

# Development of Welfare and Living Environment through Collaboration of Family and Community:

## The Practice of Supporting the Young Generation by Securing a Place to Live

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**ABSTRACT:** The Child Welfare Act was amended in 2004, making after care services for youth who have left social care institutions mandatory. To help young people in the community to obtain a safe place to live by improving their living environment, we proposed an educational programme and residential environment improvement through cooperation between families and communities. Community welfare and home care were examined, and issues within the family and welfare system were confirmed from the perspective of life sciences within social welfare. Homes that support self-reliance for youth can be expected to become a model that contributes to social education and the transmission of local culture and to be used as a platform for youth and family welfare. Results of research on new projects in Chiba Prefecture show that services are not limited to employment support for younger people but also provide rental contracts for new housing and consultation about daily life, establishing and operating homes that support self-reliance. Furthermore, the new projects provide outreach and community space programmes in addition to developmental support and childcare endeavours.

**Key Words:** New Lifestyle, Child and Family Welfare, Living Environment Improvement, Nursing Care, Community Housing

## INTRODUCTION

New lifestyles against COVID-19 pandemic are focused on the creation of a radical social model for wellbeing, and the harshness of the COVID-19 pandemic is hard to ignore. Difficulty for irregular employees to find employment and family violence has occurred, resulting in the breakdown of family functions. In response to changes in socio economic conditions, the Child Welfare Act was amended in 2004, which protects youth against physical and mental violence in the home.

To ensure that youth in the local community have a safe place to live by developing their living environment, promoting education and improving the housing environment by working with families and communities <sup>1</sup>. In a case study of Self-reliance's Homes in Saitama Pref., the need was clear to improve the follow-up of youth in anticipation of their life after leaving home, and that the project of a place of life is promoted to introduce them to their new home and to provide a consultation service <sup>2</sup>.

In the previous research <sup>3</sup>, the Step Houses for practical training in home economics offered at elementary and secondary school, and pointed out that managing learning through community collaboration is a challenge for developing environments in collaboration with families and communities. Cooperation with the local community is important for risk management in response to frequent disasters and emergencies, and also to prevent isolation from the community.

Spread the COVID-19 pandemic, others have been treated at home to prioritize the treatment of critically ill patients. Furthermore, the nursing function of home health care will change according to the need to coordinate and improve the efficiency of social services. The number of self-reliance's homes has increased in Saitama Prefecture, and a new survey has been carried out in Chiba Prefecture to clarify life sciences in nursing that contribute to community welfare. This study will be considering the role of living

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science for nursing to community welfare.

## METHODS

This paper focuses on the community welfare, trace the history of welfare using materials, legislation based on the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare white paper, Environmental white paper, and clarifies the impact on welfare and the living environment.

**Research the Child Welfare System :** As families diversify, careful consideration should be given to the family environment of children, and it is required for careful consideration of the family environment of children, While it is difficult to teach children about their family in school education. Given the current situation in which children have to develop the capacity to live, three explorations of economic independence, spiritual independence and social independence should be promoted, and to develop a consciousness of the problems and solutions to the theme of their independence.

To explore cooperation and support based on support for autonomous living, public assistance and mutual assistance, we will identify patterns in after care institutions in Chiba Prefecture. The survey in 2021 (November 1-15) with the release of information to the community, consultation about daily life for those who have left children's home, the spatial requirements for independence in residential life and supportive housing practices will be the challenges.

**Examine the Community Welfare Program :** Housing in home economics education pointed the importance of the management of life and spaces, and considered the importance of housing education in compulsory education while getting ready to leave their homes. Next, consider the issue of welfare planning, family life and welfare environment lectures were given to 21 students (nursing students).

The survey covered the following topics: number of people living together, family type, caring for parents, childcare support, cases of corona infection, thoughts on remote work, family discussions and rules, stress with restrictions on home, and comments opened in June 7-14. The number of responses was 21 and indicated consideration of family changes and welfare. This practice was carried out with respect for the ethical aspects of education.

