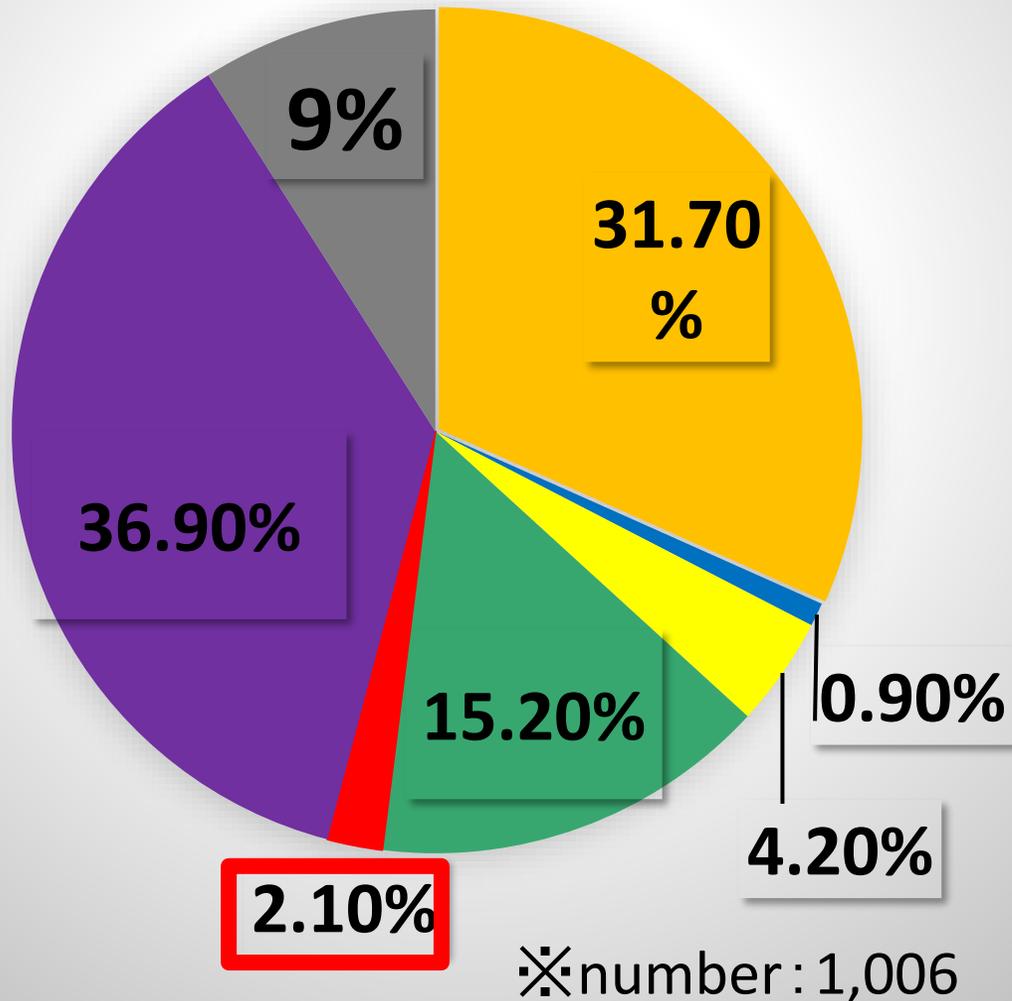
Chapter 2: Initiatives to help pregnant high school students to access to education in Japan and the U.K.

Chapter 3: The reason why there are not enough initiatives in Japan

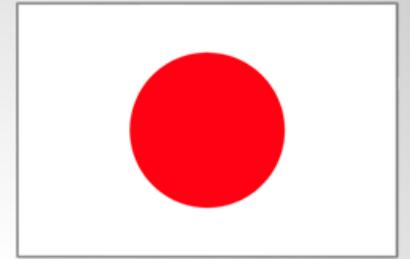
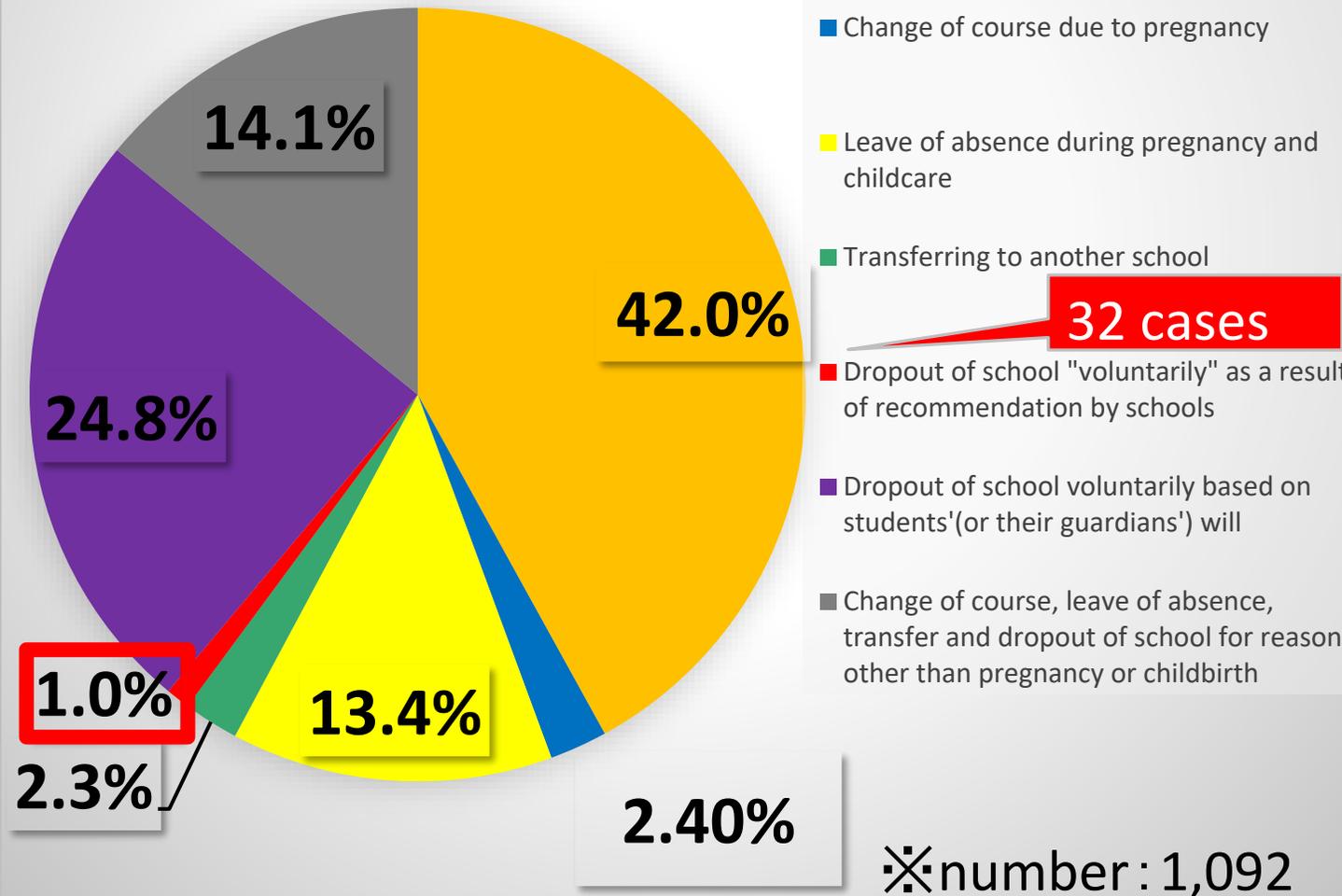
Chapter 1:

