A Study on the Urban Planning Conditions Which Enable Mentally Disabled People Live by Themselves

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[SYNOPSIS]

They say that stress-free environment is recommended for early recovery of mentally disabled. In order to establish such environment, we will have to prepare places where supporting members or neighbors can be beside them to help their living. In this research, we surveyed the daily activities of the members of Japanese organization for mentally disabled "Urakawa Bethel No IE" (the Bethel) in Urakawa City, Hokkaido.

Chapter 1 shows the social background and preceding studies over the mentally disabled peoples' hospital stay and social rehabilitation. Chapter 2 clarifies what is necessary for their social rehabilitation by revealing their actual life at popular rehabilitation institutions. Chapter 3 summarizes the characteristics of the Bethel. Chapter 4 describes the survey at the Bethel carried out in order to reveal the factors which enable their distinct activities and analyzed the survey data. Not only the track of their daily life but also the interview to them indicates reasons why the Bethel functions well. Chapter 5 proposed the desirable urban planning for mentally disabled based on the chapter 4.

As a result of this study, the Bethel's members have more places to stay dotted in town because they refurbished vacant store or apartment house into their institutions in underpopulated Urakawa City. In addition, members can spontaneously drop in social resources like markets and library as well as their institutions on their way to two core institutions, their headquarter and the Red Cross Hospital, standing on both sides of coastal Urakawa City strip.

It may be possible to apply this concept to inner-city area for constructing better environment by arranging facilities as hospital or rehabilitation center which mentally disabled can easily use and coordinating their daily programs.