On-site Education of Practical Languages for Area Studies

Report in 2010

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On My Research Theme

In 1990s many countries in sub-Saharan Africa had serious armed conflicts, and by the same token, the process of the civil conflicts and the genocide in Rwanda has created a lot of orphans. Like other African countries, HIV/AIDS also has orphaned many children. A paper reports that 51.5% of children at 7-15 years old are double-orphan or single-orphan.

In the "family," which I visited in Rwanda, an old women, who lost her husband, has took charge of three orphans and lived together. The objective of my fieldwork was to reveal how the old women and children perceive "boundary of the family," which means how central players perceive "family members" based on their values and norm consciousness, through the analysis of their livelihood. Nowadays many international organization and NGO support orphans. This research, on the other hand, examines 1) how the people, who live in the post-conflict society, implement care each other, and 2) how their "family" value is changing, through revealing the system of accepting orphans.

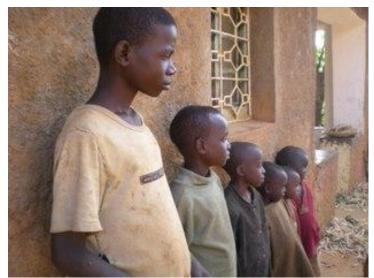
In addition, "family" is never produced spontaneously, but its frame is specified and affected by policies of the nation. In this context, we can consider that "family" is one of the "political institutions." This study tries to analyze how the nation looks on "family," and as what kind of existence "family" recognizes the nation.



Picture 1: Children working in the field of beans (Rwanda)



Picture 2: Children playing in front of a house (Rwanda)



Picture 3: Children in a rural area (Rwanda)