Communities in the hilly and mountainous areas are confronted by the predicament of the number of aging farm households, increased by a rapidly aging agricultural workforce. Our estimates suggest that such a trend will lead to increased demand for farmland-use adjustment in these areas. Hence, in order to prevent rapid changes in farmland supply and demand and to ensure the smooth operation of farmland trades, it is necessary to consider introducing residential measures to secure the agricultural labour force and its successors as part of regional policies.

4. Related publications


fare corporations in northern Kyushu is prominent. Considering the fact that the population of senior citizens in Kashiwa is approximately 60% larger than that of northern Kyushu, and yet the same number of nursing-care services are operated in both urban and rural areas, it is speculated that the number of people who use nursing-care services in each managing agency is larger in Kashiwa than that in northern Kyushu, and the introduction of nursing-care insurance has encouraged new involvement in the nursing-care industry by business corporations in Kashiwa.

Illustrated in Fig.2 is the employment status created by such nursing-care services as above. Although the total number of employees in Kashiwa is greater than that of northern Kyushu, its proportion to the population of senior citizens is unbalanced and nearly half of the employees are part-timers. This implies that business corporations that are newly involved in the nursing-care industry are trying to reduce costs by suppressing the number of full-time employees and recruiting more part-time employees. The survey also focused on current employees' job histories. The findings were used as a barometer to measure the status of job creation in the nursing-care services. In Kashiwa, 25% of the respondents were previously unemployed, and in northern Kyushu, 31% were also previously unemployed. It is roughly translated that since the introduction of the nursing-care insurance, more jobs have been created in the nursing-care industry by approximately 30%. It is noteworthy that female employees occupy 81% of the entire workforce and 55% of them are in their 40’s and over. This fact casts a shadow over the employment status in the nursing-care industry.

3. Related publications


Research members

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Factor Analysis Regarding the Unmarried Status of Rural Young Males and the Trend towards Nuclear Families in semi- Mountainous Areas

Yoshihiko AIKAWA

1. Objective and procedures

The decline in birth rates is a serious problem that continues to grow, and one contributing factor is the increase in unmarried rural young males. The objective of this research is to clarify the current status of the above and its cause. The analysis involves the sorting and compiling of survey data using a statistical method followed by the translation of the statistics into a sociological concept of family.

2. Outline of the results

A survey was carried out in two rural communities of Nagano prefecture. The summary of the survey results has clarified that unmarried males hugely outnumber unmarried females in these communities, and that there is a growing tendency towards married couples living away from their parents. This is supported by the recent census, which points out that the number of the unmarried males is rapidly increasing, and this fact is reflected in the ratio between unmarried females and unmarried males of 1 : 2. Furthermore, the ratio becomes even greater in rural areas as in 1 : 3 and this makes it very difficult for males to find marriage partners in order to succeed their families.

Nevertheless, there is still a strong intention to marry amongst successors of full-time