

Ageing Problems of Nagayo Newtown in Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan

by

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The General Assembly of the United Nations decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP99). While ageing is progressing worldwide, the increase rate of an ageing rate of Japan progresses rapidly. An ageing problem is being brought caused by the increase in the ageing rate. Even if an ageing problem is said with a word, it covers lot of problems. In addition, ageing problem is varying in the area. In this research, Questionnaire investigation was carried out at a Newtown in Nagasaki, Japan. A result of this investigation, the maintenance of the road and the traffic environment inside on Newtown might not be in maintenance status for elderly. So it obstructed to the elderly. In addition, software side like resident council and medical service has some problems for the elderly.

1. Introduction

The 1999-year was placed on the "International Year of Older Persons" in the United Nations. This was resolved as a result of the execution generalization to "an international behavior 10-year plan about the ageing" settled in the 47th United Nations General Assembly in 1992. It aims at "the society for all the generations", and "the United Nations Principle for the Old Person" is promoted, and its purpose is to materialize a policy and plan, activities more.

Like this, an ageing problem causes an important problem even in Asia, which included Japan in the worldwide movement. Even if an ageing problem is not said with a word, it covers a lot of problems like traffic problem, medical welfare problem and an elderly dignity. And, an ageing problem is varying in the area made the target in the country, the region, the city area, the rural area and so on, too.

In this paper, the authors investigated about the problem caused by the ageing in the Newtown in Japan. The Newtown is the residential estate developed very much in Showa 40~50's. This tenant is the residence area where same generation inhabitant's increased rapidly for the reason of the division where it is composed and prepared was clean and it lived easily. So, in the research the authors carried out some questionnaire about the ageing problems at the Newtown in order to know what kind of problem is included in Newtown.

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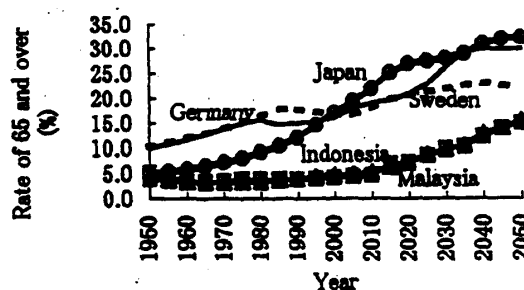


Fig.1 Rate of ageing¹⁾

Table.1 Classified of Ageing Problem

1	Traffic Problem
2	Road Environment
3	Disaster Problem
4	Medical and Welfare
5	Council meeting and activities

2. Ageing problems

Figure1 shows transition and future anticipation rate of 65 years old and over of some countries in Europe and Asia¹⁾. From Fig.1, all countries rate are in increase, especially Japan is in increase at high rates. On the other hand, rate of 65 years old and over in Indonesia and Malaysia is not so high but the rise trend is similarly as other countries. So in the future, these countries have same problems about ageing.

Like this it is the ageing rate, which shows a tendency of increasing worldwide. Table1 shows Classification of ageing problems which causes a trouble with ageing in the Newtown.

3. Questionnaire Survey of Ageing Problems

In this chapter the outline of the questionnaire investigation is mentioned.

3.1 Study area

Figure2 shows the study area where the questionnaires were sent out. This residential estate that we call Nagayo Newtown is located at Nagayo Town in the north-east area of Nagasaki City and one of the bedroom community for Nagasaki City. Nagayo Newtown is divided into three sections of East, Central and West blocks.

3.2 Result of questionnaire survey

In a result, the questionnaire are divided to five classification which are traffic problem, road maintenance of the inside of Newtown, prevention of disaster, council meeting / activities problem and medical / welfare problem.

Table2 shows the number of distribution and a collection rate.

Content of the questionnaire is as follows:

① Personal details

Sex, age, occupation, number of family, years of living house etc.

② Traffic environment

The usage public transportation, environment about inside residential estate sidewalk and road etc.

③ Prevention of disaster

Crisis consciousness against the disaster, the existence of the emergency training etc.

④ Council society and meeting

The need of the council and participation, the circle and participation rate etc.

⑤ Medical and welfare

The number of hospitals and Clinics (at nearby), the types of care service utilize well by inhabitants.

(1) Personal details

Figure3 shows Age range. From this almost 50% are over 60 years old, and more than 25% is over 65 years old. It can be said that this Newtown became an aged society.

