Victims Living at Temporary Housing - As of State in Miyako City, Iwate

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Unsolved problems have been piled up at the area stricken by the huge tsunami, although two years passed from the 9.0 magnitude earthquake off the Pacific Coast of the eastern Japan on March 11 in 2011. Reconstruction from the disaster has not been enough and the road to recovery is too much farther.

Collaborative studies on living environment and resident’s health in temporary housing have been conducted by the Study Group on Recovery of the Areas Affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. This presentation aims to focus on studies on 1) room climate in temporary housing, 2) physical activities of daily living of temporary housing residents, 3) mental health of the residents with various experience related with the tsunami disaster, 4) spatial characteristics of living behavior of the residents in Miyako city, Iwate prefecture.

On November 6 in 2012, Miyako city’s website confirmed 611 people had been dead or missing in the city, 5,968 buildings totally had collapsed, and 3,120 buildings ‘half collapsed’ or partially had been damaged. 8,889 evacuees in maximum took refuge in the official evacuation shelters immediately after the tsunami. Miyako city inquired of victims demand for temporary housing in the evacuation shelters for 5 to 7 days after the tsunami, and selected sites of temporary housing, furthermore carried out infrastructure development and construction temporary housing in the sites. After these steps above, 62 temporary housing complexes with 2010 units were built up at grounds of elementary schools and parks in around June 2011, and then 3742 victims moved into 1667 units.

1) Room climate: Characteristics of room climate in temporary housing from autumn through winter season are that the largest difference in temperature was observed between a living room and a bathroom (or a bedroom) at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. after turning on heating, and that temperature of a lower part at a height of 15cm above floor had been 5 to 10 degrees Celsius lower than an upper at a height of 150cm. Talking 5 dead persons by heart attack or stroke from June 2011 to September 2012 in 8 temporary housing complexes into consideration, the extreme difference in temperature in rooms and heights is assumed to affect the person’s health.

2) Physical activities: Physical activities of daily living of the residents who gathered in the meeting room of the temporary housing are almost normal. However some regarded as having small space of daily living and/or low ability of walk. From the viewpoint of increase in physical activities for prevention of disuse syndrome or lifestyle-related disease, it is necessary to more support individually not only the residents having small space of daily living but also isolated persons who rarely come to the meeting room.

This presentation will also consider “victim and temporary housing” by comparison with 3) mental health and 4) living behavior.

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Keywords: victim, temporal housing, health, living environment, Great East Japan Earthquake, Miyako City