Study on effective and sustainable community disaster education through town watching in Saijo City

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1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, natural disasters occur frequently in the world and the importance of disaster education comes to be recognized well. Many schools begin to adopt it in integrated learning period. But there are some problems in current disaster education and not a few differences among schools and areas about the activities. Taking into account the problems, effective and sustainable way of disaster education is necessary to be organized.

This research focuses on town watching as a disaster education tool, analyzing its feature and effect, and proposes a framework of sustainable community disaster education through the practice in Saijo City.

2. METHOD

Saijo City in Ehime Prefecture was seriously damaged by the typhoons in 2004. The problems are; many elderly people and few young people are in mountainous area; awareness for disaster prevention is not high, etc. To make the city resilient against disasters, it is necessary to make "disaster prevention network" (figure 1) between the plain area and the mountainous area, not only to help elderly people in mountainous area in case of disasters but also to be interested in each other's life and environment in daily life.

Town watching and mountain watching was implemented in five elementary schools and three junior high schools, involving teachers, parents, Jichikai people, residents in mountain, forest workers and municipal officers. The questionnaire survey was conducted to evaluate the impact of town/mountain watching for all participants.

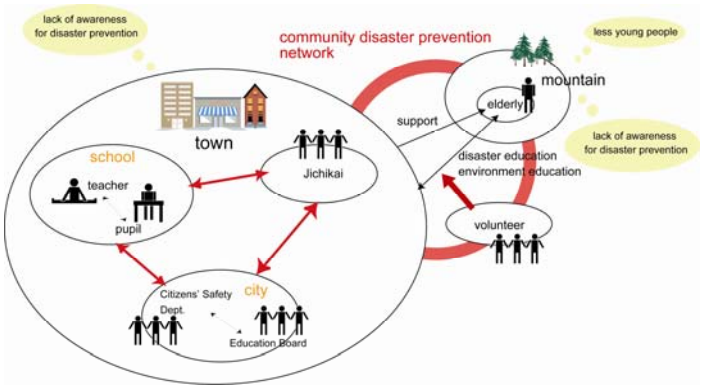

Figure 1 disaster prevention network

Figure 2 town watching

3. CONCLUSION

Town/mountain watching is an effective disaster education tool. But it makes no sense to end up with only one time event. Clear implementing body and guideline is necessary for continuing town/mountain watching. "Kids Disaster Prevention Club" and "Teachers' association" are proposed to continue town/mountain watching and touch in or modify the guideline.