

The Wonderful Incomplete

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"You're incomplete."

Is anyone happy to be told that? Especially in Japan, the word "incomplete" seems to have the sound of stabbing something, as with a knife. It's like criticizing an opponent, saying, "You can't master one thing."

I started DiVE.tv in 2015 because of my desire to relieve my feelings of "suffocation in Japanese society". Japan is a perfectionist country where an apologetic announcement sounds when a train is just one minute, so terms such as "incomplete", "perfunctory" and "chaos" are basically NG. On the other hand, "ambiguity" is OK because coordination is more important than individuality. Conversely, as with the phrase "the nail that sticks up out is hammered down", people who are not leaders who do something that stands out are regarded with wide eyes. That is why many people feel "stifled", even if they were born and raised in Japan. Like me.

DiVE.tv uploads videos showing the cultures of people from various countries living in Japan to Facebook and other media. The aim is to soften the current mindset by appealing to the fact that Japan is already multicultural. The messages "There are actually people with various values in your immediate vicinity", "The quality of things cannot be determined with a single ruler", and

"There is no perfection" are attached to the end of every video.

However, three years ago I realized that those who really feel suffocated are not people like me, who are not perfectionists, but children who have foreign roots. A teacher from a Brazilian school I met during an interview asked me to talk to high school students about the work of a journalist, and five students came to my office. After the conversation, I asked the students, "What do you like about Brazilian culture?"

A student, a boy, murmured in Portuguese.

"I don't like Brazil."

"Why? The food isn't good?"

"I like the food."

"What about Japan?" I asked with some apprehension.

After thinking a bit, he asked me, "*Why is there still discrimination in Japan in the 21st century?*"

Later I learned that young people like him are not uncommon. *I was bullied in Japan, brought here by my my parents, and I could not talk to my parents or school about this; I could speak, but I could not keep studying, there were no people who really knew me, Japan, and my home country; There is no place to stay ...* Some young people are

depressed or commit suicide. The depth of their suffering is unimaginable.

A few months after meeting the boy, the idea of doing an original DiVE.tv camp at a staff meeting was born and we started working towards making it a reality. The name is "It's ME Camp". No matter what, I want the participants to be confident that 'this is me'. The first year, 10 Brazilian school students participated, and last year, 20 junior and senior high school students with roots in six countries gathered, including students attending public schools. This year, the third year, we are aiming for 50 participants.

Participants in the camp are often perceived as "incomplete" in schools and daily life. Although they only know about Japan, they seem to be foreigners, they can speak two languages, and often are not proficient in either. This may be said by others or may be self-criticism. And that half-heartedness suddenly deprives the mind of immunity, like cancer cells.

There are only two ways to overcome cancer, elimination by surgery or medicine, or erasure through increased autoimmunity. Needless to say, It's ME Camp is the latter. Together we laugh a lot, "Are we incomplete? And what's wrong with that?" Accepting, affirming, exploring opportunities. So-called empowerment is the treatment and prevention method we can make use of.

At the same time, I do not want to deny "incompleteness". It may be complex when you are young, but if you are quite complete you can become a generalist. And I think that the generalist is especially important in Japan, where specialists tend to be strong.

There is no one in the world who has no value. I want to keep shouting that simple and clear truth through the It's ME Camp.