

THE STUDY ON OUTFLOW OF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM THEIR HOMETLAND IN ISOLATED ISLAND IN JAPAN -THE CASE OF TSUSHIMA CITY, NAGASAKI PREFECTURE-

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1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

There are many isolated islands in Japan. School students there tend to leave their homeland and go to high schools or colleges in main islands, causing decline of local community vitality. For example, in Dozen area, Oki gun, Shimane prefecture, 35%~55% junior high school students left their homeland from 1997 to 2008, and in Amami city, Kagoshima prefecture, 11%~14% junior high school students from 2011 to 2013. Similarly, during recent 4 years, over 25% of junior high school students have left from Tsushima city, where there are 3 high schools (Tsushima, Toyotama and Kamitsushima high school), and, especially, the number of students of Toyotama and Kamitsushima high school has been rapidly decreasing. So these two high schools are subject to debate about school consolidation. Outflow of students is serious problem for Tsushima city. Considering to this background, the objective of this study is to clarify the actual condition of junior high school students' outflow from their homeland in Tsushima city.

2. STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

Tsushima city is located on northern part of Kyushu region and consists of isolated islands, having the distance of about 138km from Kyushu island. The area is 709km² (10th largest island in Japan) and 89% of the land is covered with forest. The Tsushima city is having specific land shape which is long from south to north and narrow from east to west, and not having much public transport. Thus, it is necessary to move by car in Tsushima city. In this study, the analysis is conducted by using the data provided by Tsushima local government (statistics on advancement of junior high school students, and answer of attitude survey), analyzing the data into the ratio of each junior high school in Tsushima city, and checking correlation between them and the distance from each junior high school to high school.

3. CONCLUSION

This study draw three conclusions as follows; (I) Based on the ratio of choosing high school in main islands of graduating students from 2011 to 2014, junior high schools in Tsushima city can be divided into 3 groups. The junior high schools near Toyotama high school don't have the highest ratio of choosing Toyotama high school, because of small number of the high school students and inconvenience of public transportation. (II) In each area of the 3 groups, the ratio of choosing high school in the mainland and the ratio of choosing the reason "because of the school in our own town" of students who want to move up high schools in Tsushima city are related to the distance between nearby high schools and the junior high schools positively and negatively so that it is essential for school consolidation of Toyotama and Kamitsushima high school to take geographical situation and meanings of these schools into account.