

中高年女性による子育て支援システムの構築にむけて:

中高年女性による子育て支援に関する先行研究の分 析

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Build Up of System for Child-Care Support by Middle-Aged and Elderly Women

—— Analysis of Preceding Papers about Child-Care Support by Middle-Aged and Elderly Women ——

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生活科学分野

Abstract

Administrative and local child-care support has been promoted in recent years. At home, however, the children are still taken care of by their grandmothers in many cases, where the grandmothers are inevitably forced to struggle with the care of their grandchildren. Accordingly, the authors believe that building up of a new social system is now required, in which children can be taken care of not only by their family members and relatives but also middle-aged and elderly women having no blood relationship with them. As a first step to achieve the social system, the authors obtained and analyzed information about the preceding studies on child-care support by grandparental generation: the authors searched for papers issued in or after 2000 describing about child-care support by middle-aged and elderly women and/or about grandmotherhood, the search being made using keywords: the elderly, grandmotherhood, and child-care support. The obtained results are 18 papers, including: those written about the present situation such as stresses and difficulties mothers have in child caring, value-based conflict between mothers and their mothers; those explaining specific examples of child-care support by middle-aged and elderly persons; and those reporting favorable influences on the lifelong development of women who take care of children of the third generation. Among the papers, one article describes about child-care support by focusing on grandmotherhood. In addition, there was found a thesis issued before 2000, describing about role types of grandmothers (Ando, 1992). The thesis shows grandmothers who are asked for help by their daughters or daughters-in-law, and responsible for their grandchildren and feeling anxious about the child caring.

The authors define grandmotherhood as becoming a grandmother mentally and socially without blood relationship: in contrast to a grandmother who has her own grandchild actually. The authors admit that the child-care by women of grandparental generation provides desirable influence on their lifelong development. The influence, however, is not always positive, and some women feel responsible for and anxious about the child caring, and cannot withdraw from the situation. Accordingly, more studies should be carried out to achieve an appropriate support system that effectively utilizes grandmotherhood of middle-aged and elderly women without causing any personal disadvantages on those women who work for the system. Therefore, there is a need to conduct attitude surveys to women at the ages of forty through sixty who are to be grandmothers in the future, to reveal their consideration about the meaning of becoming grandmother and their ideas about child-care support including the support of their own grandchildren.

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要旨: 現在,行政や地域での子育て支援は充実しつつあるが,家庭内で子どもの祖母らにゆだねられることも多く,祖母は,好む好まざるに関わらず孫の世話に翻弄されることもある。著者らは家庭内や血縁に限らず,広く中高年の女性による子育て支援を社会的なシステムとして構築したいと考えている。本研究に先立ち,これまでに祖母世代を対象とした子育て支援に関する研究の傾向を知るために,「高齢者」「祖母性」「育児支援」をキーワードに中高年女性による子育て支援や祖母性について述べている2000年以降の研究論文を検索した。その結果,子どもの母親の育児ストレスや育児困難感,母親の実母・姑との育児観の違いなど主に子育ての現状を明らかにしたもの,中高年者による育児支援の具体的事例を紹介したもの,次々世代の育児支援は女性の生涯発達に良い影響をあたえていると報告しているものなど全部で17件の論文があった。祖母性に着目した子育て支援に関連した論文は1件だけであった。しかし2000年以前に祖母の意味類型を紹介している論文があった。(1992安藤)これによると,娘や嫁から育児の手伝いを依頼され,負担や不安を抱えている祖母がいることもわる。

祖母とは血縁のある孫がいる女性であるのに対し、著者らは、祖母性を、女性が心理・社会的に祖母になることと定義し、女性が次々世代の子育て支援に関わることは生涯発達に良い影響を与えていると考えた。しかし誰もが良い影響を受けるとは限らず、負担や不安を感じている者、断りたくても断れない者もいることから、女性がもつ祖母性を活用すると同時に、中高年女性の個人的な不利益にならないように支援のあり方を検討していく必要がある。そのため、今後の研究課題として、女性が、祖母になることの意味や、自分の孫を含めた子育て支援に対する考えを明らかにするために、祖母準備期にある $40\sim50$ 歳代の女性を対象とした意識調査が必要だと考える。

キーワード:祖母,祖母性,育児支援