

Children's Exploitation of Adults

Invalidation of Sex and Age Barriers

At the end of last year, the National Police Agency announced plans to regulate the usage of the so-called "Deaicei Site" web site. But this was just a beginning. They also indicated that a legal penalty would apply to the girls who leave promotion messages for self-prostitution on a "Deaicei Site". Until then, the girls were considered victims of sexual exploitation, but this announcement turned their position to the opposite side.

This announcement has raised many objections that "we should not punish children." I was asked to clarify the situation, and in response I commented to a newspaper that "Some measures must be taken against girls who willfully promote themselves as objects of prostitution; we may be obliged to punish them." However, I also commented that, "Before we judge the girl, we have to ask harsher punishments for adults who purchase adolescents' sex, as well as more responsibility on the part of the parents who are legally liable for their daughters' actions."

When child self-prostitution has been disclosed, it is unreasonable that the girl's parents only claim "our daughter is a victim." Moreover, on the Internet, adults and children are operating under equal circumstances. From the realistic viewpoint of children's self-prostitution using cell phone network services, it seems to have produced a situation in which immoral girls dive into such an open information environment to lure and trap adults in illegal and immoral relationships.

How do such children manage to sexually exploit adults? Girls who access the sites in question enter this kind of message: "I am a high school girl, looking for man who wants to have sex with me." They send this message with information about their age, location and the price. If there are many applicants who all access the site and from whom girls receive a positive response, girls focus on only a few men. Then they make sure whether these men are really rich or just a middle-aged unemployed man who is desperate for a companion.

They ask the applicants some key questions to get more information to determine whether they will safely pay the price. After these exams the girls determine whether they will meet the man or not. If still they feel there may be risks, they won't see a man or will observe him from a distance. His message could be just a trick for some darker purpose.

Up to this point, the connection between the potential child prostitute and a willing adult could be only a dangerous playing, but often, on the spur of the moment during

this play, there are also many girls who willfully enter into self-prostitution. Some girls go through to their purpose directly. Such self-prostitution involves not only girls, but also sometimes boys, who are dressed like a girl, to lure a male adult to a hotel and extort him.

Thus, cell phone Internet connections now provide immoral girls (and boys) with a rapid long-distance way of exploiting adult males (so-called Ojisan or Oyaji. There are some reasons why adults are easily twisted by children's manipulations. One major factor is in the features of Internet communication, in short, is brought about by "the media which has truly become a means of communication without any barriers of sex or age differences between adults and children."

In this open communication environment of cyberspace, adult males are lost in wild fancies and build up an image of the girl, without much self-control. Once a man comes face to face with a girl, he ought to realize the obvious generation gap between an adult and a child lying about her age, especially when he observes her childish and innocent looks, but often a man can still not escape the excited imagination he has built up in his mind.

Therefore, in confusion, sometimes males expressly ask, "Wait a minute; are you really a high school girl?" The girls' lying answers assuage the men's guilty feelings and encourage them to proceed with entanglement in their all-too-willing objects of desire.