

The impact of disaster on family and care: Focusing on Long Term Effect of the Great East Earthquake

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Research questions

What is the relationship between social vulnerability and resilience?

How vulnerabilities affect the reconstruction phase following the disaster?

Definition of vulnerability and households

- The “characteristics of a person or group in terms of their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from impacts of a hazard” (Blaikie, Cannon et al. 2004: 11).
- Vulnerable groups find it more difficult to return to normal life following disaster.
- In order to explore the social and economic effect of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the tsunami on family:
Female-headed, old-aged and sole-person households

Survey objectives

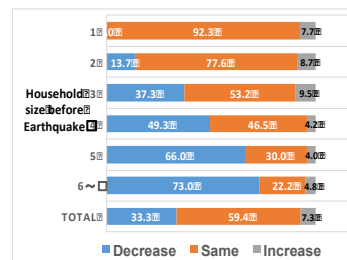
- Survey of Living Conditions Iwaki 2013 (SLCI 2013)*
- To examine the relationship between social vulnerability and the process of rebuilding lives following the Great East Japan Earthquake and the tsunami
- To identify the differences in disaster vulnerability amongst women and men; the elderly and non-elderly; disabled and non-disabled persons
- To contribute to the policy-making about the reconstruction of people’s lives after the Earthquake and reconsider social policy from the point of view of vulnerability of disaster

*This survey was conducted by Yo Tsuchiya, Iguchi Takashi, Rie Iwanaga, Yuko Tamiya, Masato Shikata and Soichiro Tanaka.

Methodology of survey: Survey of Living Conditions Iwaki 2013 (SLCI 2013)

- Iwaki: in the southern part of the coastal region of Fukushima Prefecture
- Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies were used under this survey
- The survey was conducted two and a half years after the Earthquake
- The sample of quantitative survey:
 - All households living in emergency rented temporary housings in Iwaki
 - Posting the questionnaires, and ask them to fill in the questionnaires and send them back
 - The response rate was 21.9% (586/2,678 households)
- The follow up interviews:
 - In-person interviews with 12 persons who were the responders of the first quantitative survey

Change in Household size after the Earthquake



Household composition

	Number	%
Lone mothers with children aged under 19	20	3.4
Others with children aged under 19	108	18.4
Single householders aged 65 and older (Female)	52	8.9
Single householders aged 65 and older (Male)	29	4.9
Married couples aged 65 and older	93	15.9
Other householders with aged 65 and older	128	21.8
Single householders aged under 65 (Female)	31	5.3
Single householders aged under 65 (Male)	44	7.5
Others under 65 without children (except single householders)	81	13.8
Total	586	100.0

Households with children

Households with children aged under 19	128
Lone mothers	20
% lone mothers	15.6
% lone parents (national average)*	7.5

*MHLW, 2013, *Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions*.

Home ownership and renting

	Owned	Rented	Company dormitory/Resident employee	Others
Households with children under 19				
Lone mothers	25%	65%		
Others	78%			21%
Households with 65+				
Single householders (Female)	73%		22%	2%
Single householders (Male)	64%		29%	7%
Married couples	82%			17%
Others	87%			13%
Single householders under 65 (Female)	48%		48%	3%
Single householders under 65 (Male)	61%		34%	5%
Other householders	72%		24%	1%
Total	74%		23%	1%

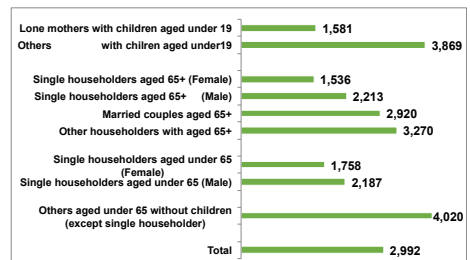
Employment status by gender, household types

Women				Men			
Lone mothers with children	30.0%	50.0%	5.0%	15.0%	100.0%		
Women with children (except lone-mothers)	15.0%	38.0%	4.0%	43.0%	66.7%	11.1%	13.1%
Single women under 65 without children	20.0%	33.3%	10.0%	36.7%	37.5%	15.0%	12.5%
Women under 65 without children (except single householder)	25.8%	30.6%	8.1%	35.5%	47.7%	20.0%	21.5%
Standard employee	Non-standard employee	Self employed	Unemployed	Standard employee	Non-standard employee	Self employed	Unemployed

