

The Mismatch between a Variety of Lifestyle and Living Space Based on Gender Roles

-The Case Studies of Single Parent Family-

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[SYNOPSIS]

This study examines 1) the mismatch between a life style of non general households and living space based on gender roles by explaining the situation of single fathers' housing 2) process of establishment, and qualification to maintain the co-housing system from 2 case studies using a co-housing system for single mother households in Japan. And this study expects that the co-housing system is an effective way to balance job and childcare for single parent households.

Compared to single mother households, single father households tend to be in their marital home and their owner occupation rate is much higher. For this reason 1) because they keep living with/near relatives from marital time they can gain child care assistance, 2) even though there is not assistance from relatives they can't move out of their marital home, because of the difficulties of liquidating their owned house or because of their job. Regarding single father households who moved out of their marital home, many of them make child-care assistance a priority over their job or other reason. However regardless of moving situation most single father households change their job. Moreover it is very difficult for single fathers who quit their job because of moving to get a new job.

To solve the above situation some group founded co-housing for single mother households in Japan. This report examines 2 cases, the house managed by a Non Profit Organization and the house founded by individuals. The house founded by individuals is a successful case of a cooperative childcare system. However in both cases severe economic situation relegates residents to lower quality circumstances and lack of rules or coordinator roles make these cases difficult to continue the house management.

To support co-housing system for single parent household further research, for example examining overseas' co housing system is needed.