Figure4 shows Number of family. From Fig.4 more than

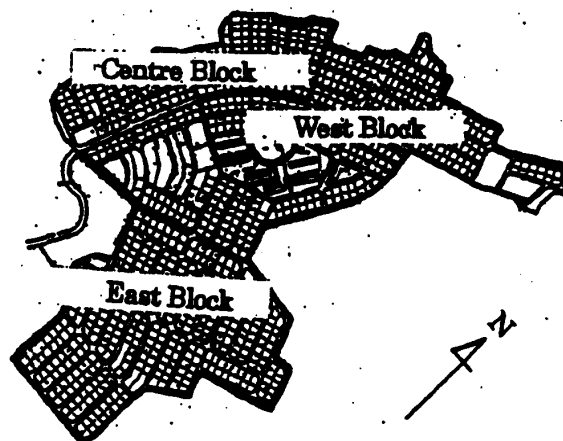


Fig.2 study area

Table.2 Number of distribution and Collection rate(%)

Block	Number of distribution	Collection rate(%)
East	50	42
Central	50	44
West	50	48

45% is 2 persons family.

It can be said 45% of household's family structure is husband and wife. Also, they are elderly from result of Fig.3.

Figure5 shows Years of living in each household from which more than 60% is 20-29 years. It can be said that most of inhabitants moved into this Newtown at the same time about 20-29 years ago. This corresponds to the time right after the development of the Nagayo Newtown.

(2) Traffic environment

Figure6 shows Opinion about the traffic facilities towards the elderly. From this more than 50% inhabitants think traffic facilities are not good enough for the elderly. In the other hand, only 2% think there is good for elderly. Because the age of the inhabitants at the time of the development was about forty, so they don't feel inconvenience as much as the present.

Figure7 shows Facilities for the elderly at the sidewalk. It can be said 44% inhabitants feels that facilities for the elderly at the sidewalk is not good. On the other hand, only 4% feels good. From these results, the sidewalk environment is not in enough maintenance with considered about elderly at this Newtown.

Figure8 shows Opinion about the sidewalk. It can be said 40% inhabitants think the sidewalk is narrow for walk. On

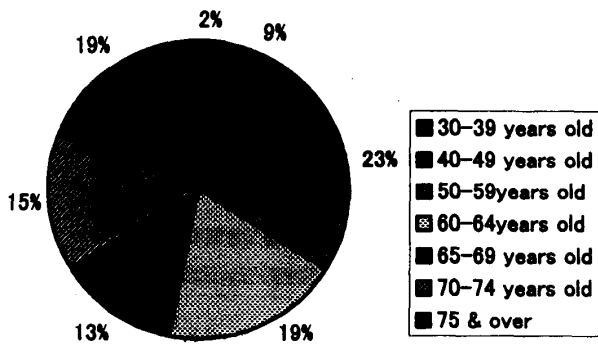


Fig.3 Age range(%)

