

研究報告

## 超過疎農村地域の介護の行く末

A 県超農村過疎地域 N 村における農村女性の在宅介護と  
農業を継続する意味

The Future of Nursing Care Service for Elderlies in an Extremely  
Depopulated Agricultural Community in Japan

The Meaning of Continuation of Agriculture for Female Farmers and the  
Related Home Nursing Care Service System in the Agricultural  
Community of 'N' in Prefecture of 'A'

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### Abstract

**Purpose of Study :** The purpose of this study is that it aims to focus the present situation of Japanese female caretakers in an agricultural community to continue their home nursing care and agriculture and also clarify how they continue to work for home nursing care and agriculture, and the meaning of the continuation for female farmers in a community.

**Method :** The design of this study used the ethnography type investigation. It means to try clarifying the perception, the idea, and the meaning of the method of life inductively through the data concerning the experience in daily life of a certain group. The methodology is very effective to clarify and understand difficult situation of home nursing care in an agricultural community and the behavior of the caretakers who continue home nursing care and agriculture in extremely agricultural depopulation area.

“Extremely depopulated agricultural area ” is considered a social condition that a community social function declines with decreasing the number of population so that local residents are forced difficulty to maintain their standard of quality of life. In another word, “Extremely depopulated agricultural area ” is also called a marginal villege (or community).

**Results :** Several aspects of female agricultural workers in a local community was clarified : the womens’ duty and burden in agricultural work, agricultural work for satisfaction and home nursing care and the causes in the historical and cultural backgorund. (their value as agricultural labor force, their sexual role, the local regulation from the community). In addition, understanding to the function of life mutual aid system in the local community, the transformation of Japanese agricultural system, combining to continue home nursing care and agriculture, precondition and related factors of combination work (the function of family, agricultural working features, the present situation of elderly class and the current caretakers’ level). We actually found that the meaning of combination work and female famers’ behaviors to the present social condition.

**Consideration :** Home nursing care and agriculture are thought to be a continuation from the farm village female caregiver by finding the meaning to satisfy the combination of home nursing care and agriculture in the method of independence and against the reality.

**Key words:** Extremely Depolpulated Agricultutal Community,  
Female Farmer, Agriculture, Elderly, in Long-Term Care Need,  
Ethnography

## Introduction :

In a local community and area in Japan, which is called “Inaka” in Japanese word, still now a part of life-style before 1960s has been remained. Therefore, people’s conscious to support their old parents are considered quite high comparing to other urban area. And supporting old elderlys is common sence in local areas. this study tries to clarify the cultrual background of this support of elderlys.

Welfare is a part of daily routine for local residents, and it is a standard to build their life. In fact, the conscious to welfare and conscious to life relate each other. Our study need to research a cultural background of a farm village and local residents' conscious of life and welfare, and the regional characteristics toward study objects.

It is easily expected that studying social problems of welfare from a regional view, at the same time, will solve a social problem regarding welfare in urban area. In addition, assuming that both agricultural work and welfare support for elderly could be combined without serious problems, and one of the factors is considered horizontal connection in the community. Therefore, it is possible to discuss that these horizontal connection is required in urban areas and the communities.

## **Study Methodology**

### **1. The Study Design : Ethnographic Approach**

There is "Individualism" on the nursing sensorium. In this study, this individualism is not seen from researcher's framework of concept, the common sense is extracted as caregiver's sensorium in the extremely depopulated agricultural community, and the shape of "Qualitative Study" that starts investigating a regional and cultural factors.

This study investigated a particular group which was caregivers in agricultural community in local area, not only interview method but also conducted to participate into their daily life for observation.

This methodology clarifies the appearance of the race and the group by analyzing the detail that is called an ethnography approach (Ethnographic Approach/ Ethnographic Methods). The end of goal for the ethnography described the culture, and information was collected in the interaction (Hammersley 1995) and the subjects and great energy was required compared with across-the-board field work of (Streubert 1995) researcher's requiring in (Sprandley 1979) and the research area. Table 2 indicates the division of marginal village (synonym to depopulated area).

