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ABSTRACT 145

New Trends of Elderly People in Japan

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The percentage of the age of 65 and over in Japan exceeded 23 percent in 2010 and it is the highest in the world. The longevity, too, is the highest and, in particular, that of females has been in the first place since 26 years ago. The baby boomers called "Dankai-sedai" in Japanese, who were born after the World War II, will pass over 65 years old within 3 years.

The longevity of males in 1947 is 50.09 years and that of females is 53.96; that of males is 79.64 and females is 86.39 in 2010. Since Japanese longevity prolonged about 30 years, people have obtained about 1.6 times longer life in six decades.

This paper discusses the coming "New-elder generation". They are quite different from the traditional elderly people. They are socially active, physically healthy, and quite independent financially as well as psychologically. In order to explicate the new trends, living arrangements, social activities, financial situations, and the way of long-term cares are investigated.

The percentage of living with children's family decreased as social changes. It has been dropped from 80 percent in 1970 to 44 percent in 2008. In 2008, pension payments consist of 85 percent of monthly expenditures. The majority of the baby boomer does not want to be taken care of by their children and would rather wish to have public and private care services at home or move into residential care facilities when they become frail. Since the long-term care insurance started in 2000 and this generation rather has secure pensions, the New-elder generation will enjoy the healthy age of retirement and will be quite independent from their children even in their later days.