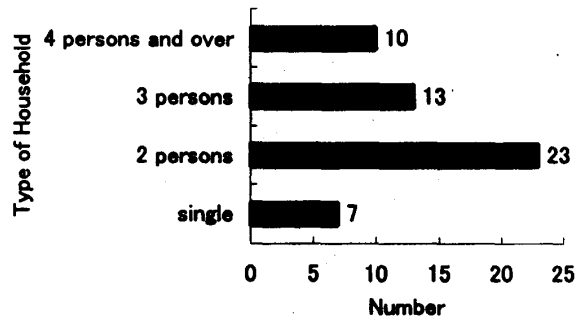


Fig.4 Type of household

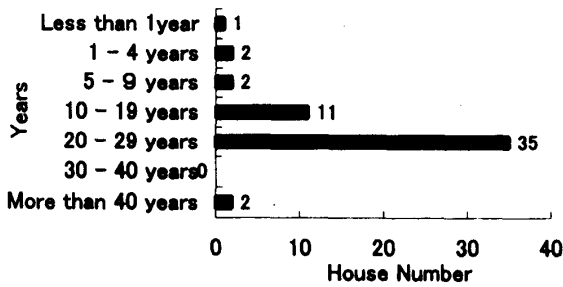


Fig.5 Years of living in each household

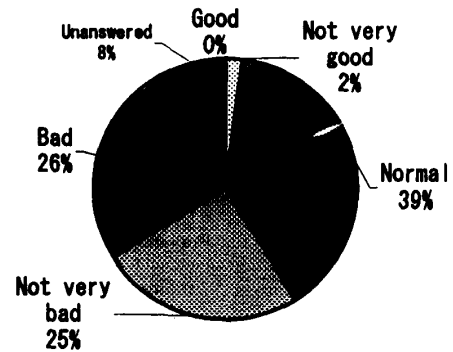


Fig.6 Opinion about the traffic facilities towards the elderly

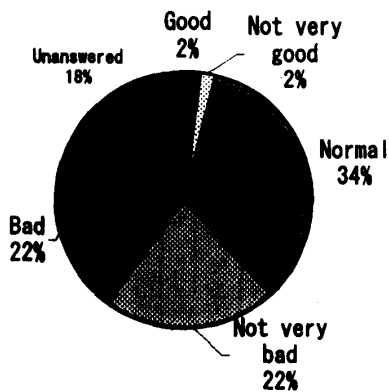


Fig.7 Facilities for the elderly at the sidewalk

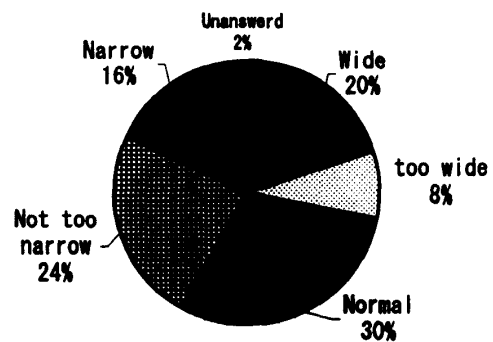


Fig.8 Opinion about the sidewalk(width)

