

**How Big Data can help people with developmental disabilities: as with  
Kampo medicine, the treatment formula is different for different  
individuals**

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People with developmental disabilities (DD) have different problems and skills in comparison with people in general. It follows, ideally, that the methods for assisting people with DD should be different, i.e., tailor-made to suit each individual. An example of this is seen with Kampo, the Japanese traditional medicine, where the treatment of symptoms varies depending on the individual and his or her situation. However, to best help persons with DD, it is necessary to have a lot of information about that individual. One way to handle this problem is through “big data” analysis, whereby all sorts of information regarding a person’s abilities, likes, dislikes, etc., are assessed.

Etsubo-Lab, an organization established in 2018 by my collaborators and me, aims to support individuals with DD, especially in regard to their jobs. Its activities should match Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the United Nations. One of goals of Etsubo-Lab is to help people with DD become as financially independent as possible by finding them suitable jobs. People with DD often have special senses and abilities which are not obvious to most people. These abilities are often missed, especially when people with DD cannot communicate well with others. In many cases such abilities can be regarded as unexcavated treasures and seeds for new businesses. In order to identify the abilities of people with DD, and to match them with appropriate jobs, Etsubo-Lab focuses on their education and experiences. Once these and other personal data are logged into the database, analysis of it could be helpful in finding a suitable job for each individual. Since our past experience has already suggested that individual support can be successfully adapted to everyone, it can be expected that “big data” analysis can help everyone to find an appropriate job. In my talk, I would like to show the many activities engaged in so far.