

# Verification of the government officials who died in the Great East Japan Earthquake and study of life reconstruction of the bereaved family members and their mental recovery

Ch. Tetsu Mugikiura (Iwate University Faculty of Education)

## [SYNOPSIS]

In Otsuchi Town, Iwate Prefecture, which was the area affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, there are 1286 victims, including dead and missing people. In addition, 40 Otsuchi Town officials deceased. In order to prevent casualties in a major disaster, it is important to clarify the following points. Firstly, what kind of people were the victims of the disaster. Secondly, in what situation people became victims. This research report elucidates the life history of 40 victims and describes in what kind of situations they experienced the disaster. In order to remember the deceased, it is necessary to record their life histories, episodes and dialogues between the deceased and the bereaved. Furthermore, it is important to understand the circumstances of each person who became a victim and what kind of action could have been taken to avoid the death. Bereaved families and relatives memorialize the deceased. In doing so, dialogue and understanding of the death situation of the deceased is essential. In this paper, the situations of the bereaved family and the dead are classified into four categories. They are: "death in a family", "death in a community", "single (solitary?) death", and "death in an organization." In the case of death in a family and in a community, the bereaved usually can get informed of the circumstances of the death. However, if someone dies alone, there is no way to find out in what situation he/she died. In the case of death in an organisation, the organisation needs to initiate an investigation to help the bereaved understand how their family member died. People in various positions have been making efforts to tackle this important task in Otsuchi Town, and they still are.. Ten years have passed since the disaster occurred, and this report sheds light on "death in an organization".