

The Search for Regional Characteristics in an Area with Low Suicide Rates Kaifu in Tokushima Prefecture.

—Results of participant observation and interviews—

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Key words: suicide, suicide-prevention factors, area with low suicide rates

Abstract

This paper is an investigation of suicide prevention factors. Previous studies suggest that there are five suicide prevention factors in the lowest suicide rate area compared with a high suicide rate area. (1)loose social bonds,(2)a low sense of clanish loyalties ,(3)less resistance to help seeking,(4)the assessment of other persons on the basis of character, and(5)positive political participation. In addition those studies suggest that there are other features to be seen, so this study investigates those features. Data are based on participant observation and unstructured interviews conducted in lowest suicide rate area Kaifu in Tokushima prefecture, Japan. The results of this research reveal that there are ten characteristics in lowest suicide rate area. (1)assertiveness, (2)consideration, (3)helpful, (4)trial and error with all, (5)each person has a role, (6)many relationships, (7)value the substance more than the form, (8)unwary of strangers, (9)living environment, (10)values religion and ancestors. The results suggest that these characteristics are for forging social capital, and each having a role and communication are important for the prevention of suicide.