



Tmovski pristan 2, p.p. 4717, 1127 Ljubljana, SLOVENIA
Phone: +386 1 420 13 00, fax: +386 1 420 13 30
E-mail: info@uirsi.si, web: <http://www.uirsi.si>



Workshop 6 - Housing & Living Conditions of Ageing Populations
New Trials of the Elderly Living in Japan
– community-based care facilities –

Kazuoki Ohara

ohara@ynu.ac.jp

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New Trials of the Elderly Living in Japan – community-based care facilities –

Kazuoki Ohara , Prof., Dr.Eng.
Department of Architecture, Yokohama National University
e-mail: ohara@ynu.ac.jp

Abstract

There are new trials of elderly-care facilities so-called “Takuroujo” which means homelike place for the elderly. There have been some dozens of private organizations in our country and they have succeeded to satisfy users and their relatives. The government has decided to support these trials with some budgets for the subsidy just from this April. The “Takuroujo” is explained as “community-based small local care complex” which also encourages some kinds of local activities. The model of the facility expected to give care services to the local people which are Day service, Respite care (short stay), Delivery nursing, Group living (house). Like the “Takuroujo”, satellite care facilities are fragmented into the local community area managed by and given from traditional institution such as nursing home or hospital. We surveyed some Takuroujo and make clear of the effects and issues. And we made a mail inquiry to ask existing group livings for the dementia if they intend to extent their activities for community in future.

1. Purpose

Recently, small-scale multifunctional welfare facilities and day-care centers for the elderly (takurojos) have been deployed in Japan. Community-based services such as day services and short stay services are offered here. Although these facilities lack sufficient equipment and are low on efficiency, have fewer staffers, nevertheless they rank high for their homely atmosphere. Their scales, service contents, and staff opinions are diversified dependent on the available facilities. The need for such small-scale multifunctional facilities has increased tremendously, which is why public

remuneration was made available since April 2006 when the nursing care insurance program was amended. Now onwards, the number of such facilities is expected to double. Understanding the present situation and the importance of such facilities, while investigating the desired care services for the elderly in future is the mainstay of this study.

2. Methods

Two investigations, described below were carried out.

Investigation 1: In order to understand the actual situation in facilities all over Japan, those registered nationally as a network both, takuroujos and group homes were analyzed. Based on the analytical result, 14 main facilities were selected and contents of their services among other issues were investigated.

Investigation 2: With regard to the possibility of applying multifunctional services in future, a questionnaire was carried out to group homes for the elderly with dementia in Kanagawa Prefecture.

2-1 Outline of Investigation 1

Among 420 facilities registered in a nationwide network both takuroujos and group homes, 14 facilities with three service functions, *day services, short stay services, and accommodation in principle*, were selected for Investigation 1. Moreover, in order to investigate a variety of facilities, those institutions using new buildings or modified private-houses with nonprofit organizations, social welfare corporations, or incorporated companies managing them, were selected.

Investigators actually visited these 14 facilities and carried out a survey. The following were included in the herring survey:

(1) The contents of services offered by the facilities; (2) Management type; (3) Users; (4) Staff; (5) Relation to the community; (6) Prehistory of their activities; (7) Building condition; (8) Spatial structure; and (9) Characteristic features of facilities.

2-2 Outline of Investigation 2

The questionnaire was sent to 225 group homes for the elderly with dementia in Kanagawa Prefecture and 60 group homes responded. This questionnaire was carried out in December 2003. The following were included in the questionnaire:

(1) Those with interest in the care environment for the elderly with dementia; (2) Situation of group home residents; (3) Interest in the necessity of multifunctional services; (4) Information of users; (5) Contents of service facilities that are hopefully built beside existing facilities; (6) Interest in the necessity of small-scale service facilities; and (7) Problem in multifunctional services.