### **2. Investigation Area for Research and Methodology**

#### **1) Study Period in the Extremely Depopulated Agricultural Community**

The study period was October, 2013 - April, 2014. The researchers visited to the field for the confirmation of the analytical result in January. There were approximately 2m deep snow and the natural environment made investigation difficult. Four large-scale dams are

held as a jar for life water for the metropolitan area in the local area in the source basin in Tonegawa River. Only 450 residents lives in N Village, A prefecture N village in 390Km<sup>2</sup> in the land.

It is a small village that consists of elementary and junior high schools which has the total of 24 students in 2012, and the rate of aging reaches 42% very high. A new kindergartener became zero in this year so that it was already closed in necessity. It is covered with the snow of 2m or more in Great Kanto Area, famous for heavy snowfall area in winter season.

It is a severe inconvenient land for the elderly who doesn't have a motor vehicle as for shopping in winter. It is exactly a region completely isolated from other districts. The mean air temperature was the same as Hokkaido.

As for researchers, We visited to various place and facilities to understand the characteristics of villege for the first step. In addition, we conducted to interview to caretaker at home, and we asked to observe the skills of caretakers and their methods for communication. as long as we could. During the interview, we also described the subjects: body language, expression, scilence, and opinion of reseachers.

We participated to regional activities such as health promotion by public nurses in each community halls and recorded the details of content of activities. We used a study dialy for record to write down research content and feelings of reseachers and so on.

## **2) Content of Interview**

### **(1) Basic Information from the Main Information Providers**

Our subjects for Inteview were that main caregivers, who took care of bedridden elderlys and elderlys suffering from dimentia, and continue to work for agriculutre.

There were 10 elderly people who were bedridden and registered elderlies at the time of the start of the investigation. In those elderly, one person was in hospital, two other elderly were in a welfare facility because of caregivers' accidents. Therefore, We could interview with caregivers of other 7 bedridden elderly, 14 caregivers from health nurse information, who work for agriculture and experienced caregiving in past 3 years. A present memory doesn't necessarily reflect the past experience.

### **(2) Information from Former Caregivers and Basic Information from the Other Provider**

Selection of the former caregivers as the subjects was conducted to focus their cared elderly died recently within three years, the information was also provided from the community health nurses and home helpers in those area.

There is no accurate difference about information between present caregivers and former caregivers from the interview and the process of the data collection and the analysis.

The subject was intentionally selected considering the difference of the attribute like the age, the principal occupation and externals by the process of advancing the data collection and the analysis.

On the other hand, to obtain wide-ranging information on the characteristic of the village to supplement and to affirm the perception and the idea of the caregivers who was the main intelligencer, we interviewed to other resource for collecting beneficial information.

those were all the health service welfare affiliates, cared elderly in the interview, the caregivers' families in the village, nursing professionals such as the health nurses and the home helpers.

Ages range of 13 caregivers and 14 former caregivers from 42 years old and 80 years old median 63 (62.2 on the average) year. Relationship with cared elderly was that 23 daughters in law, 1 daughter (adopted daughter) and 3 wives.

Describing the job of caregivers; 21 people were fulltime farmers, 1 person was self-business, 5 people were outside workers, and these 6 people were the part-time farm households, and it engaged in agriculture on holiday etc. The age range of 31 cared elderly were between 72 years old and 99 years old, the median 90 (89.2 on the average) year (age when dying when having already died) and relationships with caregivers were the caregiver; 9 fathers-in-law, 17 mother-in-law it, 1 mother it, 1 father, and 3 husbands.

