

Male Carers in Japan

— Difficulties and the need for gender sensitive support programs —

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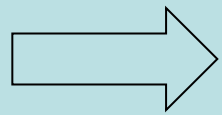


The National Network of Male Carers and Supporters (2009~)



Contents

aging of society and decrease in family size in Japan

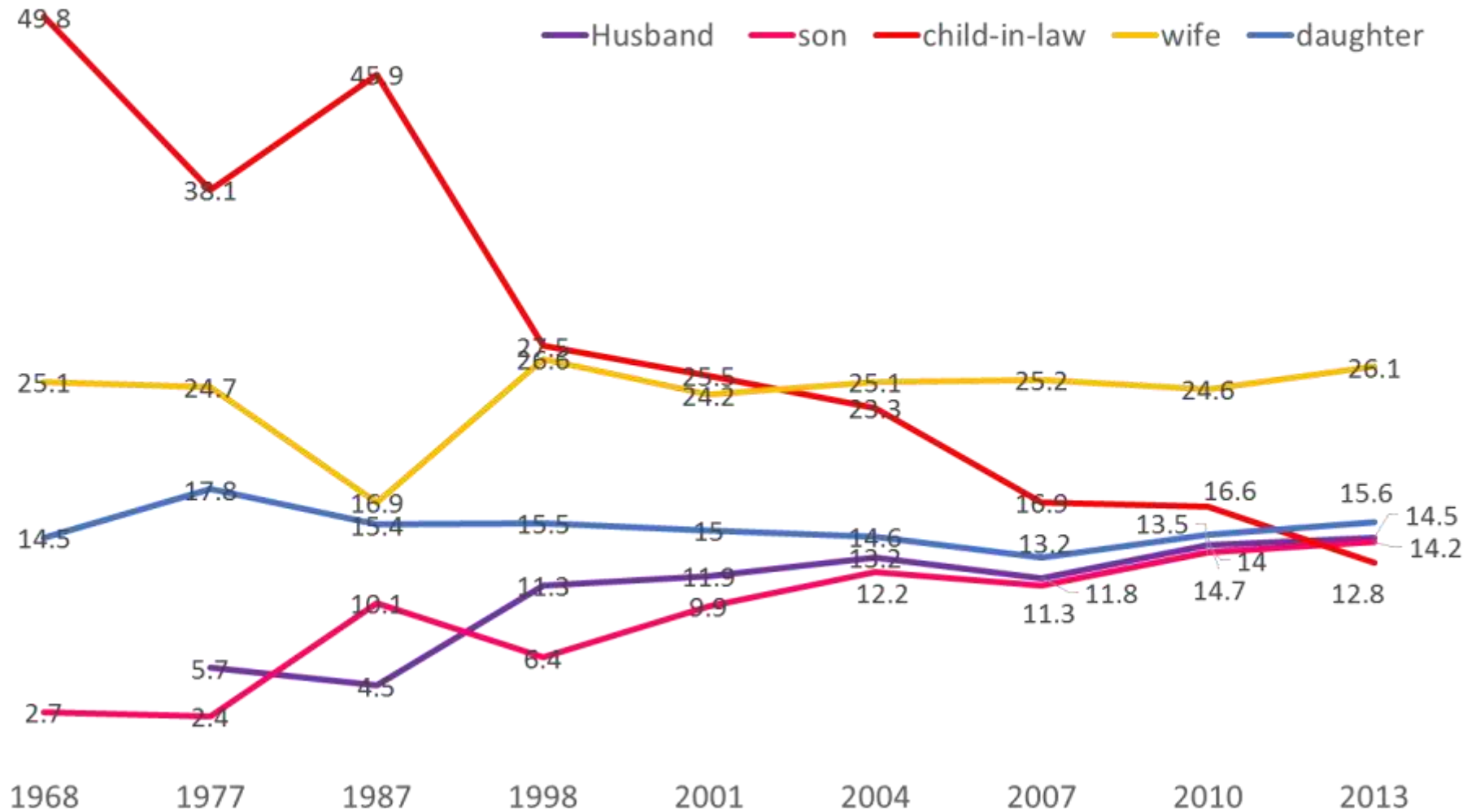


increase of male carers

who are caring for their wives or parents

1. explain the background of increasing male carers
2. focus on difficulties for Japanese male carers
3. introduce activities of the National Network of Male Carers and Supporters

