

A Study on Housing Adaptations and Technical Aids  
for the People Suffered from Articular Rheumatism in Japan and Sweden

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[SYNOPSIS]

The purpose of this study is to discuss about the way of housing arrangements for the people suffered from articular rheumatism through field study in Japan and Sweden. The society of Sweden is quite famous as well developed welfare state, they have provided high quality services for the disabled. Referring from the way how Swedish society arrange the system of housing adaptations for the people suffered from articular rheumatism, we could obtain useful information how to provide similar service for the disabled. In this report, I mainly reported the results of questionnaires and case study in Sweden.

I cooperate with Swedish association for the people suffering from articular rheumatism, namely Reumatikerförbundet to perform this study projects. Questionnaires was executed in April and May of 2004. We extracted 500 persons with random sampling and mailed questionnaires to them. We received 334 answers validly. Furthermore, I chosen the subjects of case study who replied the questionnaires, lived close to Stockholm and introduced housing arrangements, then 8 persons participate in this case study. As the results of those studies, following points become clear:

1. About their physical conditions, many people had severe difficulties with their lower limbs, but slight difficulties with upper limbs. They performed the daily activities easily.
2. Some people introduced housing adaptations in bath, kitchen and toilet.
3. Some people introduced technical aids to make up their difficulties of elaborate ability of palms and fingers.
4. Some of them introduced transportation service as public service.
5. Informal support provide by their family were bear great roles.