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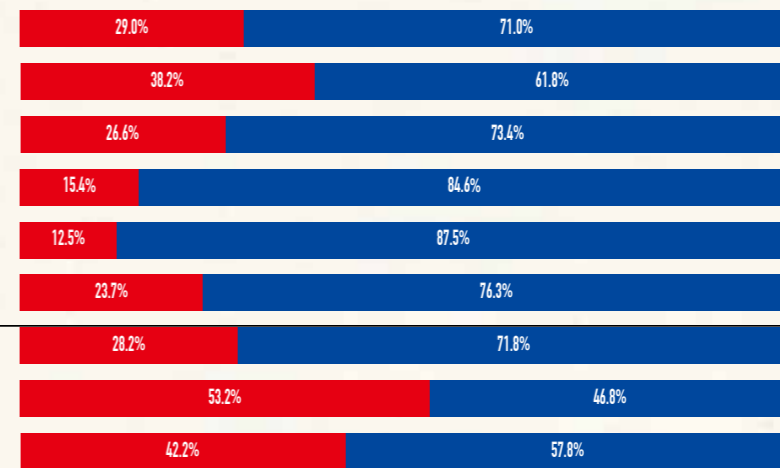
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HIROSHIMA UNIVERSITY





## 4 | Walking their own paths –To all students–

When finishing your studies at university, you will all follow your own paths. Learn from the stories of those who are walking their own paths. Here are story excerpts and the entire stories are available through the “QR code”.



**MESSAGE1** ▶ Asami Ogura san, Associate Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Institute of Technology (KOSEN), Kure College

### ● Raising children gives you new perspectives

Women tend to think that once they get married or have a child, they will have to take care of all the housework and childcare. That's not true. Even if you get married or have a child, you can continue to pursue your dreams and goals. I want you to enjoy your life passionately without giving up. And men, I would urge you to play an active role in childrearing, not just as a helper, when you become a father. I believe that childrearing experience will make your life fulfilling and surely bring a new perspective to your work.

**MESSAGE2** ▶ Masanori Hinaoka san, Water and Sewer Department, Construction Division, Akitakata City

### ● Taking childcare leave is not the only answer

I've talked about childcare leave, but I don't think taking childcare leave is the only right answer. How we think and how we feel mentally fulfilled differ from person to person.

For me, happiness is the state of mind in which my heart is filled with warmth. That's just for me.

Therefore, I think that it's better to take childcare leave if you feel fulfilled spending time with your child; if you don't, then I don't think you need to take childcare leave.

Rather than taking childcare leave just because others take it, take a good look at yourself and think about what happiness means to you and in what kind of moments you feel fulfilled.



**MESSAGE3** ▶ Haruna Suwa san, Administration Staff, Hiroshima University

### ● “Difference” is also “originality”

Differences between people might cause anxiety and difficulties. I myself have a disability so I sometimes face hard situations and difficult obstacles. But I believe that “difference” can be considered “originality”, as my teacher told me when I was a student. Being different to other people can be helpful and useful in some way – while in education and work. I would like you students not to see differences negatively, but to see differences as something positive which should give you new discoveries and show you way forward.



**MESSAGE4** ▶ Atsuki Toyama san, Joint Representative, Coccoiro hiroshima

### ● Taking on an important role for “somebody”

In an effort to create a society that accepts diverse genders, I started my activities with small lectures, and now, at “Coccoiro hiroshima,” I plan playgrounds with children and visit schools to teach.

I currently work in the welfare sector, which I do alongside my activity work. My job is providing after-school day services, which involves interacting with children with disabilities. People with disabilities have different difficulties and hardships in their lives, depending on the type of disabilities they have. That's why I work face-to-face with the kids and every day is trial-and-error. I have made many mistakes, but seeing changes in children at close-up stimulates me.

My welfare job, my lectures and Coccoiro hiroshima activities are important for society and for “somebody”. I hope that you all live your lives without regret while asking yourself “What kind of person do I want to be” and “What should I do to make that happen?”.

### ● Policies for Gender and Sexual Diversity

#### 1. We Respect Gender and Sexual Diversity.

We respect each individual's diversity, such as gender identity, sexual orientation, gender expression, and sex characteristics.

#### 2. We Do Not Discriminate on the Basis of Gender, Sex or Sexuality.

Placing our cornerstone on gender and sexual diversity and equality, we do not discriminate on the basis of gender, sex or sexuality.

#### 3. We Respect Each Individual's Gender and Sexual Autonomy.

We respect each individual's gender and sexual autonomy. Each individual's gender, sex and sexuality, and also whether or not they will disclose them, should be controlled based on their autonomy.

#### 4. We Foster an Inclusive Environment in Terms of Gender, Sex and Sexuality.

We foster an inclusive environment for all our members.