Current situation of pregnant high school students
in Japan and the U.K.

Enrollment status of pregnant students (full-time)



Enrollment status of pregnant students (part time)



- Attendance for all periods except before and after childbirth
- Change of course due to pregnancy
- Leave of absence during pregnancy and childcare
- Transferring to another school
- Dropout of school "voluntarily" as a result of recommendation by schools
- Dropout of school voluntarily based on students'(or their guardians') will
- Change of course, leave of absence, transfer and dropout of school for reason other than pregnancy or childbirth

The reasons why schools recommended pregnant students drop out of school;

1. Schools believed it was difficult for pregnant students to study at school and raise children at the same time (18/32cases)
2. Schools believed pregnant students affected other students (5/32cases)
3. Schools were not able to ensure safety of pregnant students (8/32cases)
4. Others (1/32cases)

Are these rational reasons to recommend dropping out of school because of pregnancy?

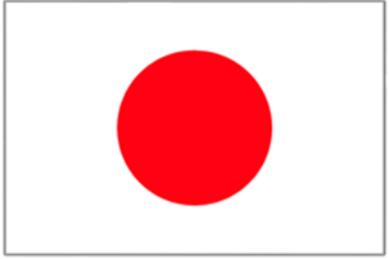
Disciplinary action because of pregnancy

Out-of-school suspension,
in-school suspension,
supervised in a separate room etc.

94 cases / 2,098

Some schools believe getting pregnant at high school age is punishment worthy

Chapter 1: Current situation of pregnant high school students in Japan and the U.K.



Some schools make pregnant students leave school due to unfair reasons



High school students **lose access to education because of pregnancy**

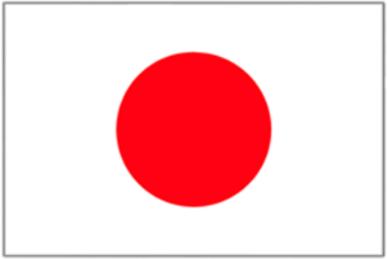


It is **illegal** to treat students unfairly because of pregnancy and maternity by **the Equality Act 2010**

Chapter 2:

Initiatives to help pregnant high school students to access to education in Japan and the U.K.

Chapter2: Initiatives to help pregnant high school students to access to education in Japan and the U.K.



- There is **no legal framework** to protect pregnant students from discrimination
- Prime Minister Abe stated “ **We do not have the plan to reduce to zero the number of unwanted interruptions to school study because of teenage pregnancy.**” in 2018

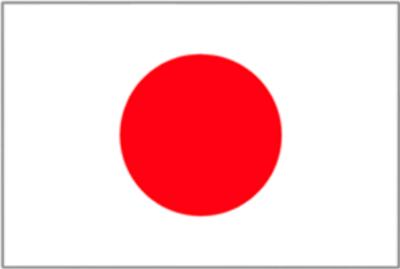


- 2004~ **“Care to Learn”** was launched in England
 - ↳ An initiative to pay childcare cost instead of young parents (under 20) and help them to access to education

Chapter 3:

**The reason why there are not enough
initiatives in Japan**

Chapter3: The reason why there are not enough initiatives in Japan



Research showed there were high school students who dropped out of school because of pregnancy



Prime Minister stated “ We do not have plan to require schools not to recommend leaving school because of pregnancy by a notification from government” in 2018



Japanese government downplays the rights to education of pregnant high school students

Conclusion



Japanese government **downplays the rights to education of pregnant high school students**



There are not enough legal frameworks or initiatives;

- to protect pregnant students from discrimination
- to help pregnant student to keep studying



Pregnant high school students lose access to education