

A Study on the “Machizukuri Center” that Supports Citizen’s Machizukuri
Activities for Betterment of Living Environment

- Case Study of Machizukuri Center Established in Recent Years -

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[SYNOPSIS]

Recently, the establishment of the Machizukuri Center (MC) increases. The purpose of the establishment of MC is to support citizen’s activity for betterment of living environment. In such situation, this study aims to clarify a nationwide trend of MC and the results and limits of MC.

The author analyzed nation wide trend of MC through the questionnaire intended for 307 MCs, and found that there are four types of MC; “Administrative liaison office type,” “Public hall type,” “Supporting citizen type,” and “Execution organization type.”

Then the author tried to clarify the fruits and challenges of “Supporting citizen type” of MC through 10 interviews and holding an intensive workshop inviting directors of 8 MCs and more than 150 participants from citizen groups, professionals and people of MCs. The author found following problems in management of “Supporting citizen type” of MC:

1) Most of management capital depends upon the budget from the local government and it causes difficulty in keeping independence of MC.

2) Making the result of support programs visible is difficult and it causes difficulty in getting understanding of local government for MCs’ programs.

3) And the professional ability of Machizukuri Coordinator has been still weak and it causes difficulty in providing high quality support for citizen’s activities.