

Title	地域コミュニティにおける共同性の成立過程の解明と自立的共同性モデルの提案—新参加者の意識と行動の変容に着目して—
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Abstract

In conventional regional society research, a wealth of literature captures communality in so-called “Mura societies,” where homogeneity and closed spaces are the premises. The argument is that the importance of “community” has been overlooked.

We live in a “mobility society” premised on movement, and our lives are a collection of attempts by diverse peoples to come together and realize some form of collaboration. With improvements in the mobile environment, the options for places (regions) in which to put these experiments into practice are expanding. Such selective joint opportunities are predicated on the region being open to and accepting different types of human resources. The collaboration developed here does not necessarily assume a public nature but also includes communality based on private desires. Traditionally, the concepts of publicness and communality have been considered to have no “intersection,” but Tanaka argues that it is necessary to create publicness from communality (2003; 2010). This point does not mean “passive communality” that supports public nature but rather communality that has a more positive meaning as an “autonomous realm.”

Focusing on the process by which people from outside the region settle into local communities, this study attempts to empirically analyze the path by which communality, which should be an independent entity, creates publicness.

Symbolized by the recent rise of social entrepreneurs and emergence of digital nomads, there have been signs of changes in the way people in local communities live and work. Many of them are involved in the local area from outside the area not only for entertainment and experiences in the area they visit but also for a variety of purposes, such as business success and a better way of living and working.

As our society faces a full-scale population decline, securing people to take on the responsibility of community development is an important issue; however, owing to factors such as the aging of those responsible and a lack of successors, it has become difficult to maintain local communities with only local human resources. At the same time, traditional community development has been viewed as an activity that aims to resolve regional issues with public interest in mind. However, in recent years, clinging to activities that have a public nature as a given condition has the potential to trivialize or overlook the existence of human resources who are newly involved in local communities for a variety of purposes.

Therefore, we define “newcomers” as human resources who newly enter a specific region based on a variety of motivations. We thus elucidate the process by which communality is established between newcomers and the local community. Here, the establishment of communality means the establishment of autonomous communality

based on the creation of a public nature. In addition, the creation of publicness refers to a state in which multiple entities constituting a local community generate the "nature and value of public spaces and assets (including information)" (Hasegawa et al., 2003).

Previous research on the human resources involved in local communities is typified by endogenous development, outsider, and population theories. These studies mainly take the perspective of the local side toward human resources outside the local area, including the endogenous development of the local side, the utilization of human resources from outside the local area, and collaboration with human resources from outside the local area (purposeful collaboration) to elucidate "the process of establishing a sense of community between newcomers and the local community." By contrast, we focus on the perspective of newcomers who are outside the local community.

In Chapter 4, a quantitative survey was conducted on 700 newcomers nationwide. Using the established hypothesis model, a multiple indicator model was employed to conduct covariance structure analysis to verify the causal relationships of various scales representing changes in awareness and behavior towards the region and experiences in the region. In Chapter 5, a qualitative survey was conducted on newcomers utilizing the Regional Cooperation Team system, who enter the region anew, and 17 local stakeholders. The analysis focused on the changes in awareness and behavior that occur for newcomers and the local community during the process of establishing mutual cooperation between newcomers and the local community.

This research will clarify the "reality of creating communality from communality," "discovery of creating proactive communality (independent communality)," and "creation of new communality based on the decline of local strength." The theoretical significance of these points is the "transition" and "discovery of a new existence that crosses the border between the related population and the interacting population."

The process through which communality is formed between newcomers and local communities has not yet been elucidated in conventional research fields. The present attempt to do so is significant in terms of accepting diverse human resources visiting from outside the region as new leaders of the region and rebuilding local ownership. The insights herein are expected to make academic and practical contributions to the sustainable development of Japan and other East Asian countries—both domestically and internationally—which are facing serious population decline through falling birthrates and rapid aging.

Keywords: local community, community development, communality, publicness, newcomers