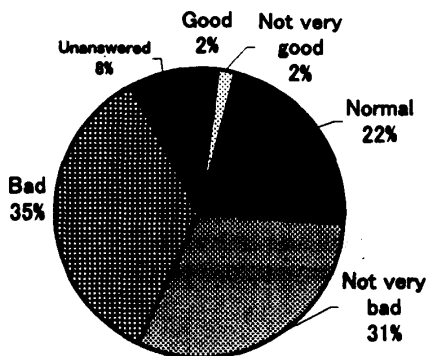


Fig.9 Opinion of facilities for the elderly in public transportation

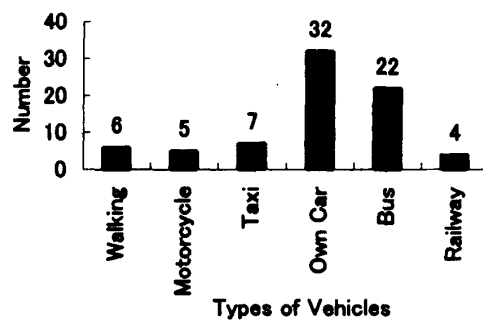


Fig.10 Frequency traffic usage by types of vehicles

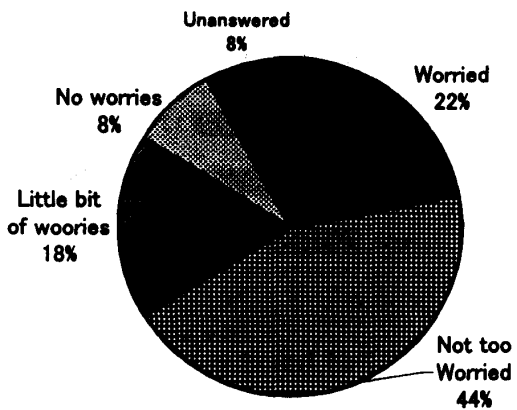


Fig.11 Worries of disaster

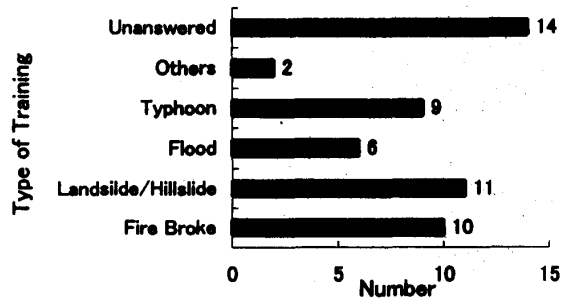


Fig.12. Types of disaster that worries the inhabitants

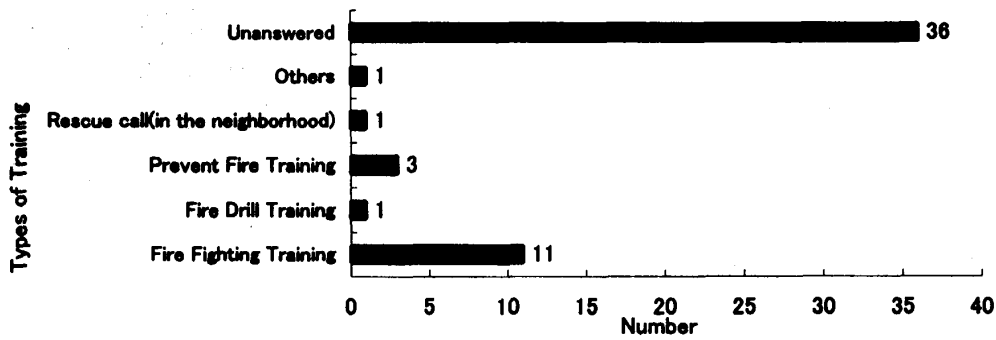


Fig.13 Training that held in the Newtown for taking the risk of disaster

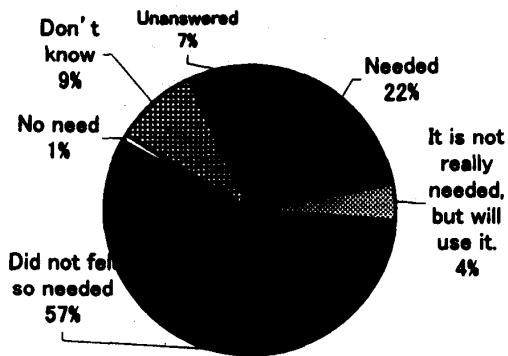


Fig.14 Necessity of the council society

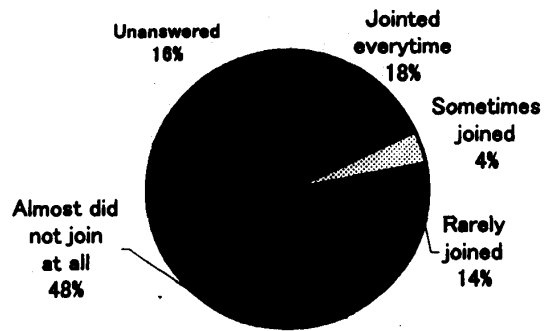


Fig.15 Frequency of joining the inhabitants council meeting

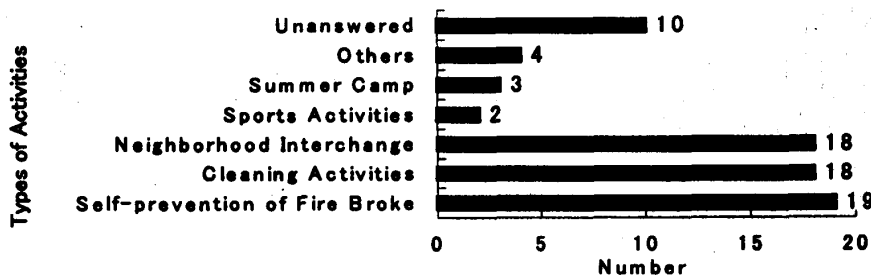


Fig.16 Activities that should be held in the inhabitants council society

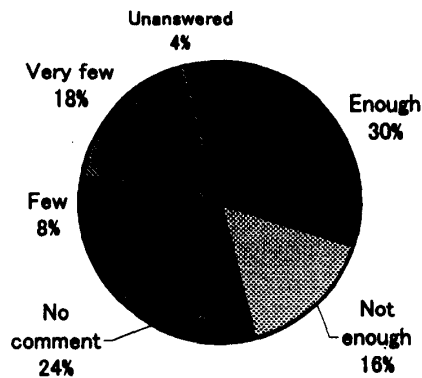


Fig.17 Number of hospitals/medical care in Newtown of nearby

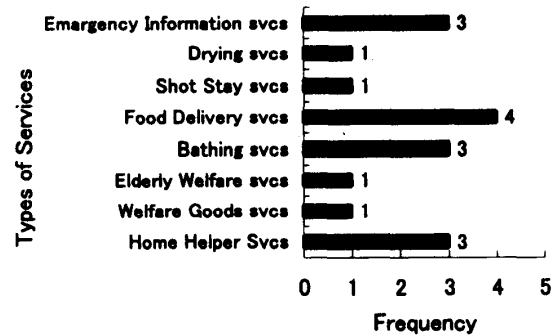


Fig.18 Types of care services

the other hand, less than 30% think the sidewalk is wide enough. Some of the reasons from field investigation, the sidewalk isn't prepared or sidewalks own width is obstructed by trees.

Figures9 and 10 show Facilities for the elderly in public transportation and Frequency traffic usage. From Fig.9, 66% inhabitants feel that facilities of public transportation are not good. Some of the reasons from inhabitant's comments are, 1) Bus stop inside Newtown has no roof in each bus stop; 2) Bus stop is in the place as for the slope. From Fig.10 less than 50% of inhabitants use their own car. In addition, 30% of them use Bus. When it tries to see with the one by the generation, almost 70% of 40-50's generation use their car. This is mainly because Nagayo Newtown doesn't have another traffic system to go out from residential section. Therefore, if they don't have their own car, they must use Bus.

