



The Study on Life Recovery Support System

-Focusing on Disaster Case Management Program in the United States and Japan-

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1. Background of Study

This study focuses on the effective **Life Recovery** support system for disaster survivors. **Life Recovery** is a people-centered concept, which means people return to a feeling of normalcy in their lives. The concept was realized in the recovery process of 1995 Hanshin-Awaji (Kobe) earthquake. A recovery policy which focuses only on physical recovery, such as buildings, roads and water reconstruction but not on people, could fail. Recovery should integrate people, society and safety. One way to how to fill the unmet needs of disaster survivors.

2. The Community Dispersion after 2011 Tohoku Earthquake

Temporary housing construction was very difficult following the 2011 Great East Japan (Tohoku) earthquake because the disaster-stricken areas were along a *Rias coastline*, a long coastal inlet and narrow flatland formed by submergence. Cities were developed in the narrow flatlands, which were totally wiped out by the tsunami. Afterward, the government restricted construction of housing in disaster-stricken areas to mitigate future tsunami damage, and it was difficult to find proper land for temporary housing. Housing was developed in the few remaining flatlands such as school grounds, parks or fields. Temporary housing construction started in April 2011 and was mostly completed by the end of October 2011. Due to wide-spread damages, the government started a new program which pays a rent for apartment. As a result 47,839 units of temporary housing were newly constructed and 57,825 units of apartments were rented. The **Life Recovery Support Program (LRSP)** was started by local government that in turn sub-contracted the work to NPOs, that initiated networking people living in apartments in different areas. However, it is difficult to provide support to people living in apartments as they are widely dispersed.

Temporary Housing of 2011 Tohoku Earthquake



Type of Housing of 2011 Tohoku Earthquake Survivors		
Type of Housing	No. of People	No. of Housings
Public Housing	27,375	9,999
Government Rented Housing	145,196	57,825
Temporary Housing	109,014	47,839

Source: The Recovery Agency, May 2014

3. The Disaster Case Management Program in United States

The similar difficulty to provide support to dispersed disaster survivors were occurred In United States after 2005 Hurricane Katrina and Rita which struck Gulf Coast. Survivors from Katrina and Rita evacuated all over the United States, displaced from their original residences. Survivors faced difficulties in finding housing, employment, transportation or health services. In order to support those survivors, the **Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP)** was started. In DCMP, disaster case managers visited survivors, helped to identify their unmet needs and coordinate services from multiple agencies. After Katrina, the Stafford Act was amended with Section 426 which authorizes FEMA to provide DCM to disaster survivors under Individual Assistance. DCMP was conducted immediately after 2012 Superstorm Sandy.

4. Are DCM applicable in Japan?

The LRSP in Japan and the DCMP in the United States are similar in terms of identifying unmet needs and provide required supports on an individual basis. However, LRSP needs to learn the following three areas from DCM: a) LRSP focuses more on consummatory function (i.e., networking survivors) while DCM focuses more on instrumental function by setting recovery goals and providing support in order to archive the goal. b) DCMP focus human resource development program which is lacking in LRSP. c) In DCM, Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN) is used to integrate assistance information, but there is not such an integrated information system at national level in Japan.