### **(3) Nursing period and other information, etc.**

The nursing period was in the range of eight years from two months. 4 people were semi-bedridden, and bedridden were 27 people, and the symptom of the dementia was seen by 13 people sooner or later. The diaper use was 20 people, and 4 people were the needed helps by the rest room use. 3 people using the portable potty and 8 people were help necessary in the excretion situation

### **3) The staged process and the content of the ethno graphy were shown in the front cover.**

**Table 1. Staged process and content of ethno graphy**

<p>① <b>Initial stage</b></p>	<p>At the intial stage, we actually do not understand meaning of local culture so that further information should be required at this moment. We visited to various place and facilities in the village and described the characteristics of scenery. When we interviewed to caretakers, they answered that supporting elderlys is our duty and this is a regional custom. We recorded and described the specific information in a study dialy.</p>
<p>② <b>Constitutional unit stage made word and sentences</b></p>	<p>The word and sentences (constitutional unit) that compose the meaning and the category of the category are made clearer. Structural and the specific question were done. For instance, "Do you think that it was natural to support husband's parents?" and word "Naturally" were responded by most of caregivers. It was thought that it was brought together as this.. category "Desire ..the nursing of the elderly..", and clarified the constitutional unit included in this category.</p>
<p>③ <b>Stage where the relationship between categories and the meaning are clarified</b></p>	<p>Sentences that showed the relationship of the category were presented, and the opinion of it was requested. For instance, "Is it because of regulations (The category: gender roll standard) that thinking that it was natural that the bride looked after her mother-in-law (The category: It was natural to nurse parents) was what the bride did for a long time?" etc. were asked, the relationship of two or more categories was presented, and the opinion was requested. All caregivers were requested opinions about nursing. For instance, one of them answered that nursing care for our elderlys is duty but sometimes I feel depression. Working for agriculture, my feelings recover from depression. Both agricultural work and nursing care are well combined in daily life.</p>
<p>④ <b>Supplement stage, participant observation, and log</b></p>	<p>As for the appearance of the friendship activity of people in the health education by the health service master opened in the public hall in each village and each village, it is the whole of "Gathering meetings" and A prefectures commonweal rally. The focus was applied to the activity of the farm village woman of a caregiver and the same generation in the place in the field the processing of agricultural products place of the health service guiding committee regular meeting and the special product finished goods manufacturing industry and in labour for farmings etc. and it observed it. Logs are four modalities. It is a mention lingua in the detail as for the content of the participant observation lingua. fieldwork recordsThe part that seems to be necessary in the document and the material etc. of the village it is made sentences and the mention lingua. The interview log was made an Fukushima collection of personal phrases. It takes notes, and after it interviews it, not being possible to record is a log lingua in the detail of the content of the interview in situ according to the word of the subject.</p>

### **Ethical consideration**

It explained the personal name was not put out at the dissemination of the research purpose and research results in the interview subject, and the permission of the recording was obtained. Moreover, it was avoided to reject no answer, to enforce the answer to the subject before the question, and to secured a secret content.

Participating to the activities by the specific people such as adult daycares and "Gathering

Meetings" , when participation was observed, it easily explained author's position and research purpose before it observed , and the agreement to the investigation was obtained. When taking a picture of subjects, permission was obtained. Moreover, the research agreement was obtained. In the ethnography, it interviews various people, and the participant observation etc. are done in various places. It was necessary to exist about the person also who was it an investigation collaborator and the main intelligencer the offer of basic information on the village and the family nursing, etc.

In addition in the acceptance of such an investigation and the region, after it was percussed to the health nurses of A prefecture N village charge to suit the definition of the excess sparsity farm village on the confirmation according to the chance with the author, and obtained the confirmation of village chief's license, the written request book on the investigation was fil.

It requested in the subject and the health service master was requested to obtain the confirmation of the license of the interview by telephone. The author when the confirmation is obtained reports, it explains the research purpose and the content of the interview, and the decision lingua of the slaughter house place of the date of the interview. When there was an introduction of the person whom was able to be investigated from the caregiver and the resident, the explanation of the outline of the interview to the subject was requested from those who introduced it, the author reported later, and it won consent. It explains the purpose of the research in situ, it wins consent, and interviewing it is an implementation lingua of the interview reserve the scene of the participant observation it and without existing.

