

Takahiro HONO and Yo MIYATA : The Study of Sleep Behavior in Visually-impaired Children and Adults — Its Significance and Perspective — 223—236

The purpose of this article is to report the significance of studying the sleep behavior of visually-impaired children and adults, to introduce a historical background for this study, and to present a perspective for the future.

It is important to study the sleep behavior of visually-impaired persons in order to understand their psychological and physiological characteristics with respect to sleep. Through the study of their sleep behavior, we can also examine the relationship between visual input through the eyes during the daytime and sleep regulation in humans. However, we systematically have not studied their sleep behavior of visually impaired subjects, although we did some studies on the content of dreaming and its relation to REMs. Recently, much attention has been paid to their circadian rhythms such as sleep-wakefulness and hormone secretion.

However, little is known about their EEG sleep structure. A systematic examination of nocturnal sleep using polysomnography is needed. We hope to provide more fundamental data on sleep behavior in the future.

Makiko YAEGASHI : Current State and Problems of Children's Halls in Okayama City — Comparison with a Survey Study of All Children's Halls in Japan — 237—249

In an effort to probe for ways to implement the "Engel Plan in Municipalities" for children's halls, I examined the current state and problems of children's halls in Okayama City. I especially considered their physical condition and activities and provided and compared the findings with the results of a survey of all children's halls in Japan. I concluded that two factors are very important. Future children's halls should be strategically located to accommodate all children who need the service, and their functions should be reviewed on a regular basis.

Kannosuke SAITO : A Study on the Measurement of Equity in the Medical Care Service — An Analysis of Medical Care Costs among Income Groups — 251—260

Considered from the viewpoint of welfare policy, medical care service should be delivered equally to persons in equal need of medical treatment irrespective of age, status, income level, etc. This paper offers some methodologies to measure the equity in the delivery of medical care service among income groups. After a presentation of a theoretical model, which contains a sort of Lorenz curve of the cumulative proportion of medical care service, Gini's coefficient and Atkin measure, the equity in the medical insurance system of Japan is examined as an empirical study.