

Research and Development on Modern Community Assessment  
Corresponding to the Urban Area Facing to the Problems of Low Birthrate  
and Aging Society

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## SYNOPSIS

In current Japanese communities, a variety of issues and problems have been concentrated. Then it is necessary to conduct a collaboration of diverse entities for creating the solutions of various problems. So as to contribute to the regeneration of the communities, as a synergistic effect can be obtained, it is required to adjust the individual problem-solving actions to be carried out.

For this purpose, it is essential that actions are carried out on the basis of a vision that has been shared by stakeholders of the community. In order to create a shared problem recognition and vision, as its base, it is necessary to recognize the resources and understand problems to be solved in the community. Also the course of those actions should contribute to make entities and organizations and build new relationships between the entities to solve the problems of the community.

In other words, for reshaping communities along with the current situation, a new community karte or community assessment method is necessary not only to grasp resources and problems of communities, but also for the purpose of forming community based organizations and building relationships between stakeholders. So far, community karte or similar attempts had been carried out mainly in urban planning and community development field. But in recent years, due to the complexity of community issues, similar attempts has been expanding into a variety of themes and fields.

Therefore, in this study, taking into account the experiences on practical examples in the field of urban planning and community development, first theoretical study on the methodology of collecting and utilizing information and data necessary for the implementation of community karte or assessment was carried out. Then current cases on community assessment in various fields and themes such as public health, aging society management, commercial management, community design through art activities, and vacant houses management were picked up and examined cross-sectionally. After that, trial cases of community assessment in a suburban local government in Tokyo metropolitan area and the city of Akita, have revealed its potential and challenges.

As a challenge, not only making community karte or carrying out community assessment, it became clear that there is a need to re-examine the legal and administrative structure and mechanism leading to reshaping communities. In particular, the usage of cross-sectoral information and data, measures leading to the derivation of the activities in cooperation among stakeholders, and to make those activities sustainable are important.