**Table 2. Marginal Village : Synonym with Depopulated Area**

Title	Definition	Content
Continuing village	Less than 55 years old or population proportion 50% or more	It secures the successor, and there is a function about the community.
Semi-marginal village	55 years old or more and population proportion 50% or more	The successor securing is difficult, and the functional maintenance of the community.
Marginal village (depopulated area)	65 years old or more and population proportion 50% or more	The functional maintenance of the community is a threshold willingly by the advanced age.
Super-marginal Vllage (extreamly depopulated area)	Especially, definition none	It shifts to the extinction village exceeding the state of the marginal settlement.
Extinction village	Population 0	It is ground in a no living in complete. The village is extinction.

Reference: (Yoshihiko Aikawa 1991)

## Research results

1. Additionally, it is basic information the above-mentioned of a content and the main information to interview.

All constitutional units that had been obtained from capture information were about 2,000. It is time when a provisional category of the initial stage based on nine semantic relation by above-mentioned. Sprandley was most and 165 was counted. It went up to the stage judged to be impossible to do integration repeating the category internal structurizing and the integration between categories any further though the abstraction level was improved. The category of 15 was extracted, and the theme was derived by thinking about the relationship of the category as a result. The constitutional unit of the category, and it is a category concerning the meaning that continues for the final farm village woman nursing and agriculture and the method and decision the reexamination of the relationship between categories around the theme as for the theme. The farm village woman searched before the extraction of the theme, and continuing put the region and cultural context continuation was able to be done why why in view and searched for nursing and agriculture. To compose the framework when the theme and the category were described, a rough classification (inside back cover and Figure 1) that showed a large category of the category of 15 was done based on the relationship between the theme and the category. Indicated in table 3 and figure 1, considreing with 15 categories, theme was led that caregivers in farm village had to act to solve problems. Explanation is as follows.

1. Nursing care and agricultural work are mandatry for women in agricultural village.

It was undarstood that local residents answered that nursing support for elderlys is duty, so that it is deeply internalized activities. in addition, the reason why local residents choose to work in agriculture, one of the resons is financial. They are owners of farm land and it is transfered responsibility from the ancestors and originally, the property always had helped people to produce wealth. Caretakers in agricultural work desire to produce food in daily life by themselves. That is pleasure to work for agriculture and share their products with their children or relatives in period of cultivation.

2. The factors that nursing cate is mandatry for caretakers in local community.

In the marginal village, “not working” is internalized a negative assesment among local residents. Especially, “nursing support for old parents” is a positive aspect and recognized



among married women.

### 3. Methods to combine nursing care and agricultural work.

Both nursing care for elderly and farming is naturally combined in the lifestyle.

The most of caretakers told that they provide nursing care to elderly with doing cooking, cleaning, daily working, and so on. It is important that both caretakers and elderly understand to make lifetime during agricultural work.

### 4. Precondition and related factors for combination.

It is related to affect each other that the function of family, condition of occupation, condition of elderly, and nursing ability of caretakers.

