

卵子提供で親になった人のピア・サポートグループ
からみえる当事者のニーズと今後の課題

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The Peer Support Group of the People Who Became Parents by Egg Donation

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I explained the outline of the meetings that began in 2014 of the people who became parents by egg donation, the situation overseas, the participants' needs that were revealed at the meeting, and future tasks.

The meeting of those who had the common experience of becoming parents by egg donation was titled "Chat Meeting *oshaberikai*" and was held 20 times between July 2014 and June 2018. Twenty-two people participated in the meetings, which are still ongoing.

In response to the needs of the participants, the author created a participant mailing list in April 2011, entitled "Egg Donation Network *ranko network*." The word "*ranko*" is a coined term that does not actually exist, but the Japanese word kanji (卵子) *ranshi* can be pronounced like *ranko*, where *ran* means "egg" and *ko* means "a girl's name." After creating the participant list, the author initiated face-to-face meetings with the parties involved. The meeting was devised so that the author serves as the secretary and the organizer for the dates, times, and meeting locations, and can also ensure the participants' privacy. In Japan, there are few groups of people who have become mothers by egg donation, so this meeting is of great significance.

In the process of holding the meeting, the needs of the participants have become clear. The first is the need to share their experiences of explaining to their children the circumstances of their birth. Second, because of the limited history of egg donation, there is a need for the participants to learn from other people's similar experiences (for example, from people who became parents by adoption or sperm donation). The third point is the future child-rearing needs, such as the acceptance that their children do not resemble themselves, telling the story of their birth to the children, support for the children's conflicts, and the children's acceptance of the egg donation.

As the children grow, we hope to respond to their changing needs as well, possibly in the form of holding a workshop for the children themselves.