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FEATURE ARTICLE

Towards the Realization of JNCSW Social Welfare Vision 2020

In February 2020, looking ahead to 2040, Japan National Council of Social Welfare (JNCSW) formulated JNCSW Welfare Vision 2020 (Welfare Vision) as a compass showing the direction of proactive and cross-cutting efforts towards 2030 so that it can expand what built by social welfare workers or social welfare organizations such as councils of social welfare, social welfare foundations, social welfare institutions, commissioned welfare volunteers, commissioned child welfare volunteers, senior citizens clubs, etc. and further, can pass it to future generations. In this article, the outline and significant points of Welfare Vision will be introduced.

Aims of Welfare Vision

In Japan, social welfare workers and social welfare foundations have accumulated various social welfare practices, and worked on the establishment or reform of many social welfare systems as well as welfare community planning. It will lead the realization of “Inclusive Community Society” which is promoted by Japanese Government.

In global, 17 common goals were set in “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)” towards 2030 aiming to the realization of “a sustainable society with diversity and inclusiveness where no one will be left behind.”

In the Welfare Vision, both the realization of “Inclusive Community Society” promoted by Japanese Government and the SDGs promoted worldwide are included, consequently aiming to the prosperous welfare society where we live together. Then, what is the prosperous welfare society where we live together? It is a society where each and every inhabitant can work together, support each other on a daily basis, find fun and purpose in life, and live a life without being isolated from society even if they have various difficulties in their lives. Welfare Vision transversally shows the direction to realize such society.

Efforts for Practices

To realize the prosperous welfare society where we live together, social welfare workers and social welfare foundations are expected to actively support the solution of community life issues. To answer such expectations, Welfare Vision proposes 8 recommendations for practices as follows.

1. To deepen multiple-layered cooperation and collaboration ~to establish a network for flexible and quick action~

Towards the realization of the prosperous welfare society where we live together, all social welfare organizations and workers will cooperate and collaborate together with health workers, medical workers, educators, lawyers, enterprises, NPO, volunteers, etc. in a community effectively and multi-layer structurally recognizing their own roles.

【Keywords】

- The role of councils of social welfare
To be a “place of cooperation and collaboration” where various organizations and workers connect with each other, and where support for the solution of community life issues is produced.
- Information collection and problem solving
Various organizations and workers in a community recognize problems together with community residents, and take concrete actions.

- Collaboration of councils of social welfare in wide range
To think out the ways of cooperation and collaboration; for example, mutual complementation or integration of some services in adjacent councils of social welfare, etc.
- The role of council of social welfare in prefectures/cabinet-order designated cities
To work with municipal councils of social welfare or classified councils for various facilities so that a “place of cooperation and collaboration of municipal councils of social welfare could work effectively.
- The role of social welfare foundations
To be a core of community network in a “place of cooperation and collaboration” as well as to provide service for people in need.
- Support for social welfare foundations
Council of social welfare in prefectures/cabinet-order designated cities strengthen the cooperation and collaboration with social welfare foundations.

2. To increase diverse practices

~to develop various services responding to the change of needs~

Community life issues are diverse and occur in various places. Social welfare organizations and workers dealing with various issues should be based on the idea of targeting all people; i.e, from children to adults, regardless of age, gender, nationality, etc., including foreigners who have a base of living in that community.

【Keywords】

- Promotion of advocacy and improvement of the quality of service
To provide an environment in which all community residents are not excluded, their dignity and will are respected, they can choose and use appropriate social welfare service.

- Development of various service
 - To develop new service responding to the change of needs, as well as various services beyond the framework of public service
- Development of functions cultivated over many years in a community
 - Social welfare foundations practice public interest activities from the viewpoint of how to expand their functions (both hardware and software) cultivated over many years to a community.

3. **To try to secure, train, and settle human resources who support social welfare (social welfare human resources)**
 ~to prepare a worth place of work and to make “a system to support people who support others”~

To provide quality social welfare service, it is indispensable to secure, train, and settle human resources who support social welfare. It is no exaggeration to say that it is the most important challenge for 2030 because it is estimated that declining birthrate and aging population will be progressed more, the elderly population relative to the total population will be increased, and working population will be decreased in 2030. Considering the balance between demand and securing workers, it is important for welfare organizations and workers to promote efforts to secure, train, and settle human resources more than now.

