Despair and hope among Japanese youth

A keyword that addresses some of these issues in Japanese culture is "hikikomori" which literally means "withdrawn" and describes a wide range of social and psychological conditions.

Of the following books, the Zielenziger is probably the best known in addressing this issue:


There are some articles in the anthropology and psychology literature such as the following:

Amy Borovoy's Japan's Hidden Youths: Mainstreaming the Emotionally Distressed in Japan http://www.springerlink.com/content/r005370806540227/

Chikako Silva's Too Lonely to Die Alone: Internet Suicide Pacts and Existential Suffering in Japan http://www.springerlink.com/content/x12200042p46178g/

Another place to look is the Bibliography of Asian Research http://library.duke.edu/metasearch/db/id/DUK01374