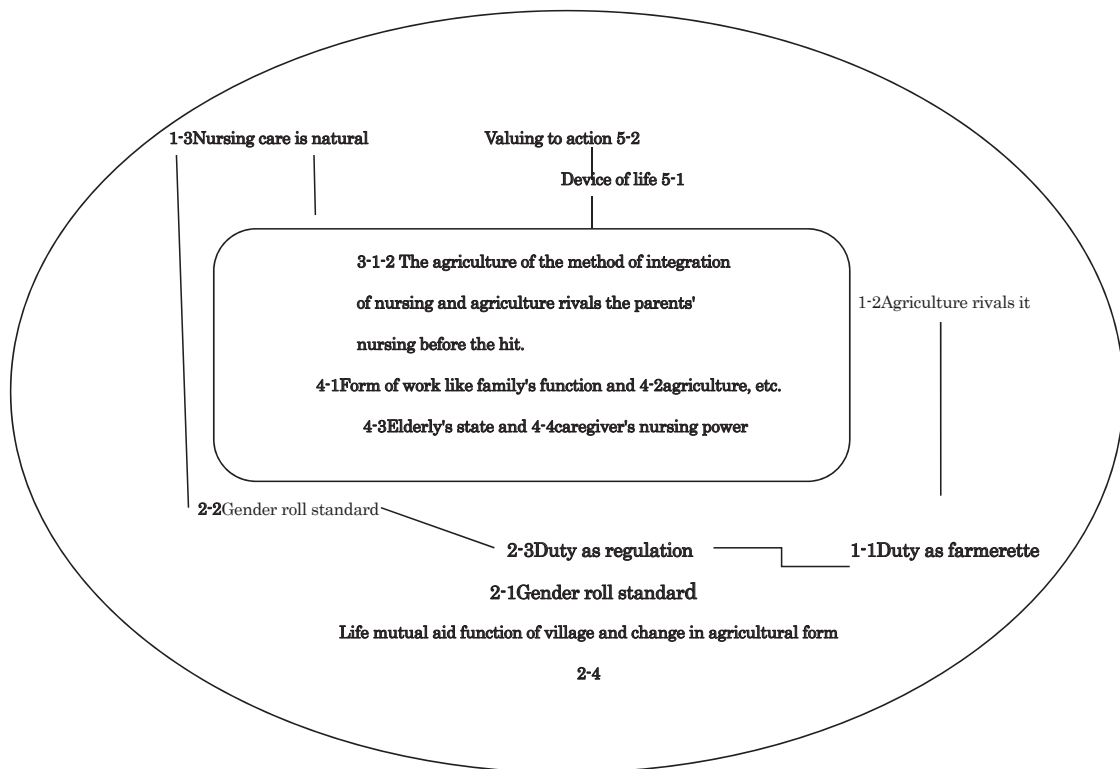
### 5. Meaning of the method of combination.

Considering to real life condition and reviewing to arrange behaviors, it is possible to maintain to continue nursing care and agricultural work.

**Table 3. It is a continuing meaning, a theme concerning the method, and category as for farm village woman's nursing and agriculture.**

**Theme: Definition in action that cannot help being done to actually deal**

	<b>Category</b>	<b>Large category (concept of epistatic)</b>
1	1. Duty as farmerette 2. Agriculture rivals it. 3. Nursing care is natural.	The farm village woman should make nursing and agriculture natural.
2	1. Labor value giving 2. Gender roll standard 3. Regulation from village group 4. Life mutual aid function of village and change in agricultural form	Factor of village where reality that cannot help being done is produced
3	1. Method of integration of nursing and agriculture 2. Method to continue nursing care and agricultural work	It is a method of integration of nursing and agriculture as the continuation method as for nursing and agriculture.
4	1. Family's function 2. Form of work of agriculture 3. Elderly's state 4. Caregiver's nursing power	Prerequisite and related factor of method of integration
5	1. Device of life 2. Valuing to done action	The one that it means method of integration



**Figure 1. Definition in action that cannot help being done to actually deal**  
**It is a graphic display concerning the continuation meaning and the method between the**  
**theme and the category as for farm village woman's nursing and agriculture.**

## Consideration

In the present study, having tried to pay attention to farm village caregiver's nursing sensorium, and to search for the reality said, "The supporting sensorium of old parents is high in the country" from the locality and the cultural context are the present studies.

"Nursing" joins at the time that in the core part when arranging it from the entire structural outline general "Life", and exists there. This nursing care would be at first different for life till then for the family or the caregiver and be one that was called "Raider". However, life can be incorporated nursing in life with the time passage, do new connected as a whole in spite of transform life, and it go. You may think that the one that is called various issue of the familys and the nursing problems that occur in the needing care family is a problem of this "Integration", and the problem in the resulting life. In the "Integration", it is thought that the family's everyday consciousness has already borne the key role.

It is understood to produce the everyday consciousness to cover this region with a cultural factor "Parents' nursing care is supported" with "Regulation from the village

group" concretely, and to affect the nursing sensorium at the same time. It can be said that this sensorium is a mental culture of the excess sparsity farm village that is the object ground in the present study if it is said that it is being lost from urban people in general, and it is so. If another perception is done, it can be said that it is a culture to which the connection of "Width" of N village gives birth. It is < gender roll standard > to make this a base, and to stand out because of caregiver's sensorium to the needing care elderly, in a word, "horizon", and is a fact concretely accepted partially of the role of the bride and the woman "Nursing care as a bride is natural" without the sense of incompatibility like it.

