

A b o u t   F a m i l y

YONAGO C o l l e g e   o f   T e c h n o l o g y

What do you think of family? It is generally said “Family is very important. We should help each other.” Now I feel the importance of family, but I didn’t think of its value and its importance in my junior high school days. I didn’t realize the importance of family supporting and helping each other. I began to perceive it when I started attending college and I was in my dormitory during the Golden Week period, one month after I began to live, away from home, in April.

There are five members in my family: My father and mother who are very particular about my school life. My younger sister is very sassy and my younger brother is very reckless, and I myself am a little cheerful. Actually I didn’t feel well when I stayed with my family. So, I felt a burden off my shoulders when I thought I would separate from them and I would make my own living in Yonago.

I entered Yonago National College and lived in a dormitory. But I didn’t feel loneliness. At that time I started becoming more and more forgetful about my family in the course of time while attending school. I attended my club activity, and enjoyed my dormitory life. As I said, “I was becoming more and more forgetful about my family,” and I didn’t have such images or definitions as to “how a family should be.” Was I forgetting how a family should be?

The Golden Week came and I was destined to come back to my hometown. In the bus, I thought I wouldn’t like to go back. While I was thinking, living away from my family was much better than living with my family, the bus had arrived in front of my house at last.

When I arrived, I felt something strange. My house didn’t change at all but I felt something very dear about my father and mother, my younger brother and sister. Especially when my mother saluted me, I was a little ashamed. But I felt glad and smiled and I also saluted her. When I entered my house, I found my father, my younger brother and sister watching TV in the living room. They also became aware of me and saluted.

I ate dinner with my family after a long time of absence. My mother had cooked my favorite dish. My father asked me the same question as ever “Is there anything wrong at school?” I answered, “I enjoyed my school life.” Before I had never thought of such an important question and used to answer, “Nothing in particular.” But this subject seemed very important.

The Golden week passed too quickly. I enjoyed everything like talking with my sister and playing with my brother. The day before I would return to my college, my mother said, “You may come back home any time.” My mother’s words pierced my heart very deeply.

What I realized when I returned back to my dormitory was a broad change of my way of thinking toward my family. I had felt a warm feeling which I didn’t feel before I

entered college. I think that this feeling was already inside me but I hadn't realized it. It was only when I lived separately from my family that I realized this warm feeling.

I am grateful to my family. My father works for me, so I can study and do what I like. My mother cooks, washes and cleans, that is the so-called daily life. My younger brother and sister talk too much, but I don't feel lonely thanks to them. They are very priceless.

The value of family differs from person to person. Some people think family is very important, while others think not. Recently I feel children are mistreated and abused too much; furthermore they may be killed by their parents! Consider the recent unbelievable incident in Fukuoka. Mother really killed her child! I wonder where the important relationships between parents and their children have gone! Now I think that we should all consider the importance of the existence of family once more. As for me, I have a feeling of gratitude toward my family for the first time when I live separately from them. (Thank you very much for listening.)