【Keywords】

- To prepare a workplace where it is easy to work and continue to work
 - To promote the building of a workplace where everyone can share the ideas and can continue to work satisfactory.
- Career advancement of social welfare personnel
 - To promote a career advancement system, to expand a qualification acquisition support system and to improve labor conditions or payment for social welfare workers.

- Expansion of the base of social welfare human resources
To expand the base of people who are interested in social welfare works or activities to secure social welfare human resources in the future.
- Promotion of entry of diverse human resources
To provide an environment in which social welfare workers with diverse backgrounds can continue to work respecting and utilizing their will and ability to work.
- To secure, train, and settle foreign human resources
To respect diversities of foreign workers, to provide necessary working conditions equal to Japanese workers, to secure them as working colleagues
- To support a community society with its residents
To let community residents involve in; thinking about community life issues together, supporting community society together, etc.
- Promotion of understanding of activities of Commissioned Welfare Volunteers and Commissioned Child Welfare Volunteers
To expand the understanding of necessity and importance of their activities as well as to improve their working environment so that more people want to be a Commissioned Welfare Volunteer or Commissioned Child Welfare Volunteer

4. To try to improve quality and efficiency of social welfare service

~to create a system in which all staff can enhance their expertise and work efficiently~

Population decline will cause the relative workforce reduction towards 2040, and Japanese Government says it is necessary to increase the productivity at social welfare site by 5%. To increase the productivity respecting the will of users and improving the quality of welfare services, it is important to improve the efficiency of welfare services from the following perspectives.

【Keywords】

- The need to pursue quality and efficiency
All social welfare workers increase their expertise, work together to create a system where various people with diverse skills can work efficiently, promote multidisciplinary cooperation and collaboration, and improve comprehensive strength and expertise as a team.
- Improving the way to provide a wide range of services
New ways to provide services will be explored; such as building management for division of duties by wide range of human resources, improving service procedure/flow line/placement of goods, multi-functionalizing of social welfare workers, etc.

5. To strengthen the base of social welfare organizations

~to gain enough understanding of a community to be supported by the community~

To realize “the prosperous welfare society where we live together,” it is necessary for councils of social welfare to fulfill the function of “a place of collaboration and cooperation,” and for social welfare foundations to fulfill the function of “the core of a network.” Therefore, it is important for councils of social welfare and social welfare organizations to strengthen their organizational base.

【Keywords】

- To promote understanding of services of councils of social welfare
Services and activities of councils of social welfare will be visualized so that community residents and local governments can understand their roles.
- To secure various sources of funds
Diversified financial resources, including crowdfunding, will be secured to enrich the role of councils of social welfare as “a place of collaboration and cooperation,”

- To stabilize the staff employment of councils of social welfare
Original financial resources of councils of social welfare will be enhanced, and their staff employment will be stabilized.
- Public interest activities in a community by social welfare foundations and diversification of their financial resources
Financial resources of social welfare foundations will be diversified, including donation, for more active efforts onto local public interest activities, and deregulation or flexibility of usage restrictions will be requested to the government.
- Collaboration with enterprises
Councils of social welfare, social welfare foundations and enterprises that are interested in SDGs will work together to lead the cooperation and collaboration with any organizations in a community.

**6. To strengthen the partnership with national and local governments
~ to consider and to work with government agencies~**

The Local Government Law stipulates, “local public organizations shall play a broad role in implementing local administration voluntarily and comprehensively on the basis of promoting the welfare of residents.” (Article 1-2). Local governments are responsible to promote welfare of community residents, and according to the Social Welfare Law, community welfare plans formulated by municipalities shall be superior to other welfare plans. Towards 2030, to realize “the prosperous welfare society where we live together,” social welfare organizations and workers should consider and work with government agencies.

【Keywords】

- To secure the continuity of public consignment services, etc.
It takes some time to solve community life issues, and for this, the long-time stable implementation of services is indispensable; to continue services for multiple years, to continue the employment of professional personnel, etc. It is also important to get a broader understanding about it.

