A Report on the Reality of Anti-Discrimination Measures In Japan

Estuko Yamada¹, Megumi Hattori¹, Yoshika Suzaki², Naoko Takayama³,
Hiromi Ariyoshi¹, *

¹Saga University, Japan

²The Japanese Red Cross Kyushu International College of Nursing, Japan

³Yokkaichi Nursing and Medical University, Japan

Received: November 27, 2013; Accepted: December 10, 2013; Published: December 13, 2013

*Corresponding author: Hiromi Ariyoshi, Saga University, Japan, E-mail: ariyoshi@cc.saga-u.ac.jp

Preface

In Japan, there exists a “Dowa-chiku” (hereafter, District A), an area where modern day descendants of Japan’s feudal outcast group live in poverty and with little social interaction with other citizens due to a history of ostracism. A community health nurse was stationed at District A and investigated the actual conditions of the “Dowa-chiku” through individual house visits and interviews.

Introduction to district A

District A lies at the hub of public transportation and is composed of approximately 10 urban-type high rise apartment buildings. Located in the central area of City B, Ward C, the town surrounding and including District A has 1985 households and a population of 3227, with the rate of children and the elderly at 10% and 20.3%, respectively.

Results

After the Special Measures Law expired in 2001, anti-

discriminatory measures were independently conducted by the municipality for 10 years until 2011. However, after 2012, with no general pro-equality measures in place, obtaining information concerning problems unique to the district (such as health, welfare, education, or employment) became increasingly difficult. Although provisions for housing and roads improved sanitary and health conditions, financial problems stemming from educational and employment difficulties as well as complicated family backgrounds and were all clearly latent issues to be resolved. Compared to other areas, District A is proactive in organized activities, and elderly citizens maintain a social network to protect and communicate with one another. However, dependency on health and welfare services is strong, and the younger generation who are faced with decreasing assistance due to trends towards privatization of childcare and welfare services, are experiencing difficulty of living. In addition, increasing relocations and the dissolution of interaction between residents were also distinctly seen.