

# LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS OF MIDDLE AND OLD AGED FAMILIES IN A LOCAL SMALL CITY

—Household—

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We made a survey in 1973 in a small city in Shizuoka Prefecture about the general conditions of middle and old aged families. This paper presents a part of the result of the survey dealing with the household conditions of these families.

## 1) Income

The main source of income of the middle and old aged families is employment. But the share of income from employment as a part of total income gets less as the age of the householder increases. In turn, the share of pension grows as the householder gets older. However, this pension in itself is inadequate for maintaining a family, especially in the case of a woman. And other incomes such as income from property and support from relatives are also trifling.

The level of income is high in the C (man and wife) type and low in the C-N (couple with married child and family) type and the M-N (mother with married child and family) type.

## 2) Expenditure

The total expenditure decreases as the householder gets older. The level of expenditure of the old is relatively high in the C type family and relatively low in the C-N and the M-N type family, reflecting the level of income as well as the size of family of each type. The proportion of food expenditure is

generally high. Men spend more for food and miscellaneous items, whereas women spend more for clothes and health-cosmetic items.

## 3) Household and life cycle

We developed three models of life cycle process from the results of our survey.

- i) couple aged 45-54 with unmarried children  
→ couple aged 55-64 with married child and family → couple aged 65-74 with married child and family
- ii) couple aged 45-54 with unmarried children  
→ couple aged 55-64 with married child and family → mother aged 65-74 with married child and family
- iii) couple aged 45-54 with unmarried children  
→ couple aged 55-64 with no children → couple aged 65-74 with no children in the same household

In each model of the family cycle process the expenditure and income becomes less in its later stages. Though it is hard to define the exact reasons for this, the iii) model families are normally better off than the rest. In order to draw more accurate conclusions we have to study the life histories of those middle and old aged families, paying good attention to the relationships between the old and their children.

## FORMS OF BENEFITS IN KIND AND THE ADMINISTERING PROCESS OF THEIR DELIVERY

—A Note on the Control and the Effect of Welfare Services—

TAKEJI TAKAZAWA

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As the range and functions of welfare administration became extended and more complex, it became more and more important to reexamine the present system of welfare services. Especially, it seems necessary for us to reexamine the workability of the method of benefits in kind, which has long been accepted without question in the field of welfare services.

With the development of social welfare in general, welfare services can no longer stay aloof from such social security controversies as universality vs. selectivity or institutional vs. residual. Though it is not being suggested here that we should choose one method over the other, we nevertheless have to define the implications of each method in the light of the beneficiary's right to receive benefits.

Benefit in kind in the field of welfare services was coupled with a sense of paternalism. However, as the problems of whether to give or not to give a particular welfare service came to be discussed openly,

and as welfare services came to be regarded as right for the recipients, and also as the idea of community care developed, the meaning of benefit in kind has gradually been changed, and has in turn led to a growing necessity to reexamine it.

When we compare the two types of benefits—benefit in kind and cash benefit—in terms of extending an element of choice to the recipients, it is apparent that benefit in kind offers less freedom. Besides, it is difficult to evaluate benefit in kind. Because evaluation of such a benefit differs according to the differing levels of administration through which the benefit is channeled before reaching the recipient, it is impossible to judge what the best benefit in kind is. Therefore, it is important to replace the present rigidity of benefit in kind by diversifying its scope, and in this amplification process opinions outside the administrative machinery should actively be sought.

## CHANGING ATTITUDE OF LABOUR AND THE GENERATION GAP

—With Special Reference to the Workers' Feelings towards  
Working Conditions in the Petrochemical Industry—

KENICHI KOBAYASHI

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From the mid 1960's the change of workers' attitude has come to attract public attention. This change of attitude seemed to occur with the entry into employment of the young workers with new ideas about work, along with the change of attitude of the incumbent workers themselves stimulated by

the change of working conditions caused by technological innovation.

In order to examine this change of attitude, we surveyed 50 cases of operators and maintainancers in the petrochemical industry which has been undergoing top level technological innovation. In order to

study the workers' change of attitude, we paid special attention to their intention or otherwise to continue to work in the same company. And in the process of analysing them, we tried to distinguish the attitudes of different generations.

When the technical innovations were first introduced, the operators' desire to stay in the same company was quite strong. But as these innovations and facilities became no longer new, and as the young workers with new ideas joined them, this positive desire of the operators more or less faded. This change of attitude of the operators is very much related to general complaints they have about their working conditions. To some extent this discontent is alleviated by the improvement in material and specific conditions, not directly connected to the shop-floor conditions, that is to say in wages and fringe benefits.

The maintainancers' desire to stay in the same company when new facilities with new technology were installed was even stronger than that of the opera-

tors. But their desire is also weakening as their needs change with the development of their families, and they also have complaints about their working conditions. It is noteworthy that both the young and old generations of maintainancers have strong complaints about the present "seniority" system of wages.

Despite the high rate of wage increase in the 1960's, the workers' complaints about their social and welfare conditions, such as prices, environment, education, and social security have grown stronger. And this growing discontent has had a significant negative effect on the workers' hitherto positive commitment to the company.

It is important to note that the workers' complaints are not well dealt with even by the top-class management of the petrochemical industry. Here one is forced to the conclusion that the ability of modern industries to solve workers' problems is limited.

## EMPLOYEE'S INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND THEIR LIFE HISTORIES

HIROSHI ICHIKAWA

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Employees' income varies greatly according to sex, age and size of company. The study of income distribution statistics for different age groups, sex and size of company allows us many important fact findings.

The proportion of male employees of different age groups to total employees falls as age increases, and it falls sharply at the age of 55, the normal retirement age. In the case of female employees, most of them are under the age of 25, and many of those female employees over the age of 25 belong to the lowest income group.

Income differs greatly according to the size of the company to which they belong, reflecting the low wages of small and medium size companies. We could also find correlations among size of family,

employee's sex, age, company size and income. For example, other things being equal, the size of the family is larger the higher the income.

If we examine the income variation on an age group basis, we can observe how incomes change as employees grow older, reflecting the level of employees' incomes at certain period in their life histories. But it does not show how the rich become rich and the poor become poor. In order to ascertain the content of different age income statistics, we have to go a step further and examine the life histories of the employees.

Here we introduce three cases taken from the medical records of the patients in a mental hospital as examples of poor people's life history. They are: (1) the case report of a chronic alcoholic, which shows

a deterioration process typical to alcoholics; (2) the case report of a schizophrenic, his employment records showing how the sickness forced him to lose employ-

ment; (3) the case of one very unfortunate and ill-treated girl who became mentally disordered.