## CHILD WELFARE IN COMMUNITY APPROACHES

The Action Plan for Support of Child Care in Saitama prefecture (FY2020-2024) <sup>4</sup> was formulated to enhance measures against declining birth rates and support for child education in response to changes in society, efforts in support of youth. The new vision for Social Foster in 2019 <sup>5</sup> should be further discussed on after-care support for youth, and future direction in response to changes in foster homes is drawing attention.

In the prefecture of Ciba, it was decided that the Committee for the Study on Social Resources should further improve the system of Guidance and Social Protection Centers. The Committee for the Study of Social Resources was established on 24 June 2005 under the Chiba Prefectural Council of Social Welfare, with the aim of taking drastic measures to deal with the problem of child abuse and to discuss the ideal form of social care. The Committee summarized the issues and continued the discussion with an attempt to hear the views of those involved in foster parents, childcare institutions, foster homes, municipalities and Child Guidance Centers.

**Background of Supporting Youth on Social Welfare :** Self-reliance's homes are operated as youth independent living services and are Type 2 social welfare services under Article 6-3 and Article 33-6 of the Child Welfare Act. The legislation on youth support is in Table 1. Children without guardians and for whom it is inappropriate to have guardians are socially supported and protected by public institutions, and support is available to families that are struggling to raise them. As members of society, for children enable to live independently, advice and assistance in everyday life, counselling and employment support are provided. The rate of children leaving work within a year of leaving the home is high, making it difficult for them to continue a stable work and life, efforts are being made to improve and develop independent support functions, for example, specialized employment trainers can be placed in home for young people

with disabilities, and support is envisaged to sustain self-sufficiency after leaving home.

**Child Abused and Neglected :** Many of the residents are young people who have been abused or neglected, who distrust people. In 2020, the Child Guidance Centers responded to 205,029 cases of violence against children<sup>6</sup>. With the decline in the functioning of the family and the growing importance of educational provision, self-reliance's homes give a place for youth who have not been able to receive a school education, and are a base for social care. Amendment to the Child Welfare Act of 2017 allows university students to stay at self-reliance's homes until graduate year at the end of their 22nd year, a new phase of support for youth encourages learning activities.

The living support Program for youth in the community, cooperation with social care that supports youth and family welfare is required, and homes that support self-reliance for youth can be expected to become a model that contributes to social education and the transmission of local culture and to be use as a platform for youth and family welfare. Child abuse, neglect and adversarial experiences in childhood require a break with violent family relationships and the establishment of intimate relationships, and the development of housing environments for young people must be the establishment of a promotion system through regional cooperation.

**Aftercare Supports for Child Welfare :** The Child Welfare Act was amended in 2004 to make it compulsory to provide follow-up services to children who have left social care institutions. Children are released from institutions after completing compulsory education, monitoring of released children includes counselling support, daily and emergency financial support, and post-leave housing support is needed.

Self-reliance's homes are operated as welfare services for youth, there are 17 homes in Saitama Prefecture and 214 homes in Japan, is operated as young people wellbeing assistance services<sup>7</sup>. They are expected to provide advice and other forms of daily living assistance and employment support for them in becoming independent members of society, and to help them continue their lives when they leave home.

**Table 1. Legislation for Self-Reliance Support Youth**

1997	Institutionalization of self-reliance's homes
2004	Amendment of Child Welfare Act
2012	Amendment of Child Welfare Act
2012	Guidelines for the Management of Social Foster Homes
2014	Handbook for the Management of Foster Homes
2017	Amendment of Child Welfare Act
2017	Outline of the Implementation of the Project for Supporting Self-Reliance in Social Care
2019	New Vision for Social Foster Care
2019	Amendment of Child Welfare Act to set up efforts to Prevent Child Abuse

Source: Improved to Sasaki(2021)

## BASIC CONCEPT OF COMMUNITY WELFARE

Community welfare was described in the text of the Social Welfare Act 2000, Article 1 stipulates the promotion of community-based welfare, and Article 4 states that it must be strive to promote community-based welfare. The main components of a community-based welfare categorized into three, consisting of local residents, social welfare providers, and activities related to social welfare, wide range of main constituents is envisioned.

