

Demographic Analysis of Population Aging in Japan

Akira ISHIKAWA

The feature of the population aging in Japan is to progress at an extremely fast speed compared with other advanced countries and to reach even the highest level in the world.

As for the population aging in Japan, 50 years would pass roughly from the beginning to now. In addition, the result of new future population projections was released recently available for this study. Then, the factor of the progress of the population aging for the period during the first totaling century of 50 years in 50 years in the past and the futures was analyzed.

In this analysis, two demographic variables, the average age of population and the proportion of population aged 65 and over, were used as an index of the population aging. The method of analysis is (1) The status of progress of the population aging in the foreign countries and the level of the birth and the death are observed, and the relation is analyzed. (2) The influence that the difference of those levels of aging exerts on the age structure change in the population is observed according to the stable population model which uses the age-specific fertility and mortality rates. (3) The influence that trends of an actual birthrate and the mortality rate, etc. exerted on the change in the population aging was analyzed by 3 methods.

As a result of analysis, the level of the birthrate changes the age structure of population directly. The age structure of population is hardly changed when the level of the average life span is about 70 years or less. However, when the average life span exceeds 70 years, it has been understood to contribute to the population aging. Many of demographers are understood that the cause of the population aging was accounted mainly due to the decrease in the birthrate, and the improvement of the mortality rate did not exert a lot of influences. Moreover, most of the future trends of the population aging have already included to the present age-structure of population, and the population aging will be influenced by the trend of the international migration.