How Did Japanese Social Policies Effect on Well-being for Older Persons?

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Well-being in the Demographic Transition

• Japan has exhausted the demographic bonus. And Japan should endure the demographic onus over a long time.
• Japanese government is challenging to reform the whole support system for older persons because of its social expenditures.
• In a decade from 2000 to 2010, how did Japanese social policies effect on the well-being for older persons?
Demographic Bonus & Onus

Demographic Bonus
Demographic Onus

Dependency Ratio
Child Age Dependency Ratio
Old Age Dependency Ratio

Statistic Bureau, “Census Data”,
& National Institute of Population and Social Security Research
Age Population Change in Japan
2000-2010

Statistic Bureau, “Census Data”,
& National Institute of Population and Social Security Research
## Aged Society Basic Law in Japan

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- 2000 Long-term Care Insurance System.
- 2005 Long-term Care Reform.
- 2006 Barrier Free Act.
- 2007 Healthy Japan 21.
- 2008 Medical Care System for the Older Old. Reform of Long-term Care & Social Welfare Service for the Elderly.
- 2011 Assisted Living
- 2012 Comprehensive Reform of Social Security & Tax
Methodology

• **Target:**
  Cohort of 50+ years old in 2000

• **Social Policies:**
  Activation for 60+ persons to be Employed
  Long-term Care for 65+ persons
  Enhancing Social Participation for 60+ persons

• **Indices of Well-being:**
  Healthier, Workability, Time Usability, Satisfaction, Worry/Anxiety and Integrity

• **Evaluation:**
  Cohort Analysis
Effect of the policy for advancing continuous employment of older persons

Satisfaction of Income

Surviving Rate

Statistic Bureau, “Census Data”, 1990, 2000 & 2010
Healthy Surviving Rate

All-Japan Federation of National Health Insurance Organizations
Care-needed Rate

65-69 in 2001: 2.3\% in 2001, 2.2\% in 2011

70-74 in 2001: 5.2\% in 2001, 10.6\% in 2011

All-Japan Federation of National Health Insurance Organizations
Worry/Anxiety about Latter Life & Health

Volunteerism Rate

Integrity (Fullness Sense of Life)

Conclusion

- Continuous Employment Policies mitigated a little bit of the decline for the male boomer-generation during 2000-2010. Then, they are satisfied about their income much more than their antecedent generation. However, the female boomer-generation are lesser satisfied than their antecedent generation.

• Volunteerism of 60-64 was promoted a little bit for the young old.

• However, it cannot maintain the involvement level of their antecedents.
• Nevertheless, they do not worry about their latter life.
• Also, they are enhancing the fullness sense of life in a decade.
• Therefore, it can be said that the well-being of Japanese older persons is reaching at the saturation point now.
• The fullness sense of life of 60s is enhanced during 2000 - 2010.
• Therefore, it can be said that the well-being of Japanese older persons is reaching at the saturation point now.
Comment

• Rather, the government should focus on the working younger generations, which are enduring their unstable life. It is a reason why The General Principles Concerning Measures for the Aging Society in 2012 added one more basic measure as the constructing infrastructure for all generation to be included.