Community welfare means Community Living Support that creates a state in which people can live on a permanent basis and make independent choices in the community using social resources. Social resources consist of institutions and policies, institutions and organisations with expertise in consultation, social service providers and activities of neighbours. Community support consists of supporting seniors and persons with disabilities to live in the community. In the area of persons with disabilities, the implementation of community-based projects are stipulated in the Comprehensive Support for Persons with Disabilities Act, shown in Table 2, titled Three Welfare Acts, the Six Welfare Acts, and the Eight Welfare Acts.

**Transformation of Community Welfare :** Community based welfare in Japan began with the reference to British community care, which was a concept of the report in 1957<sup>8</sup>, by The Royal Commission on

Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency during 1954-1957. Based on this report, the Mental Health Act was enacted in 1959, and community care was clearly positioned as a legal principle. To understand the roles of organizations and practitioners in community welfare, the current components of these are presented in Table 3. Community care aims to help people with diverse needs to live in the community, and began with mental health and child protection in the UK. Regional organization was the important concept of community welfare from the 1960s to the 1970s, and was practised in the United States with the idea of community organization. Community organization is a method of support, as are interventions and group work, and is aimed at the community unit.

**Based on Institute to Community on Japanese Welfare :** Five-Year Plan for Urgent Improvement of Social Welfare Facilities in 1971 had promoted the construction of special care institutions for the elderly in response to the social context of an increasing amount of elderly<sup>9</sup>. Five-Year Plan in 1970 was a comprehensive facility improvement plan with the aim of solving the shortage of social welfare facilities. Large institutions for the disability have been built in various locations and an intensive treatment institution has been seen as a good measure for persons with disabilities. The focus was on the welfare institution, for the elderly and the disabled were encouraged to enter the institution, in terms of their way of life and their desire for life.

Institutional development of the elderly was socially necessary, isolated from society, which hampered the self-reliance of the elderly and disabled, it also denied them their right to live in community. The 1974 oil crisis affected the development of social welfare infrastructure and the social protection system was drastically reduced. In the context of the economic recession, the Japanese social welfare theory emerged. This is a social theory of welfare that considers a family to be an implicit asset for long-term care, based on self-reliance living and support, instead of providing social services from public institutions. In Japan, the rate of cohabitation with generations is higher than in Europe and the US, so families have accepted the idea of supporting old age and parental long-term care. The Japanese-Style Welfare Society theory meant that social services costs were reduced.

**From institutional Welfare to home-based Welfare :** Normalization, which began in Scandinavia, was an idea that had a psychological impact on community welfare. The sense of values that the elderly and the disabled can live in their community without breaking the relationships they have established, and that the society in which the elderly and the disabled live close to one another is the norm. In addition to the ideology of normalization, in the United States, the movement for the empowerment of the disabled, and the International Year of Disabled in 1981 have further increased the desire for self-reliance in the region and the demand for the development of social resource for this purpose.

**Table 2. Social Welfare Acts: Ⅲ / Ⅵ / Ⅷ Welfare Act**

		Ⅲ	Ⅵ	Ⅷ
1946	Public Assistance Act	○		
1947	Child Welfare Act	○	○	○
1949	Act on Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons	○	○	○
1950	Public Assistance Act		○	○
1951	Social Welfare Service Act			
1960	Act for the Welfare of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities		○	○
1963	Act on Social Welfare for the Elderly		○	○
1964	Act on Welfare of Mothers with Dependents, Fathers with Dependents, and Widows		○	○
1982	Geriatric Health Act			○
1985	Social Welfare And Medical Service Corporation Act			○
1987	Certified Social Worker and Certified Care Worker Act			
1997	Long-Term Care Insurance Act			

