

A Preliminary Study about Domestic Migration in Contemporary Japan

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Abstract

This paper focuses on domestic migration in contemporary Japan and examines the changes and factors related to the movement of "humans" to rural areas in Japan. And this paper is positioned as a preliminary study for a field survey in the Kyushu region, and the purpose of this paper is to organize previous studies and background and build a perspective for future research.

First, an overview of depopulation and its countermeasures in Japan will be presented. Here, I will not only grasp the fundamental problem of depopulation, but also show that these measures have changed the problem of depopulation from the development and attraction of "goods" for the establishment of population in rural areas to an attempt to increase the movement of people to rural areas. Based on the premise of this change and the knowledge accumulated in village studies and sociology, the concepts of "exchange population theory" and "related population theory," which have been proposed in terms of attracting people, will be summarized. Finally, I will add a discussion of the "I-turn" phenomenon and the "Gaze" toward rural areas with the help of consumer society theory. I recognize that the contemporary characteristics pointed out in a series of consumer society theories provide one perspective from which to read contemporary rural migration, which is personal and spontaneous.