3. Outline of Small-scale Multifunctional Facilities

3-1 Outline of facilities all over Japan

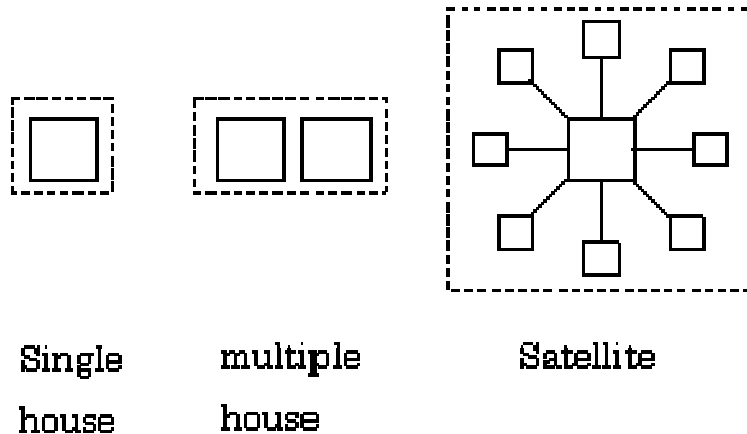
420 facilities registered in a nationwide network for takurojos and group homes were classified into patterns by their type and the number of services offered. Then, the numbers and the trends of facilities in each pattern were investigated.

Seven service functions, such as *day services*, *short stay services*, *home help*, *accommodation*, *care management*, *food delivery services*, and *transportation*, were used for the classification, and these facilities were further classified into 48 patterns. The number of functions ranged from 1 to 7, and the facilities tended to increase with smaller functions in number. Moreover, various combinations of functions were observed.

The largest facilities showed 122 for accommodation (1 function); 60 offered day services (1 function); 30 had day services and short stay services (2 functions); 25 offered day services, short stay services, and accommodation (3 functions); 16 had day services and accommodation (2 functions); and so on. Accommodation (1 function) denoted the group home and day services (1 function) denoted the day care center. This result suggested that multifunctional services were not very popular.

3-2 Classification of Investigated Facilities

Based on the constructional aspect, facilities all over Japan were classified into three types: *single house type*, *multiple house type*, and *satellite type*.



- 1) The single house type is defined as one offering services in a single house. Most of them are converted from and added a big individual house and have enough space to contain the whole functions.
- 2) The multiple house type offers services in multiple houses. Various cases, such as two houses adjoining each other and two houses joined together by modification, are observed in the multiple house category.
- 3) The satellite type is defined as a main large-scale facility, such as nursing home and or hospital with central facilities, or even dependent facilities, such as takuroujo, condominium with care services, facilities for “reverse day services”, and small-scale multifunctional facilities.

3-3 Examples

Cases visited and surveyed are wildly fragmented in all over the country, but none of them sites in large urbanized area like Tokyo or Osaka. Each case of three types are picked up among fourteen cases and showed examples (case nr. 1, 9 and 13) with just short comments as followings.