Note : Ⅲ (Three Welfare Acts), Ⅵ (Six Welfare Acts), Ⅷ (Eight Welfare Acts)

**Table 3. Community-based Welfare**

Community Organizing
Home Welfare
Resident Participatory Welfare
User-Centered
Normalization
Local Autonomy and Decentralization
Rights protection
Self-Reliance support
Social Inclusion
Welfare Services

Source: Cabinet Office (2021)

## FAMILY WELFARE ISSUES

Family members are responsible for the care and nurturing of children and have duties in accordance with the Constitution. In practice, worksheets on this topic are shown in Figure 1, review the white papers and reports from public organizations, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Next, list the issues about family and welfare, review the context, and the problems related to our life, new efforts to resolve them, and state their thoughts. Nursing students who will be the leaders of community welfare were asked to identify family and welfare issues and problems that need to be resolved and to express their opinions. Notable issues were grouped into 10 themes, with relevance organized in Table 4. Some of the details of the efforts to resolve the problems and the discussions are described below.

**Japanese-Style Welfare:** The Japanese-Style Welfare is focused on; it is a family as an institution in which each individual in the family plays a role as a member. The current form of welfare and family in Japan is shifting from providing support to the family as an institution to providing support to the family as a group, that is, not the family as defined by the state, but the family as defined by the private sphere.

**Aging of the Population:** In a number of the elderly, with regard to the definition of the elderly, the Joint Committee of Japan Gerontological Society and the Japan Geriatrics Society proposed that 75 years old and over be the new definition of the elderly<sup>10</sup>. The aging society, elderly people are caring for elderly who are over 65 years old, a shortage of institutions for the elderly, and the problem of single elderly people dying alone is increasing. The death of a single person at home will be a problem for men who have no relationship to their neighbours or the community.

**Long-Term Care:** The number of people who left their previous job for nursing care is particularly high among women. Average life expectancy at birth in Japan has increased, and by 2020 it is 81.64 for men and 87.74 for women<sup>11</sup>, which is over 30 years longer than in 1947. Three out of ten people aged 80 to 84 years require long-term care, and three out of five people aged 85 and over are certified as requiring long-term care. While average life expectancy is increasing, it has been repointed that there is a gap between average life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, which indicates how long a person can stay healthy. As of 2016, the gap between average life expectancy and healthy life expectancy was 8.84 years for men and 12.35 years for women<sup>12</sup>. The cost of home care, when a person requires nursing care, has a variety of initial costs, wheelchair propelled type, electric type, handrails, portable toilet, special bed, stair lift, mobility lift. Externalization of care should be considered.

**Lodging style with parents and children:** Parental and child preferences regarding the type of residence were considered. Living with or around our parents will help us after the wedding and have children. This way, they can take care of their children and have someone close to them who can serve as a model for the child rearing, thus reducing their burden. The expansion of the nuclear family has reduced communication between children and parents. Even in the case of elderly living alone, one must distinguish between those with children living nearby and those without, since this makes a critical difference in terms of the potential for family support and emergency assistance. The concept of flexible change of the home functions depending on lifestyles will be significant.

**Care Refugees :** Getting out of the workforce because of nursing has been a social issue, and the number of people leaving the workforce for nursing care is expected to continue to increase with the aging of the Japanese population. One of the reasons for this is the growing number of elderly and the shortage of nursing care. In 2020 Population Projection from Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, 36.19 million people aged 65 and over, representing 28.8% of the total population<sup>13</sup>. In a 2020 survey conducted by the Centre for Nursing Care Labour Stabilisation, 60.8% of employees indicated a shortage of health care workers<sup>14</sup>. The issues are the community-based comprehensive care system and the efforts of the elderly themselves and their families to prevent them from becoming refugees for nursing. The Invisible Gender Divide is a topic of further discussion.

