

Settlement Support to New Comers in Depopulation Area

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1. Objective and Method

The purpose of this study is to investigate actual conditions of new comers and clarify the support they need. We studied settlement support projects in Shimane Prefecture to discover the role of new comers and settlement issues to be solved.

2. Outline of the Results

Shimane prefecture had 364 new comers from 1996 to 2003 through settlement-support projects (*Sangyo Taiken Jigyo*), which subsidizes new comers for one year. The subsidy includes a family allowance, housing assistance and job search. Thus, we can see that the settlement support of local governments is characterized by overall support.

To solve the depopulation problems, Ouchi Town (the name was changed from Ouchi to

Misato in Oct. 2004) has not only undertaken the projects mentioned above, but also offered concrete information on housing and jobs. The result of the settlement support project was that new comers are seventy percent of migration from 1996 to 2003 in Ouchi. New comers in Ouchi contribute something to community and cultural activities by making good use of their abilities (Fig.1). New comers, however, have few employment opportunities in Ouchi, where companies are unfavorably located. It is necessary for new comers to take steady jobs in large urban areas.

3. Related Publications

Egawa, A., Ono, T., Suzumura, G., Watanabe, T., Hashizume, N. (2005) *Settlement Support by Local Government and Conditions of Newcomers, Research paper of Life Style Project 2* (PRIMAFF).

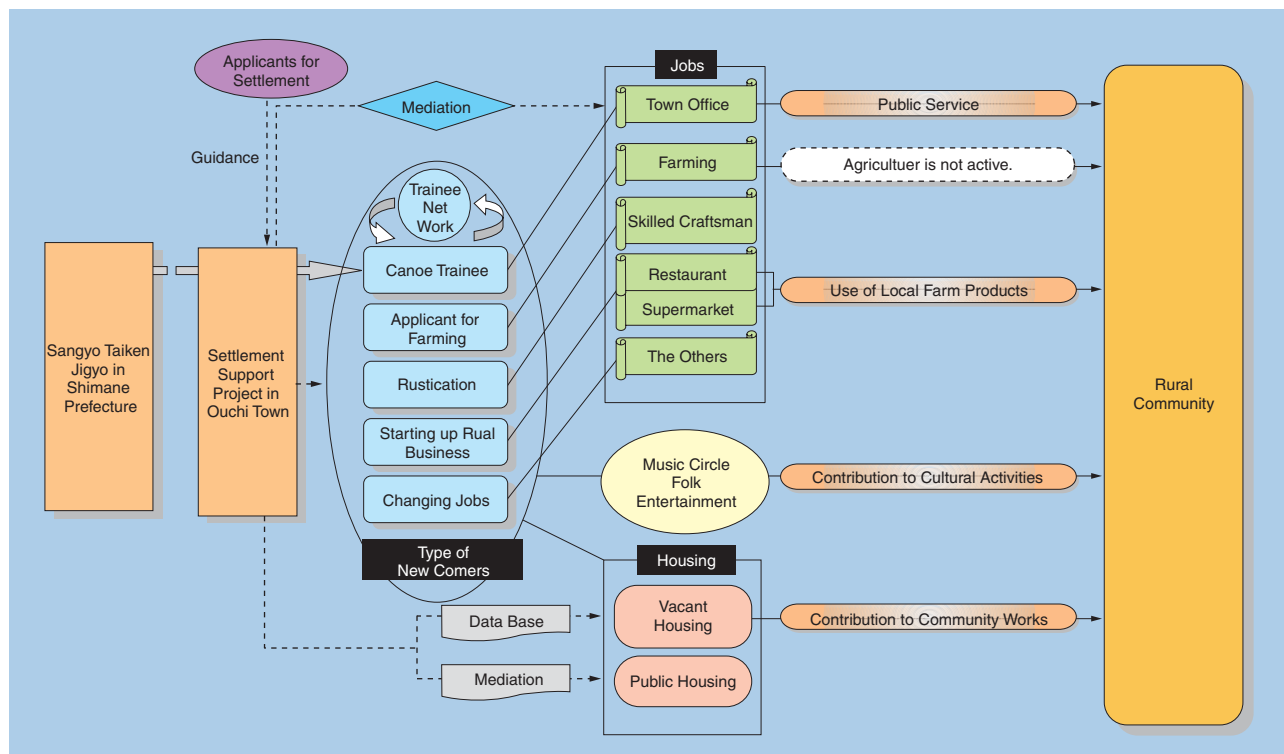


Fig. 1. Relation between New Comers and Rural Community in Ouchi Town