Table 2 Examples and their functions

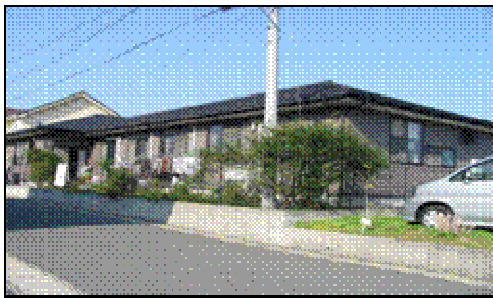
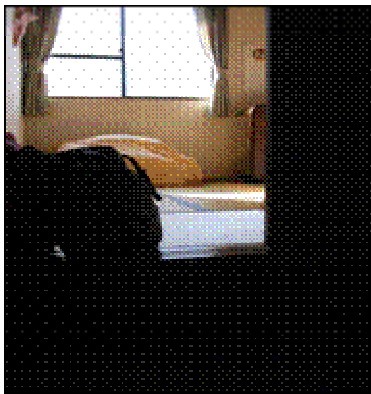
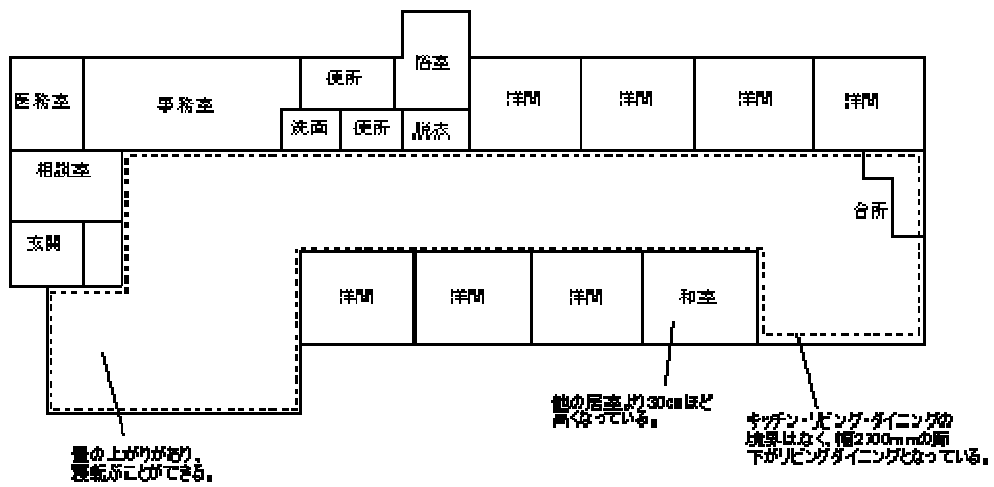
Type	No	Name	Prefecture	Contents of Services					Open
				Day service	Home help	Short Stay	Accommodation	Care management	
Single house type	1	Kinasse	Kumamoto	○	○	○	○	○	1994.4
	2	Nagase	Saga	○	○	○	○	○	1999.5
	3	Maria no ie	Miyagi	○		○	○	○	1999.6
	4	Kirara	Miyagi	○		○	○		1995 .11
	5	Kotobuki en	Shimane	○		○	○		1987.4
	6	Sakura home	Hiroshima	○		○	○		2004.4
Multiple home type	7	Nozomi home	Tochigi	○	○	○	○	○	1993.7
	8	Tenohira	Tochigi	○		○	○		1996 .10
	9	Yoriai	Hukuoka	○		○	○	○	1991 .11
	10	Ikoi	Hiroshima	○	○	○	○	○	2002.2
	11	Anki	Ehime	○		○	○		2000.1
Satellite type	12	Keijin kai	Nagano	○	○	○	○	○	
	13	Sendan no mori	Miyagi	○	○	○	○	○	
	14	Sendan no mori Monoo	Miyagi	○	○	○	○	○	

a) Kinasse

Single house type

Day service 10 persons a day

8 rooms for peoples with dementia



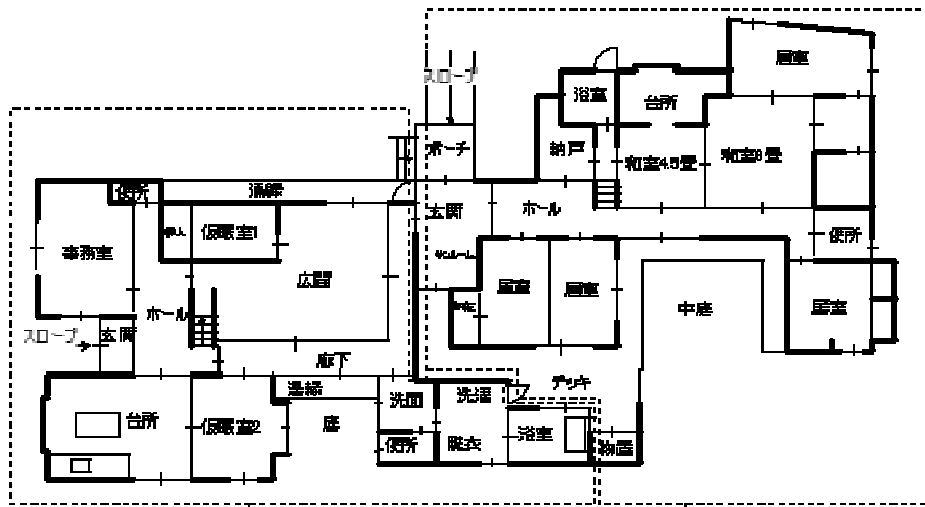
The principle of this takuroujo is to help for anybody who needs care in the local area, even if young people, babies and mental illness.

There are two other facilities in this area which are similar ones.

b)Yoriai

Multiple house type,

Day service was started in 1991 in a small house. Then the leader of this facility has expand both the building and the activity. The building now is composed of two parts.