- Positive commitment to policy recommendations
Being close to communities, councils of social welfare find community life issues, and to solve them, they utilize opinion expression function, cooperate with local governments and perform advocacy movements.

7. To spread understanding for inclusive community society and encourage participation

- ~ to promote understanding of community residents and other people or various organizations about social welfare activities and their participation in such activities~

Community residents are the main actors who work to solve community life issues together with social welfare organizations and workers. It is important for social welfare organizations and workers to understand the desire of community residents and other people or various organizations to contribute to the society, and to connect them to opportunities to participate in social welfare activities.

Social welfare foundations and councils of social welfare should make much account of the implementation of community residents counseling, experience projects such as nursing care trial, and acceptance of volunteers and practical training, etc., and promote understanding of welfare activities so that those involved can feel that they want to be more involved. Furthermore, in order to expand the base of supporters in a community, the volunteer centers of each council of social welfare should recognize the importance of their role and be more active.

【Keywords】

- Building of mutual trust relationship and dissemination of information
Councils of social welfare, social welfare foundations, or social welfare institutions disseminate information to build a mutual trust relationship with community residents by whom their raison d'etre is admitted.

- Promotion of international cooperation
The international network (especially in Asian countries) that has been built so far in social welfare field will be strengthened to contribute to country development as well as human resource development.

8. To prepare for disasters

~ to prepare organizations or communities to be tough for disasters~

Disaster prevention or disaster support activities are common challenge for all communities. When a disaster occurs, people feel the need of social ties. Recently, large-scale disasters occurred one after another, and it is also predicted that Nankai megathrust earthquake or earthquake whose epicenter is directly below Tokyo may be occurred in the near future. To respond to such disasters immediately and to provide disaster support services quickly and efficiently, it is significant to consider how to prepare for disaster even in the time of peace.

【Keywords】

- To promote understanding of each one's role even in the time of peace
It is important to let community residents or local governments know their own roles to prepare for disasters even in the time of peace.
- To develop a disaster welfare support network
Even in the time of peace, it is necessary to develop a disaster welfare support network with various organizations, people, community residents, etc.
- To establish disaster welfare support center (tentative)
It is significant even in the time of peace to make human networks and to develop human resources who work for disaster volunteer centers to manage social welfare support for victims in the event of disasters.

- To organize “disaster welfare assistance team (DWAT)”
Registration and formation of experts of social welfare foundations or social welfare institutions as members of DWAT shall be promoted.
- To secure public funds and legal development
Even in the time of peace, requests to secure public funds and legal development shall be made to establish a necessary system.

Towards the realization of JNCSW Social Welfare Vision 2020

The purpose of Welfare Vision is to reveal to society that all social welfare organizations and workers look at the near future and strive to rebuild their organizational bases toward the realization of " the prosperous welfare society where we live together " in line with their respective communities, and fulfill their roles.

Even with COVID-19, which is now a global issue, people working at councils of social welfare, social welfare foundations or social welfare institutions are so-called essential workers who are indispensable to the lives of community residents, and the importance of their social roles are reaffirmed widely in the society. Regardless of any environmental changes, responding to the changes and supporting people's lives in the community are in line with the aim of the "Welfare Vision."

In order to put the "Welfare Vision" into concrete shape, organizations in each field that make up JNCSW shall formulate a "course of conduct" and develop practical activities in the future. JNCSW itself also formulated its own "course of conduct." By promoting this, JNCSW will endeavor to develop social welfare projects all over Japan, and will activate actions related to social welfare, and consequently, will promote social welfare in Japan and fulfill the expected social responsibility.

JNCSW Course of Conduct

- 1) We will promote “Social Welfare Vision 2020.”
- 2) We will implement various practices toward the realization of an inclusive community society.
- 3) We will secure, train and settle human resources who support social welfare.
- 4) We will improve the quality and efficiency of social welfare services.
- 5) We will strengthen the base of the councils of social welfare, social welfare foundations and social welfare institutions.
- 6) We will improve the system even in the time of peace so that we can provide prompt support when a disaster is occurred.
- 7) We will manage our organization as a national center of social welfare.