(3) Prevention of disaster

Figures11 and 12 show worries of disaster and Types of disaster. From Fig.11 66% of inhabitants worry about disaster. Especially 22% is worried hardly. From Fig.12 the most worried disaster is landslide. For the reason is because Nagayo Newtown was improved by cutting a mountain, and there have large slope protection behind the residential section

Figure13 shows Types of the training for taking the risk of disaster. It can be understood from Fig.13 that emergency training is for a fire disaster. Fire disaster training is indispensable because the probability of the fire disaster is on high rate than other disasters. However, inhabitants in Nagayo Newtown became elder, so it will be difficult to do initial putting out the fire activities rapidly.

(4) Council society and meeting

Figures14 and 15 show Necessity of the council society and Frequency of joining the inhabitants council meeting. It is understood from Fig.14 that 60% feels needlessness of council society and meeting. When it tries to see with the one by the generation, from the 50's to 64 years old are answered abundantly "It is unnecessary". Some of this reasons are, 50's generation has their own job and there have their own society which it belongs to, and also their children leaves from parents for go on to the next stage of education or enter employment. Therefore, they don't think necessity of council meeting. On the other hand, more than 40% of 40's and 65 years old and over answered, "It is necessary". Some of this reasons are, these generations has a contact point with Council. For 40's generation, they have teenager children, and 60's generation have enough time to spend for council activities.

Figure16 shows the activities that should be held in council society. From this, three activities are similarly number. From these three activities, these activities are already been done for a long time. For the example, cleaning activities are held three or four times a week by elder meeting and many people attend to cleaning activities at morning to afternoon.

A precious result at Fig.16 is that the neighborhood interchange shows high number. This is mainly because inhabitants think that from now they need to association with the neighborhood is important thing for their life cycle. If this interchange goes better way, it will accomplish the better society than now.

(5) Medical and welfare

Figure17 shows Number of hospitals/ medical care in Newtown of nearby. From this 46% inhabitants think it is

enough. When it tries to see with one by the generation, rate of "enough" is almost over 50% at all generations except 40's. On the other hand, over 40% of 75 years and over generation felt these are not enough. One of the reason is elder person have to go to the hospital almost everyday, but the hospital where a doctor regularly care them is far or there is no consultation department which the doctor care in the neighborhood.

Figure18 shows Types of care services that utilize well by inhabitants. From this it isn't being used abundantly. It used often the case that service by inhabitants is food delivery service. Their also are Home-helper, Bathing service and emergency information services. However, most of these services are provided by an enterprise and a welfare group. From now, these care services will be provided in the various forms by the care insurance system.

4. Conclusions

In this investigation, what kind of problem happens at the Newtown in Japan was done by questionnaire at Nagayo Newtown.

The result is as follows:

- 1) From Personal details, Nagayo Newtown became an aged society. Also most of family member are reduced to less than 3 persons.
- 2) From Traffic environment, maintenance about road environment that are sidewalk or bus stop inside Newtown are not in consideration for the elderly. Also public transportation is not enough consideration for elderly by hardware and software both side.
- 3) From Prevention of disaster, inhabitants worries about landslide, fire broke and flood. Also, the greater part of training held in the Newtown is for fire disaster.
- 4) From Council society and meeting, more than 50% of

inhabitants don't think with the necessity very much. This tendency is shown in the 50's generation.

- 5) From Medical and welfare, inhabitants think number of hospitals and clinics nearby at Nagayo Newtown are not enough for elderly. Especially 70 years old and over generation feels hard. On the other hand, under sixty years old generations feel it is almost enough.

From these results Nagayo Newtown became an aged society. Nevertheless, hardware side and land improvements are actualities at the time of the development. Therefore, it is necessary to be readjustment, which consider about elderly. One of the suggestions for improvements at sidewalk is narrowed of the road width and uses the width that it could get from road to expand the sidewalk width.

On the other hand, software side at Nagayo Newtown is not so active. The best way for getting well software side environment that relation between the inhabitants is needed to strengthen to activate a residential council.

In this paper, the result of questionnaire is only one Newtown. After this, similar questionnaire is needed for another Newtown to get what is the most important problem in Newtown.

5. Address of thanks

This questionnaire was done under the cooperation in the inhabitants at Nagayo Newtown. The authors' gratitude is greatly expressed for their cooperation.

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