

Title	老人と子供の統合ケアに関する研究——栃木県今市市のケース・スタディ——
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Citation	
Issue Date	2003-03
Type	Thesis or Dissertation
Text version	author
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10119/456
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Integrated Care of Elders and Children

A Case Study of Imaichi City in Tochigi Prefecture

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March 2003

Keywords: integrated care, community, welfare policy, charisma, NPO

This case study clarifies the formation process of an integrated care policy, and aims at the thing towards realization of a welfare policy in a community for which a theoretical and practical proposal is performed. A major research question is "How was the integrated care policy processed in policy process?" In order to reply to this question, the case study of model search type was conducted. As an example, the "Oasis home caring support project" of Imaichi city in Tochigi Prefecture was taken up.

For the literature review, the area of policy process, community welfare, community, integrated care, and knowledge society have been searched. With regard to policy process, it turns out that it is divided into five stages that are a subject setup, policy planning, policy decision, implementation, and policy evaluation. In community welfare, welfare professionals are not primary bearers of policy. Instead, NPOs play the role for it. On one hand, communities not only once farm village and town association have collapsed, but communities, such as a family and a company. On the other hand, emerging the new community is expected. Japanese society faces a less children-aging society, and elderly people's life expectancy was prolonged. Soon or later the society needs to find a way where elderly people and children can enhance communication better. Speaking of knowledge society, the resource in new society is "knowledge." Furthermore, in the organization knowledge creation theory, knowledge is created in the group of people acting mutually.

The following thing has become clear. A certain measure should be taken for "independence" authorization person while introducing the public-nursing-care-insurance. For

the reason, the system of "Konoyubi Tomare", the center for the integrated care service in Toyama city, was brought in Imaichi city to continue the project. It covers the 13 elementary school divisions and 11 places have been in active so far. The center provides services at the place to elderly, disabled people as well as infants. The feature of an institution was created the elementary school division 13 which the contents say that service can receive at the place where elderly people, a disabled person, and infants are the same, and an institution has in the city -- aiming at installing in all, it is installed in 11 places now. The feature of an institution is different one by one with a thought of administrator as well as people involved at the each center. There are cases that the administrators of an institution may be an individual or an independent day care entrepreneur's (NPO). The project is started and managed by a thought of administration and residents, and experience and the knowledge that have been cultivated until now. One small-scale institution was made in an area called an elementary school division.

The theoretical connotation of this research is as follows. First of all, the meaning of an integrated care can activate and enhance vitality in society. Secondly, having interaction between elderly people and children for both of them prevents going through solitary feeling and uneasiness. Also it is easier for them to recognize the meaning of life. Lastly, for children who strive for the future, it enables them to enhance better understanding of elderly people beyond generations. In addition, there are two major roles in this integrated care policy. Firstly, offering the intentional community to a citizen. Secondly, taking in the "charismatic person" in the area and training of a new charismatic person. The charismatic person who has dedicated personality and is highly motivated takes the lead in an institution. As a result, the "charismatic person" has taken the lead in the intentional community in the area. When the knowledge and thoughts of administrators, residents, NPOs and volunteers along with existing policy are interacted, a new policy is formed.

In the practical connotation drawn from this research, the volunteers and NPOs abundantly own information. They play the role as the signboard of the area. Moreover, the formation and execution process of a welfare policy in an area are asked for expansion of creation of an opportunity, wide range participation, a residents subject, and activity. This research, financial reference about the operational expenses of an institution including public nursing care insurance was not completed. It is to be studied in the future.