The Japan Times

Survey traces date 'restrictions' placed on teen girls

Kyodo

Some 33 percent of female high school students have experienced various kinds of social restrictions by their boyfriends, including having their friends' addresses erased from their cellphones and being told not to go out with other friends.

These are some of the findings of a survey by Women's Net Kobe, a nonprofit organization against domestic violence.

"Some cases become serious when people misunderstand affection as imposing restrictions on the other person," said Reiko Masai, the group's leader. "I want people to know that physical violence is not the only form of domestic violence."

The survey was conducted between October 2008 and last December on about 2,600 female and 1,800 male high school students who have been in a relationship.

They hailed from Kyoto, Osaka and Hyogo prefectures, where the group conducted lectures on "date DV," or violence by a person in a relationship.

Twenty-one percent of the male students said they experienced similar kinds of restraints from their girlfriends.

In other categories, 27 percent of the female students said they suffered psychological violence, including being yelled at, 18 percent said they were forced to have sex and 15 percent suffered physical violence.

Males suffered 6 to 12 percentage points lower than the girls in similar categories.

Meanwhile, 34 percent of the females said they have been frightened by their boyfriends and 28 percent have felt like they couldn't disobey their partner. The figure was 13 percent for both questions among high school males.

"The result shows that due to physical differences, women tend to have a higher possibility of being a victim," Masai said. "I want students to learn during their school years the importance of building a relationship based on respect."

The Japan Times: Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011
(C) All rights reserved

Go back to The Japan Times Online Close window