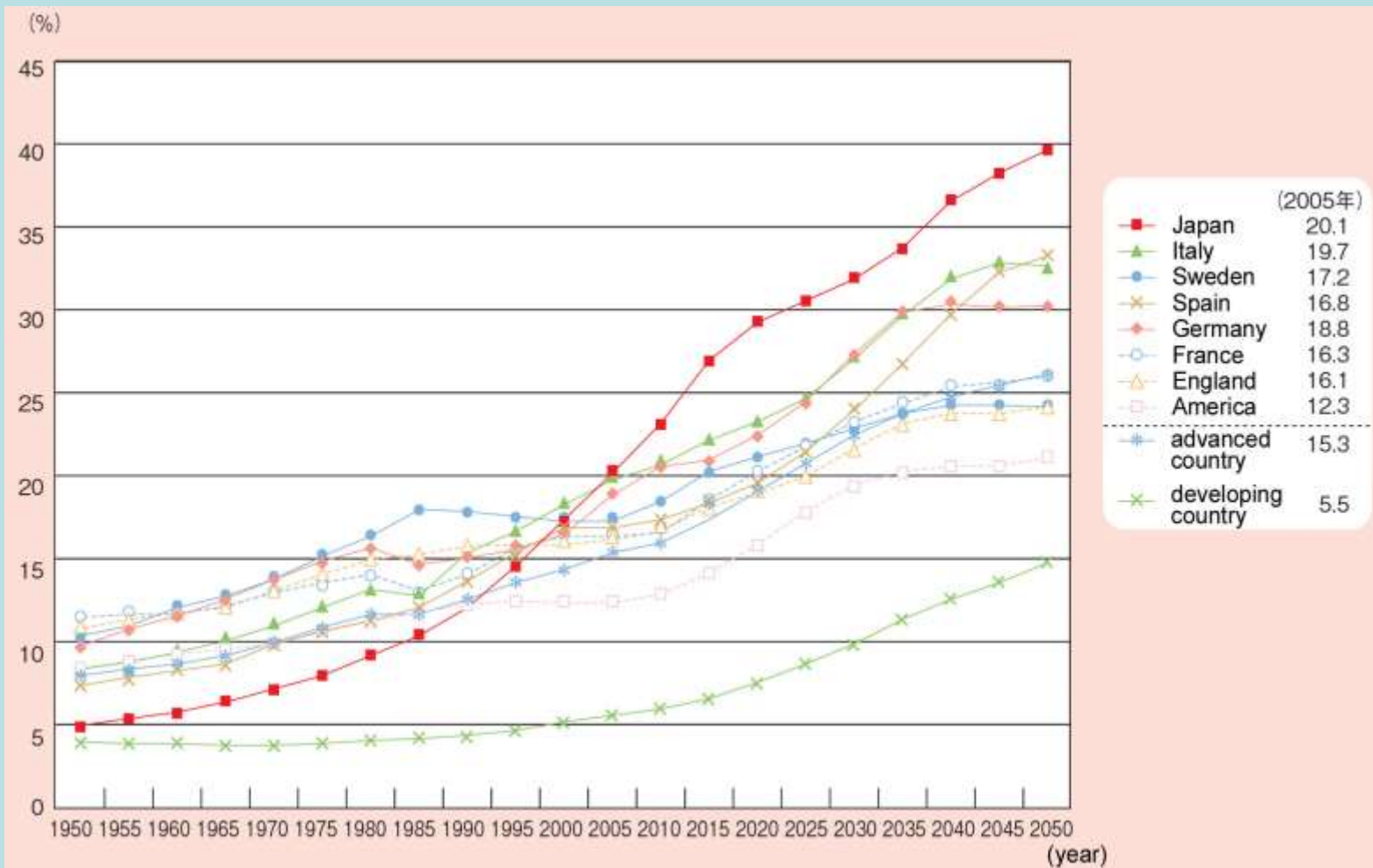
The change of the relationship between main carer and care recipient



Backgrounds

- Demographic Change

- Ageing of society 4.9%(1960) 9.1(1980) 17.4(2000) 25.1(2013)



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- Social Change: family relationship and gender norm
 - Composition of households
 - Decline of the three-generation household
 - Increase of single or two-person household (+65)
 - Increase of women workforce
 - double-income household > the sole bread-winner household

Welfare system

1980s burdens of family caregivers as a social issue

1990s socialization of elderly care as a government policy issue

1997 introduction of the Long Term Care Insurance System

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•Familism (Espin-Andersen, 2001)

Private support > Public Support

at least one carer at home

Services intend for care recipient to use according to their needs

There is no basic support system or laws for informal carers

Index of carers' burden

- **Elderly abuse**

- facility staff 54(2006) → 221(2013)
- family carer 12,569(2006) → 15,731(2013)

- **介護殺人“Kaigo-Satsujin”**

- Murder resulting from caring burden 50 cases (7-8%)

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- Son 41.0% Husband 19.2% Daughter 16.4%

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quantitative increase of male carers

≠ improve of quality of care and gender equality

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- Poor network at community
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- Housework
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 - 70's and 80's not taught how to do housework
- Financial problem (especially 40's and 50's)
 - 2,910,000 working carers(2014) male1,300,000 female1,600,000
 - 100,000 working carers leaving job due to caring responsibility a year (male 20% female 80%)

Activities of the National Network for Male Carers and Supporters

- Member

more than 600 individual and 35 organizations

- Publish

brochures and books which gather experiences of male carers
objectify their own caregiving

realize that other carers face the same difficulties

“I am not alone”



networking at the local community level

- male carers are isolated in the community & workplace
- poor networking skills at local community level

⇒ gender-specific networking

male carers discuss and share their experiences freely and safely



peer support group

- share the problem male carers are facing
- exchange useful information
- blow off steam with each other



task-oriented programs



Feature of male carers group

- express their dissatisfaction about the welfare system and political topics

⇒ a new step in carers movement in Japan

Male carers groups could suggest and create new care support systems in the future

Conclusion 1

- **Complicated relationship of caring and masculinities**
 - Difficulties related to housework and caring role
 - Violent behavior
 - Driving force to improve a new trend in the care support system

Conclusion 2

- Introduction of the informal carers support system
 - the reconciliation of work and caring
 - the further diversification of informal carers
 - * Young carers
 - * single carers
 - * carers with health problem
 - * carers who live far distance from their care recipient
 - * carers who take care of more than two people (elderly people, children, or people with disabilities)

Japan needs diverse and adaptive support system for informal carers to reflect the evolving social aspects of the carer's role

Thank you for your time

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