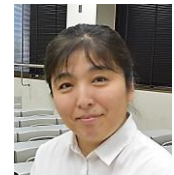


# Study on the Prevention of Social Isolation of the Elderly in the Disaster Prevention Collective Relocation Sites

Mitoko NAKASHIMA, Associate Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Design, Kagawa University, e-mail: nakashima.mitoko@kagawa-u.ac.jp



## Introduction

This research investigates the influences of the relocation from temporary housing to the collective relocation sites on exchanging relationships of the elderly of Ōfunato City, Iwate Prefecture, one of the stricken areas of 2011 Tōhoku Earthquake and Tsunami. We take two collective relocation sites. Residents of K site moved from a temporary housing unit with maintaining original community, while residents of J site dispersedly moved from different temporary housing units with different community background (Table 1).

Table 1 Two collective relocation sites

Site	J site	K site
Plot Plan		
Number of Households	23	14
Date of residence	March 2015	February 2015
Community Center	absent	present
Residents' association	not organized	organized
hometown of residents	different sites	same one site
Ratio of original residents	20%	
Allocation of housing lots	by lottery	after discussion
Community events	few	many

## Research method

- 1) A questionnaire survey of 22 elderly persons (J site: 15, K site: 7) conducted during August 13-November 17, 2016
- 2) In-depth interviews on 10 elderly persons (J site: 5, K site: 5) conducted during August 13 - November 17, 2016.

## Exchanging relationships of the elderly in the collective relocation sites

As shown in Fig.2, exchanging relationships of the elderly are more frequent in K site than in J site. Particularly, all of the male of 75 years and over in K site often exchange with each other, while half of them in J site rarely or never exchange.

## Participation of the elderly into local community of the collective relocation sites

K site has its own community center within the site, while J site has none of it. Although only a few residents of J site use another community center distant from J site, most of the residents of J site have never used the community center (Fig.3). According to the in-depth interview, elderly people of K site ordinarily use the community center, while elderly people of J site have no gathering place within the site.

## Conclusion

1. Continuity of existing community through the processes of relocation from temporary housing units to collective relocation sites deeply affects the conditions of exchanging relationships of the elderly in the collective relocation sites.
2. Actual conditions of local community in the collective relocation sites depend on the continuity of existing community through the relocation processes.

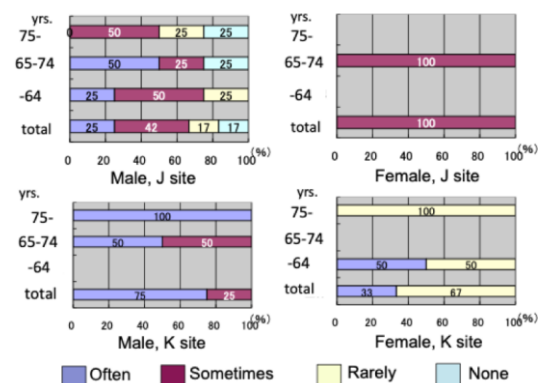


Fig.2 Frequency of exchanging relationships

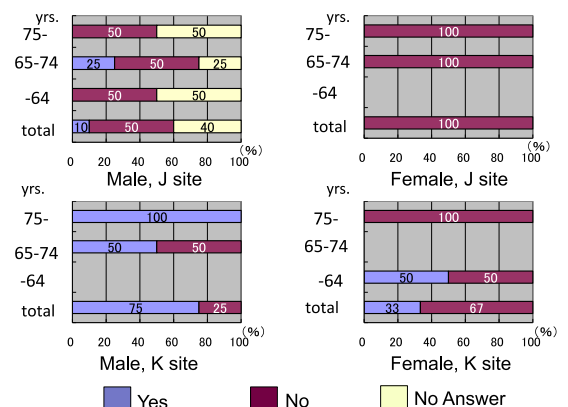


Fig. 3 "Have you ever used the community center?"