

アジアにおける出生前検査と障がい観：
ベトナム、ミャンマー、フィリピン調査より

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Prenatal testing and disabilities in Asia:
Surveys in Vietnam, Myanmar, and the Philippines

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Conducting tests before a child's birth is called prenatal testing. In Japan, like Noninvasive Genetic Prenatal Testing (NIPT), other forms of prenatal testing are often reported as "selection of life" from the eugenics point of view. However, the subject of such tests varies, and a test does not necessarily result in abortion. Therefore, this article offers a report on prenatal testing and how children's disabilities are spoken of in interviews from Vietnam, Myanmar, and the Philippines. The relationship between prenatal testing and disability is also examined.

In Vietnam, couples are limited to two births, and family planning and abortion are common. The birth of a child with a disability is considered regrettable, so aborting a fetus with a chromosomal abnormality is permissible. NIPT, maternal serum screening tests, and nuchal translucency tests are also widely used.

Myanmar has a high proportion of Theravada Buddhists, and the country's legal system prohibits abortion. Many of the interviewees from Myanmar stated that a fetus is already a human life and that they should not kill Buddha's gift. Children with disabilities are considered pitiful cases, but, because they are pitiful cases, everyone is kind to them. Thus, raising children with disabilities is not a burden. Due to the prohibition of abortion, prenatal genetic testing is virtually never implemented.

The Philippines has a high proportion of Roman Catholics, and, as in Myanmar, the country's legal system prohibits abortion. Again, many interviewees stated that a fetus is already a human life and that they should not kill God's gift. Prenatal genetic testing is virtually never implemented because abortion is prohibited, but prenatal testing using ultrasonography, such as the Biophysical Profile Score, is prevalent in urban areas for treating fetuses and births.

This research highlights the relevancy between prenatal testing, disability, and artificial abortion. In each of the three sampled countries, there are large differences based on region and hierarchy, and there seem to be varied perceptions of “disability” and “abortion.” Therefore, it is necessary for further research to continue investigating this theme in the future.