Employment status before/after the Earthquake

	Before Earthquake (%)	After Earthquake					Total
		Same job	Change job	Unpaid leave	Unemployed: Want a job	Unemployed: Don't want a job	
Lone mothers	Employed	71	18	12	0	14	100
	Unemployed: Want a job	0	33	0	33	33	100
	Unemployed: Don't want a job	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	60	20	10	5	5	100
Married mothers	Employed	53	22	2	9	14	100
	Unemployed: Want a job	0	0	0	100	0	100
	Unemployed: Don't want a job	0	19	0	8	73	100
	Total	37	20	1	12	30	100
Married fathers	Employed	73	17	2	6	2	100
	Unemployed: Want a job	0	50	50	0	0	100
	Unemployed: Don't want a job	0	0	0	20	80	100
	Total	68	16	3	6	6	100

Mean household annual income (Thousand Yen)



Changes in care needs after the Earthquake

	More care	No change	Less care
Households who live with a person in need of care(N=81)	68%	32%	0%
Families who have members in need of institutional care (Living separately) (N=31)	58%	39%	3%
Families who have family members in need of care (nor living with and in an institution)(N=22)	55%	41%	5%
Total(N=134)	63%	35%	1%

Sole person households aged under 65

Men

- Almost half were never-married
- High employment rate: 35%
- Low income: 73% of the average
- Receiving public pensions:17%
- Having a disability certificate: 15%
- Weak kin networks: Having the lowest percentage, 34%, of relying on family during evacuation

Women

- Only one in 5 were never-married but almost half were widowed
- High employment rate: 37%
- Low income: 59% of the average
- Receiving public pensions:32%
- Having a disability certificate: 7%
- Good relation with relatives: A majority of single women, 61%, relied on family during evacuation

Recipients of donations for relief* (%)

Lone mothers with children aged under 19	90
Others with children aged under 19	79
Single householders aged 65 and older (Female)	69
Single householders aged 65 and older (Male)	61
Married couples aged 65 and older	74
Other householders with aged 65 and older	68
Single householders aged under 65 (Female)	61
Single householders aged under 65 (Male)	76
Others under 65 without children (except single householders)	73
Total	72

*Donations collected by the Japanese Red Cross Society distributed to people affected by the quake and tsunami via the Grant Disbursement Committees in 15 affected prefectures.

Recipients of private insurance payment* (%)

Lone mothers with children aged under 19	0.0
Others with children aged under 19	23.4
Single householders aged 65 and older (Female)	25.0
Single householders aged 65 and older (Male)	25.0
Married couples aged 65 and older	27.2
Other householders with aged 65 and older	29.3
Single householders aged under 65 (Female)	25.8
Single householders aged under 65 (Male)	26.2
Others under 65 without children (except single householders)	35.0
Total	26.6

*Including earthquake insurance, life insurance, property and casualty insurance.

Main findings and policy implications: Housing

- The elderly : difficult to rebuild own home even though they owned home before the quake.
 - The large proportion of lone mother households was observed. Only one in 4 lone mothers owned home before the disaster, therefore
 - The emergency rented temporary housings did not fit to the nonnuclear extended families lead family to live separately.
- It is crucial to **provide affordable and commutable rented flats**.
- Local government has not only support rebuilding or maintenance owned home but also to **encourage rented housing policy**

Main findings and policy implications: Information/ Accessibility

- The elderly : Information gap / Access barriers on receiving disaster relief
- To bridge the information gap / Removing barriers
- Lone mothers = Working-poor
- Creating a systems to facilitate the transition of low-paid jobs to higher-skilled and higher-wage jobs might be required.
- Lone mothers could not afford to prepare private insurance before disaster.
- To improve the disaster preparedness for low income households
- Married mothers left the labour force after disaster→Women tend to do more care work at the expense of paid-work.
- Providing care support is the crucial issue for women.
- To focus on vulnerability of non-elderly sole-person households