**Late Marriages or Non-Marriages:** Younger single households are on the rise with late marriages and non-national marriages. Single elderly households are also becoming a social issue. Households headed by a single person represented for 28.8% of total households, followed by households headed by a married couple with unmarried children (28.4%) and households headed by a married couple alone (24.4%). Households with a person aged 65 and over accounted for 49.4% of all households, 35% of the households with a single person aged 65 and over were men, and 65% of these households were women<sup>15</sup>.

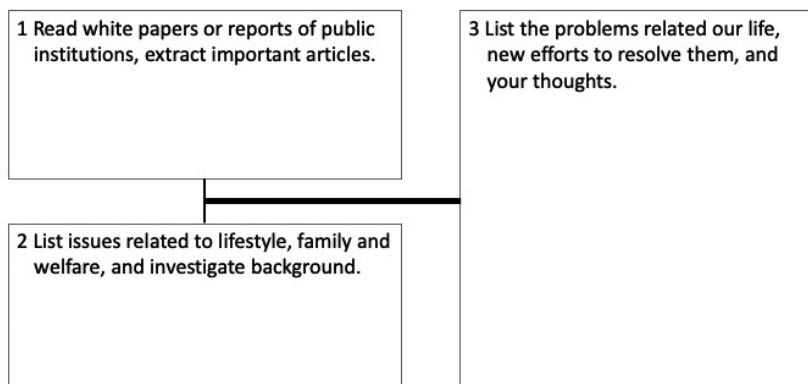
**Nursing Attention when Infected :** In particular, home care has led to a reconsideration of the function of home. A new lifestyle based on infection control is required and related to nutrition and hygiene has to be modified to maintain health, and public health is a life science. A nursing issue was discussed in class about

**Table 4. Issues concerning Family and Welfare**

a. Family & Welfare Issues	b. Current State & Problem	c. Discussion
1 Work Style	Dual Working Couples (Nursing care leave)	Income Inequality
2 Late Marriages or Non-Marriages	Inequality of Domestic Work	Infertility Treatment
3 Childbirth	Death of a pregnant woman with covid-19	
4 Child care Nursery	Lack of Babysitting Services Lack of Child Care Staff Children on Waiting lists	Securing Childcare Centers Relying on Parents Community Welfare
5 Aging of the Population Late Elderly	Solitary Deaths of the Elderly	Prevention of care Exercise, fitness, volunteerism, participation in the local community
6 Care for the Aged, Nursing Care, Care Required, Supportive Care Required	Lack of Carers, Care Refugees, Parental Care, Graves	Rely on Nursing Facilities and Services, Sharing of Nursing Roles, Build a Regional System
7 Cohabitation with Parent/ Child, Dwelling Style, Cohabitation with Daughter, Living Nearby, Full or Partial Cohabitation, Family Values	Child Self-Reliance	Living Nearby, Can Visit at All Times Barrier Free Housing
8 Growing the Nuclear Family	Divorce, Domestic violence,	Partnerships
9 Japanese-Style Welfare	Child abuse, Emotional Abuse,	Protecting Human Rights
10 Young Carer for Family	Abandonment, Neglect	Child Welfare, Rights of the Child, Education
	Rapid Rise in Social Security Costs	Economic Solutions

