

# A Study on “Welfare-based employment” for People with Mental Disorders

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## Problem

The government has encouraged ordinary employment for people with mental disorders. But the families and support staff involved in “welfare-based employment” do not encourage people with mental disorders to be employed in ordinary jobs.(Saito,2010)

## Purpose

The purpose of this study was to reveal why people with mental disorders continue working in “welfare-based employment” instead of seeking ordinary employment.

## Method

Narrative discourse analysis based on “Life-story” interviews(Willing,2008 )

## Results: Mr.Saigyo, A fifty-year-old male with bipolar disorder

### 1st & 2nd interview

Strong ties between Mr. Saigyo and Manager B. Mr. Saigyo was able to avoid hospitalization and overcome his pachinko addiction because of Mr. B, so **he wants to go on living and show his gratitude to Office A.**



### Support staff: group interview

#### Mr. B, the manager in charge of the office:

I wonder what he would do if I told him “you have the ability to work outside, so you should work at an ordinary company”. However, I expect him to contribute to Office A as a senior user for a while and eventually work as a part-time staff member while staying in these safe and secure circumstances.

#### Staff Member C:

He is working in an important position as a *tojisha*-advisory specialist. I wonder how he would “throw” himself into the local community and take action on his own.

#### Staff Member D:

He does not have any further goals.



### Mr. Saigyo’s mother

After hearing this, his mother called Mr. B and said **“Please let him stay at Office A without making things too difficult”.**



### 3rd interview

Employed people are living in a different world. **He wants to be released from the constraints imposed by Office A.** However, he is afraid that he may be hospitalized again if he stops working at Office A and fails to be employed.

## Conclusion

The reasons he remains in his current situation without seeking ordinary employment are:  
(1)Anxiety about a new challenge or change, which is also part of his character.  
(2)Fear of “destroying the stable life” that he and his family currently have.  
(3)His feeling that he “does not want to make his mother worry”.  
(4)Expectations of support staff regarding his roles inside and outside Office A.

**The subject himself as well as his supporters and family members have created their own “reality” out of their combined feelings and expectations.**