【ABSTRACT】

The influence of the social capital on the suicide ideation in the elderly

The main purpose of this study is to examine the effect of social capital on the mental health and propose the preventive measures against suicide through the impact analysis of social capital on the suicide ideation in the elderly. This study is aimed mainly at the relational analysis among accessible social capital, mobilizable social capital and suicide ideation which is performed by simple regression.

The attributes of social capital is measured by the size and characteristic of social network. Accessible social capital is measured by contact frequency, proximity, economic level, education level etc. Mobilizable social capital is measured by usable social resources from accessible social capital to obtain the social support for the elderly. Suicide ideation is measured by 5 questions about suicide.

In the elderly’s social network, they have the friend-oriented networks of their age in seventies. They are related with people above high school graduate in education level, and above common level in economic and healthy level. They mostly meet friends or others living in the same town once a week. People in their social network have few information on the job for old people and much experience about caring old people.

Education, health, job, woman in surveyee are the prominent factor of accessible social capital. Weak-tie in network is the prominent factor of Mobilizable social capital. Education, economy are the prominent factor of Suicide ideation. It is meanted that the more social resource embedded in social network is influenced by variables of education, health and job, the more accessible social capital is rich. The reason is that the diversity of social resource and the size of social network make accessible social capital abundant.

Accessible social capital is the prominent factor in Mobilizable social capital. The mobilizable of the two social capital also make an impact on suicide ideation. The reason is that people is apt to use social resource needed for old people from plentiful accessible social capital embedded in social network. Therefore, it is confirmed that the social capital has an effective on mental health.
As a result of this study, The premise of Accessible social capital is prepared to secure the Mobilizable social capital which is effective on the mental health. And it is necessary that the policy on the compositive program making contact with disadvantaged elderly, the lifelong education program in local society and the employment and voluntary service for old people is realized for elderly suicide prevention.