

Disaster Prevention Education in Okitsu District Based on the Theory of Community of Practices

○Yingying SUN, Katsuya YAMORI, Ryoya TANISAWA

Okitsu district in Kochi Prefecture suffers high risk from tsunami (supposed to be 12 meters high in 15 minutes) which will be caused by the South Sea Earthquake in coming years estimated by experts. In order to protect residents' lives as well as to execute disaster prevention assignment from MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), this district has started a project of disaster prevention education mostly carried out in elementary school ever since 2005. This paper used time-series data of the project and results of questionnaires to analyze achievements and challenges of disaster prevention in Okitsu district mainly based on the theory of community of practices.

1. Disaster Prevention Education in Okitsu District

Okitsu district safety system promotion committee cooperated with elementary school (abbreviated as SSPC) was inaugurated in 2005, with representations of the chairman of Okitsu district and the principal of elementary school. Until now, SSPC has conducted lots of disaster prevention activities such as releasing disaster prevention letters, drilling the injured rescue, charting disaster prevention maps, making disaster food, practicing nighttime camp, etc. Although Okitsu became a well-known advanced disaster prevention district inside and outside of Kochi Prefecture, it has implemented or has brought into plans to construct some new evacuation shelters and enhance the capabilities of existing ones (for example, storing emergency materials, strengthening roads for higher evacuation places, etc.) when learned the past East Japan Earthquake experiences introduced by author's

group. The distinctive characteristic of disaster prevention education in the district is that achievements acquired through residents' participation were contributing to improvement of local disaster prevention capability. To be concretely, local administration took disaster prevention suggestions from disaster prevention maps charted by pupils seriously, such as the removal of Sakurakai Day-care center from low altitude to some high place, also the reinforcement of a bridge on evacuating road. However, with population aging rate over 45%, how to transform the achievements of disaster prevention education and sufficient evacuation shelters into improvement of local residents' disaster prevention capability still remain as the biggest challenges.

2. Community of Practices

Characterized by disaster prevention maps of achievements in Okitsu, school, local community (SSPC), administration, experts, outsider residents (experiencers in the East Japan Earthquake), also mass medias who participated in common practice to form a strong connection which never exist before. At the same time, focusing on human, artifact and activity, those challenges of SSPC can be reconsidered with relations of human who participate in common practice, community of practices which made up of artifacts and participation which intended to proceduralization. For further discussion, the authors' intend to use community of practices to analyze information such as population, disaster prevention budget, evacuation drill participation rate as well as the questionnaire, hearing investigation, etc.