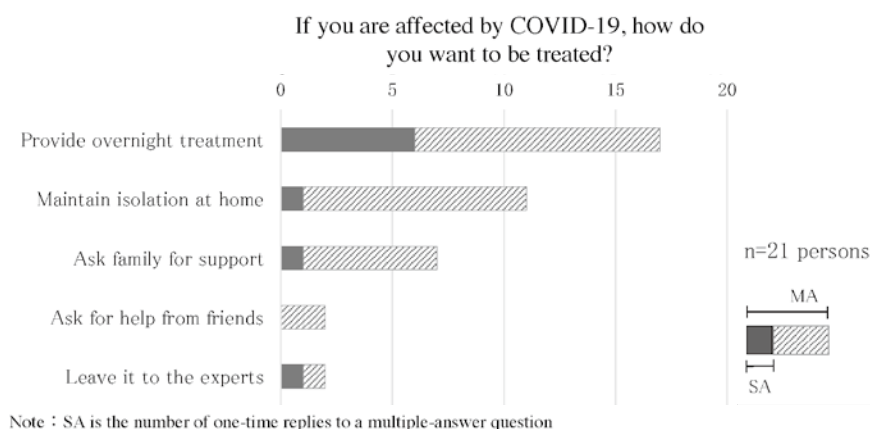
Worksheet : Level of Living Problem

Level of Problem	PRACTICE	ACTION	GOAL
Individual	Effective	Practical	Activities of food, clothing, and shelter
Family	Interactional	Communicative	Consensus/Life support
Community	Inclusive	Collaboration	
Society		Reflective	Innovation/Sustainable



Source:Improved to Sasaki(2021)

**Figure 1. Worksheet of the Issue: Family Welfare, Life science**



**Figure 2. Nursing Care Needs in Case of Infection**

Activities:		Opening Times:
Advice on Daily Life and Jobs. Cooking, Learning and Communication classes	Low-cost meals, job placement, money management account, welfare services for young people in difficulty	Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12:00 – 20:00
Suit rental for job hunting and company interviews		Number of users: 2 to 5 users per day

Source : Improved to Sasaki(2021)

**Figure 3. Aftercare Place for Young People**

the type of treatment they should receive if we had COVID-19. As shown in Figure 2, the respondents were nursing students, and most indicated that they would prefer overnight care, both single and multiple answers. The function of housing will change, and social assistance services will become more coordinated and effective in terms of care.

## AFTERCARE ISSUES FROM THE CASE STUDIES

Based on a case study of Saitama Prefecture, aftercare for youth, will introduce as models to solve. This report will also highlight a new initiative in Chiba Prefecture, which deserves to be examined.

**Aftercare Model for youth :** As an aftercare for youth who have left children's homes, a place where youth who have left social services can easily stay and ask for advice began in 2019. Clover House located in Saitama, which Aftercare Centre was launched in 2019 by the youth Aftercare Project on behalf of Saitama prefecture.

The Aftercare Place Project develops a place of interaction and consultation for youth in social care, and offers seminars and events as a resting place for youth who feel lonely and anxious.

**New Projects in Chiba Prefecture :** There are 17 self-reliance's houses, the 13 homes had been opened by welfare corporations since 2015, as shown in Table 5.

The home in Chiba based on the operation of the shelter, provide support to the children of the shelter even after they leave, opened in Chiba City, which has the largest number of universities and high schools in Chiba Prefecture. Provide support through crowdfunding in 2020, and Chiba City Urban Development Support Donation.

The home in Ichikawa began by renovating the house of representative, and was opened in 2020 through Crowd Funding, raising a total of about 2 million yen from a total of over 200 investors. A divisional system has been set up with divisional managers, the operation of the budget and business plan in 2019, and the organization of the Corporation is underway. The establishment and operation of the home

provide outreach and community space projects, to increase support and childcare projects <sup>16</sup>. This home has the advantage of running a caring school, offering learning support add to daily life and employment support. By providing a learning space, the home will also help youth gain skills for future employment.

The home in Funabashi was opened in support of young people, began supporting the self-reliance for the youth in 2015, applied the system of support for the homeless as NPO to the child welfare, and in response to the matters which child poverty and support for young people. Youth unable to live at home due to divorce or bereavement of their parents, abuse or neglect live together while working. As the purpose of a home is to help residents get to work, the daily cooking is done by the staff and not by the residents.

**Operation of the Self-Reliance Living Support Homes :** More specifically, we are enhancing basic skills programs for youth, such as money management, communication, basic knowledge of leasing, cooking, and social manners. The aftercare service plays an important role in supporting people from social care homes who are facing difficulties in an increasingly fragmented and isolated society.

