Research Project supported by Health Labour Sciences Research Grant Disaster Preparedness and Community Development for Persons with Disabilities

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Experiences of Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders after the Great East Japan Earthquake at Miyagi and Iwate (Asami MAEKAWA)

- •Many children with ASD didn't show any confusion and behaved as "a good boy or girl" just after that disaster, but the shortage of "places to stay","supplies","information", "the understanding of disorders and expertises" were serious obstacles for them and their family in the process of the restoration of lifeline and tormented them for a long term.
- •However, Post Traumatic Growth such as "the acceptance of self", "new awareness of their child", "bonding with others and community", "new sense of values and thanks" could be found in their parents who were able to connect with others.
- Among the supporters of them who were seen all right just after that disaster, some have shown mental and physical fatigue and burn-out in process but others haven't, who could clarify their sense of mission and find out the existence of others who accept and understand them so that they feel that they were not isolated.
- With these consequences of research, we have developed a manual and iPad application for disaster preparedness, which were evaluated in and outside of the affected areas.

Development of Educational Materials for Disaster Prevention

(Yayoi KITAMURA et.al)

Two accessible manuals, two brochures, three leaflets and an iPad application for disaster preparedness were developed and evaluated.



Participation in Community Disaster Drills by Persons with Disabilities

(Yayoi KITAMURA)

In addition to disability awareness by community residents, participation in community activities by persons with disabilities have increased after they joined the community disaster drills.





Right: Announcements were written down on a board for the deaf.

Providing Information to children and persons with autistic disabilities

(Reiko FUKATSU)

Surveys to 85 Autistic Disability Support Centers revealed

- Worries about the disaster extended all over Japan for a year, after Great East Japan Earthquake.
- Concerns about psychological supports still remained in the second year.

Disaster Preparedness in Visit Classes (Emiko IKARI)

Surveys to 500 visit classes showed their challenges on disaster preparedness.

International Awareness to Evacuation Drills by Persons with Disabilities (Hiroshi KAWAMURA and Akiko FUKUDA)

- Evacuation Drills at Urakawa, which was awarded United Nation Zero Project , have been continued for 10 years by a team of group with mental illness, local government, neighborhood agencies and researchers.
- Zurayata Project runs disaster preparedness group works and evacuation drills as a part of peer activities.





Experiences at disaster drills were presented at meetings by United Nations.

Left: Psychiatric residents at at group homes have been participated in evacuation drills to climb to altitude 10m in 4 minutes. Right: Two ventilator users at Zurayata Project.





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