

# A *Kan'non-do* for Women

– The connection of *sen-okuri* –

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The purpose of this study is to discover the ideas and structures surrounding child care in a particular town by researching a Japanese *kan'non-do* (a small temple of the “Goddess of Mercy”).

In the subject town, the author was born, grew up, became a teacher, and raised children. Through proceeding with research for child care support, the author found a local *kan'non-do* that was built a long time ago. At this *kan'non-do*, six women who have lived in the town for 70 to 90 years enjoy making crafts, chatting, and drinking tea. The author interviewed the women at this *kan'non-do*.

The author discovered that a good base for developing people is the scenery, history, and culture of the town in which they live. For example, the meaning of the Japanese word, *sen-okuri* (“receiving and passing”), was related by the subject women. This word relates the meaning that people grow up watching the behavior of their parents or of the previous generation. The author concludes that people who are raising children need a place like a *kan'non-do*. In such a place, people can share their feelings with each other, along with their rich backgrounds and ideas, in the community, and can obtain helpful information for raising children. In order to support child care in the subject town, such a place needs to be created, as a base for local residents.