サービス

グループホーム

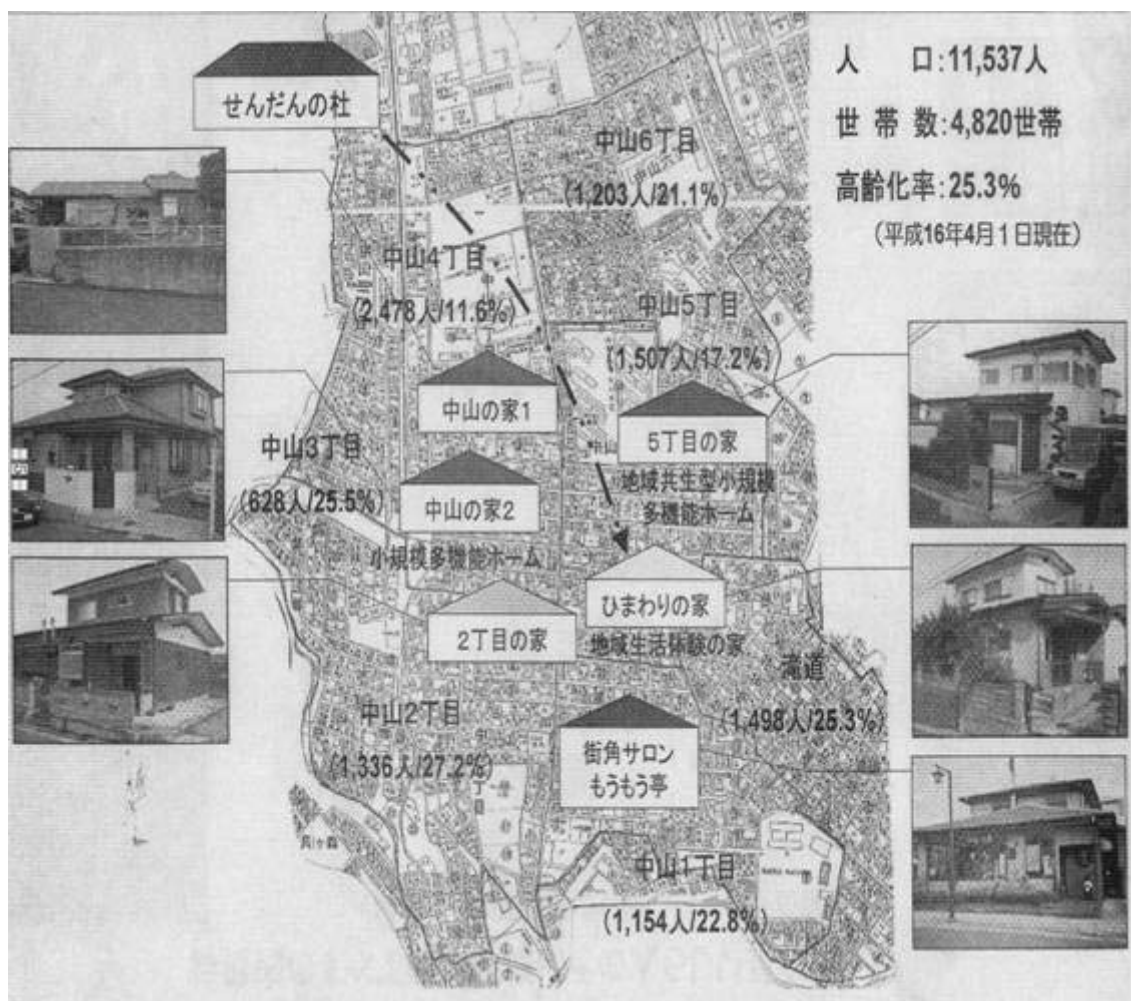


c) Sendann no mori

Satellite type

The big nursing home “Sendan no mori” has been stretching into the community area. The staffs in the nursing home have taken some elderly peoples out of the institution during daytime to the small house in the community since 1996. The staffs found that the elderly acted as a master of the house in the homelike environment of the small house. The elderly has never behaves passive when they were in the institution. It was called “reversed day services”.

Then they have developed some satellite facilities that were mostly converted from ordinary houses. Some of the satellites care offer day service for both the residents of nursing home and local people, and others short stay, group homes or care management. The institution has been fragmented into the community.