**Loans to self-reliance support for youth :** In order to stabilize the livelihood of those who have left homes, the Chiba Prefectural Council of Social Welfare provides subsidies to the Council. A source of funds for subsistence loans those that have left the children's home, to find a job or advance in higher education, and for those who have entered the children's home, to acquire basic skills for employment.

**Table 5. Supports for Self-reliance for Young People**

	Case1	Case2	Case3	Case4	Case5
Establishment	2004/4/1	2015/4/1	2017/4/1	2020/4/1	2021/11/1
Owner	Social Welfare Corporation	NPO	General Incorporated Association	NPO	NPO
Contents	26th home in JAPAN	Youth Support Program	Youth Support Dormitory Subsidy	Learning Space  Crowdfunding system	Children Shelter  Crowdfunding, Support Donation system

Source : Improved to Sasaki(2021) with new data

## DISCUSSION

Important issues were raised from life science that an increase in the number of elderlies, fewer nursing homes Division of labour by gender role, women stay at home and take care of childcare and housework. Dual-earner households, Children eating alone, Marriage and Divorce, Late Marriages, Non-Marriages, Rising-lifetime unmarried rate, society in which all people live as equal members of society. Issues of Gender inequality, Abandonment of family education, Domestic Violence, Bullying and Neglect were also reported. In this context, we will present data on the care and welfare of the elderly and learn more about family and welfare. We should also discuss child welfare with young students as community welfare.

**Contemporary Issues in the Life Sciences :** People aim to lead a proactive and creative life, supporting individual and family values in relation to social developments. Specific professions for living support related to human life include teachers, doctors, nurses, public health nurses, nursery nurses and dieticians, and training institutions provide education to acquire national qualifications and acquire specialist knowledge and skills. Teachers and Nurses who have obtained national qualifications provide support for daily lives as specialists and therefore, in addition to knowledge and skills in their field of specialization, they require knowledge of our life, observation skills, consideration skills and communication skills to understand the target of their supporters.

Furthermore, there is a demand for a new way of life based on infection control, and a change in the way of life related to diet and hygiene is required to maintain Health. In reference to Modern public health, the origin is a model of hygiene whose main purpose is to fight against poor nutrition and infectious diseases in large cities. Modern health involves the wellbeing of individuals and families, and the living environment is linked to the welfare of the community.

**The Socialization of Parents :** Families have a variety of issues like divorce and domestic violence. Behind

these problems are the secular issues of gender inequality, young people not getting married, and there's no nurturing environment for children. To solve these problems, the social system must be improved to promote the socialization of child education, and home economics education should be compulsory for children.

**Diversification of Support :** Support for self-employment is the primary support for public assistance, and programs must be developed that integrate Mental Independence, Social Independence, and Physical Independence. As the number of children in social care has increased to 46,000, there are required more platforms to support children in the community, such as childcare support and projects to make a place for parents and children. The projects were linked to the development of the next generation by means of local resources. The diversity of programs is strength of the region, and the new activity will be to learn from and implement advanced examples of expanded operations and mutual cooperation through regional collaboration.

## CONCLUSION

In order to management and skills to use the living space and to obtain a safe place and home for the young people who make up the local community, we have discussed housing education and housing environment through family and community cooperation. As part of the housing education in elementary and junior high school home economics, the realization of the development of the housing environment in cooperating with families and the local community.

From a survey to Chiba Prefecture targeting self-reliance's home, it was found that the homes have the need to improve aftercare for young people in anticipation of their living after leave the homes, and the promotion of projects that introduce new homes and provide consultation service issues related to housing. Community-based housing is important as a supportive living environment for youth. This study show that services are not limited to employment support for youth, but also provide rental contracts for new housing and consultations about daily life. The establishment and operation of self-reliance's homes that take advantage of their backgrounds are developing.

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