However, it doesn't consist of a cultural standard and the gender roll standard, life is supported, and coexisting of agriculture and the nursing that becomes the nucleus is needed for the actual life. Agriculture supports longtime life, and an affirmative remark is seen from the lapse to be familiar with it by this continuation. On the other hand, it is possible to visit finding value (labor value giving) of coexisting with nursing the continuation of both. It agriculture is understood to accept as "Agriculture and nursing" asset the continuation only not valuing. This might not stay in making nursing an object and the admission of the value agriculture, < definition of the action that cannot help being done to actually deal > produce practices of agriculture and nursing, and the reality of doing so to speak in the positive stance be produced assuming that it is significant. When it undertakes a nursing practice of every day, a scheduled labour for farming and necessary nursing are aimed at and coexisting in the daily time budget during a day that is looked and managed as the labor quantity is aimed at. It is called, "Integration strategy" in the present study and is developed the one that is called "Device" generally. Even "Liquidation of feelings" in addition to a series of agriculture, nursing of the start from "Estimate of time and the workload", and the device is included.

In the ethno graphy concerning the female caregiver in research object ground Nvillage, a regional, in described up to now cultural backdrop factor has come to the surface. However, it is doubtless that agriculture is excessive labor, and coexisting with nursing enlarges the burden further. On the other hand, "Regulation from the village group" and "Gender roll standard" might work on the other hand as an element that enforces the family and the female nursing so to speak though the above-mentioned adjustment Noshi person is done, low degree availability of welfare service Tona show up, and even consciousness Hanai of the caregiver be also true. the woman the direct aggrieved party. When the mutual help action (Compared with the urban area) by the community spirit was rich, it is in the farm village. It is a reality in the activity as the reciprocal help like nursing it not is so in N

village though various "Gather" as the remnant is seen. The welfare service is not used, it begins to make the situation that supplementary informal service is scarce, and nursing will bring the consequence of most being enclosed in the intrafamily. It acts as double-edged.

They are made to unite agriculture and nursing it can be said that it will act as double-edged so to speak for the culture of N village in the backdrop Ona lingua super-farm village depopulation area to enlarge family and caregiver's burdens further by enclosing it in the home of nursing though it lives valuing it every day. All lose, and as for nursing care for elderly people, needs are not filled with the nursing care on sickness insurance service, and the family nursing will not lose the necessity consistently in the future even though there is a health coverage system. Aruka is very a big problem. Kao request and "Nursing sensorium" very opposite to the nursing problem at any time the familyThe present study shows that the locality and the culture lie as a backdrop there. On the other hand family nursing problem close family mind and body burden extremely few state target bird clapper nursing care on sickness insurance service excluding family allot part how much region burden grow dark take. It is necessary to make the caregiver unite the use of social service to the nursing sensorium of which the asset is positively nursing at the same time, and to appeal by the formulation of the structure that matches and supports it for the region again though it is related as the locality and the culture. Because man is alive there, it is possible to visit the current state of continuing nursing majestically even though the excess sparsity rural area.

### **To the end**

Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications announced the estimate of the population of the elderly of Japan (As at 15 in September, 2014) according to "Respect-for-the-Aged Day" on the 15th as of 15 days September, 2014. 65-year-old or more elderly became 25.9% the proportion that occupied it to the total population with 111 32.96 million person proportion [manzou] in the previous year, and updated the height both in the past. In each age, 75 years old or more is 15.9 million people. It turned eight people and the clearer turned 75 years old or more for the first time. It will be expected that it exceeds it only by 80-year-old or more elderly below the mark of 10 million people next year.

It was an analytical method this time intended for the group and the culture of the

excess sparsity farm village in N village. Nursing that life is accompanied will obviously continue nursing in the future though it changes the form. It is in the place where the threshold in the present study cannot also inevitably generalize the consequence. It is not the one to decrease value that deeply digs a specific group and the culture down though this is a threshold that the methodology brings.

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