3-4 Summary

As mentioned above, various service contents, management manners, prehistory of activities, and spatial structures inside of buildings were observed in currently existing small-scale multifunctional facilities all over Japan. These varieties have been established by management personnel eager to adjust their care services to users' demands. Therefore, most of these varieties were idiomatic and characteristic. When small-scale multifunctional facilities are institutionalized, all the staff must understand the meaning and importance of the statement saying that the elderly should be offered care in the same building, by the same staff, dependent on the situation at that time, as well specifications and formations of buildings and service functions.

4. Possibility of Multifunctional Services in Group Homes

4-1 Necessity of Day Services and Short Stay Services

With regard to the necessity of small-scale day service facilities and short stay services for the elderly with dementia, 78% of investigated group homes have answered "Necessary."

The following were the reasons for necessity:

(1) Insufficient support service facilities, which family members and caregivers can use freely; (2) Expected increase in the number of elderly with dementia in near future; (3) Number of elderly exceeding existing residential care facilities.

When only facilities without multifunctional care services except group homes were investigated with regard to conversion to small-scale multifunctional care facilities in future, 67% of these facilities answered "Necessary."

The following were the reasons of the necessity:

(1) The care services should be carried out in the same environment and by the same staff; (2) Actually required by users, family members, and the community; (3) Importance of care services based on home life and community is important.

4-2 Future Establishments

When only facilities without multifunctional care services were investigated with regard to their intention of establishing small-scale multifunctional care services in future, 36% of these facility administrators answered "Wish to establish," 33% answered "Rather interested." Two thirds of these facilities intended to establish small-scale multifunctional care services in future.

However, these facilities are actually facing many problems:

(1) Insufficient staff, (2) Negative profitability, (3) Unreasonable institutional contents, (4) Small remuneration expected, (5) Large initial expenditure for equipment, (6) Limited land and buildings.

4-3 Summary

Generally, many administrators who are currently managing group homes realize the necessity of multifunctional services in the small-scale community. Although the group home is a residential place for the elderly with dementia, its administrators wish to offer day and short stay services. However, when the administrators intend to offer these services in their facilities, several problems emerge, particularly shortage of staff and poor profitability.

5. Conclusion and Future Problems

Japan is currently witnessing increasing necessity of small-scale multifunctional facilities. Various types of these facilities have been established depending on characteristics of each community. Therefore, no fixed specification and formation exists in these facilities. Although the investigation of the need to establish these facilities will be required in future, their necessity should be clarified based on the actual circumstances.

Most of all community-based small-scale takuroujos in various areas were privately managed and trials and errors in establishing them have been oft repeated. These takuroujos were built using conversion and diversion instead of spending sufficient money, and there was no fixed formation or model.

Such takuroujos are important because demands in community can be collected and service functions offered. Many takuroujos were established as small-scale private day service facilities, and short stay services gradually became available because of users' demands. Gradually accommodation facilities for long and continuous stay were built. Although they were used by only the elderly in the beginning, they came to be used for various purposes because of the community's demands: such as residential place for disabled persons, day nursery, and daytime place for junior high school students. Therefore, the creation of new services arising out of newer needs is evident today.

It is clear that such small-scale multifunctional facilities are required in Japan where each institution working to provide care services is inflexible.

However, many problems exist when actually establishing these facilities. Although the situation is slightly different between urban and rural communities, problems such as employment of capable people, stability of management, flexible application of the institutions, and promotion of supplying facilities need immediate resolution.

To employ capable people, it is important to find a way that retirees (born after 1948), whose number will increase in future, can participate as caregivers. Moreover, it is also important to improve the staffs' working environment.

Stabilization of management of multifunctional facilities as well as group homes is imperative.

There is a great possibility that multifunctional services are deployed as a satellite type. The existing large-scale facilities possess a large amount of capable people, fund, technical knowledge, information, etc. Therefore, these should be managed such that their resources are utilized for the community.

If the large-scale facilities are established in each community, their economic efficiency will decrease. Therefore, the demand for satellite type multifunctional services has increased. However, when dependent facilities are established in the community, support of the local administration is required to manage these facilities efficiently.

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