

Factors Affecting Participation of Women and Young People to Community Management Organization

- Suggestions for addressing various regional problems -

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1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the number of community management organizations has been increasing especially in rural areas. Community management organization is expected as a new type of organization coping with a various regional problems. Also, it is important for the residents to participate not as families, but as individuals. That's the different point from neighborhood association, the previous system of rural management. However, the difficulty of women and young people's participation to regional development activities has been pointed out in some previous studies. Therefore, the objective of this study is to find the factors that affect participation of women and young people to community management organizations, and to give some ways to involve various type of residents to such organizations.

2. METHODS

The research field of this study is 3 districts in Shimane Prefecture (Kamiyamasa, Kitanabe and Mihara). Firstly, I investigated the contents and effects of the efforts to involve residents in 3 districts mainly through hearing survey to prefectural and city government staffs, community center staffs and residents who are the member of community management organizations. Secondly, I conducted questionnaire survey in one district (Kamiyamasa) in order to support the results of case studies and add quantitative analysis.

3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

(1) Case Studies

Through the case studies of community management organizations in 3 districts, I found 3 following factors affecting residents' participation. Also I found organizational office plays an important role to involve residents to the activities.

- Direct invitation: recruitment through public papers was not effective way of resident's involvement.
- Social characteristics: Oppression and interference can be a factor that inhibit young people's participation.
- Theme of activities: Women don't participate in the activities related to agriculture in all cases.

(2) Questionnaire Survey

The questionnaire survey gave the results that direct invitation certainly affected participation of women and young people. In addition, women was invited from their friends, and young people was invited from their families in many cases. Also, interests in the activity theme were differ by the distinction of gender. Women were more interested in life and welfare, but less interested in agriculture than men. From this result, it came to be clear that women tend to prefer the activity theme related to their daily lives. Besides, through the questionnaire survey, I found that it is difficult for young people to get information about community management organization, such as contents and purpose of the activities. And it was indicated that many women couldn't participate in the activities because of the time of activities.

4. CONCLUSION

In this study, I carefully investigated the contents and effects of the efforts to involve residents in 3 districts. And I found following factors effecting participation of women and young people.

- Factors affecting women's participation: direct invitation (especially from friends), activity theme, activity time
- Factors affecting young people's participation: direct invitation (especially from families), information about the organization

Based on the results, I give some suggestions. In order to involve women, it is important to set the meeting or activity time considering the schedule of women living in the region. And in order to involve young people, it is necessary to give detailed information about the organization at first. One of effective ways is that giving information through their families.