

“Underflow Desires”

– Based on episodes at an elderly day care facility –

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The purpose of this study is to examine the desires of older people. We believe that this study can contribute to preventing the biased views of the elderly and that it can help develop advocacy for elderly rights.

This study was conducted at an elderly day care facility. The author held informal interviews with the elderly staying at this facility, and data and information was recorded based on daily behavior and on conversations with the author.

At the care facility, there are flows and expectations that caregivers hope instill feelings of positivity in those staying at the facility. On the other hand, facility guests sometimes take a passive attitude so as to deviate from such expectations. Through this research, the author felt that the desires of facility guests might be reflected in their passive behavior; however, such flows and expectations still exist at this elderly day care facility. Therefore, it was difficult to learn about desires when they are layered behind a passive attitude. The author named such desires “underflow desires.”

The results suggest the necessity of considering “underflow desires” against the backdrop of overall human services. This may lead to enhanced advocacy for elderly people such that society may be able to see them in a new light.