

HOME-HELP SERVICE—Past, Present and Future

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MIKIO MORI

First, I touch on the history of home help service in Japan while comparing with that in the western powers. Japan began to carry out home help service half a century later than the western powers. This delay not only means the delay in home welfare service but shows also the difference in the stage of economic and welfare development between Japan and the western powers.

Second, I explain the present situation in home helpers, which was revealed in the investigations by the National Social Welfare Council in 1968 and by the Welfare Ministry in 1971.

Home helpers are working in 70% of all the Japanese cities, towns, and villages. Eighty percent of the home helpers are permanent employees of the cities, towns, and villages. This shows that home help service in Japan is based on the system of allowance in kind for public help. In foreign countries, however, most

of home helpers are part timers.

Third, I note prospects for home help service. I would like to point out the following four problems: 1) As for the percentage of home helpers for 100,000 population, in Japan only eight home helpers are working for 100,000 population. Meanwhile, in Sweden 800 home helpers, in Norway 400, and in Britain 100. Therefore, it is a matter of great urgency to increase home helpers in Japan; 2) In Britain, home help service is limited to household affairs. Meanwhile, in Germany it includes not only household affairs but also care of the sick. I believe that the British type of home help service is suitable to Japan, where the number of home helpers must be increased drastically; 3) It is necessary to unify various kinds of home help services; and 4) I would like to propose that Japan participate in the International Home Help Service Association.