



Special SDGs Edition

The fifth goal of SDGs is **Gender Equality**, which is concerned with realizing gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls.



You may have heard about the **“Me Too”** movement from the news or SNS, which is one of the most famous movements against gender discrimination. The advent of social media, especially twitter, facebook and Instagram has enabled us to raise our opinion easily with less hesitation than before. Through the **“Me Too”** movement, a large number of women, who had suffered from sexual violence or sexual harassment, shared their painful experiences online. Such a demonstration tells us that we have to reflect on ourselves and pay careful attention to our behavior and words, because we can accidentally discriminate and hurt someone.

I’ll give you an example in our life that could be considered sexual discrimination and I sometimes hear conversations like that.

Emma (a girl) 🧑

It’s raining cats and dogs out there!
Do you have an umbrella, Mike?

Mike (a boy) 🧑

Luckily, I have.
I bought a new one. Look at this!

Oh.. Why did you choose a pink umbrella?
It looks like a girl’s one.

Because I like the color pink!

Well, that’s unusual for a boy.
Anyway, let’s go home.

The *gender bias here is that men should like blue and women should like pink. Even if Mike doesn't really think of Emma's remarks as gender discrimination, such a small prejudice can prevent men from choosing shades of red.

Here are other common examples

- Boys should play with trucks or cars and girls should play with dolls.
- Boys should be strong and muscular.
- Girls should not wear pants in school.

Although a lot of people do not consider making remarks that can be discrimination, there still remains gender bias. Hence, I believe that we have to know what can be prejudice and try to avoid saying these things.

There is another topic we often hear : LGBTQ+ community

While I was researching the information, I learned there were several names to describe the category. LGBT has been well known for some years, but LGBTQ+ or LGBTQ2+ are used in the community recently. I think that it shows there are various kinds of identities as well as the fact that no one is the same as another person.



(LGBTQ+ Pride Flags)

On the left these flags symbolize the LGBTQ+ community and there are over 20 types of these flags. Each of them have meaning and histories. We can see some of the flags as emoji. 🏳️‍🌈 🏳️‍⚡

Worldwide awareness of gender discrimination and gender minorities will achieve the goal of "Gender Equality". Some schools have started to provide students with classes to learn about the LGBTQ+ community so that they can get new-normal ways of thinking about gender. Despite these efforts, it is said that LGBTQ+ community people in Japan still have difficulty confessing their sexual orientation openly, compared to other countries.

However, I believe that we can start with making such small steps towards realizing a more *tolerant world of gender diversity, and in my view, a better understanding of the current situation and the LGBTQ+ community will lead to a better world.

*Gender Equality : ジェンダー平等を実現しよう (SDGs 5番目の目標)

*gender bias : 性別による偏見

*tolerant : 寛大な

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