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On the Problem of International Comparison of Living Standard

by Masayoshi Chubachi

Economic growth under full-employment policy induces on the other hand a change in industrial structure and unbalanced rise in prices. As a result, it generates the problem of "poverty left behind" and differentials in standard of living. This is a common problem to the western industrialized countries that experienced high rate of technological innovation during the 1950's as well as the developing countries that experienced rapid industrialization by the aid from these developed countries. Also among the western industrialized countries, on the one hand there are countries where levels of fundamental needs of living are quite high but the spread of education and level of social security payment are not so high and income differentials are not so small, on the other hand there are countries where levels of fundamental needs of living are lower but spread of education and level of social security payment are higher than the former group of countries and also have advanced equalization of income distribution.

How can we proceed to compare not only the standard of living of these countries with different patterns but their condition of differentials? This is the problem that we presently face in the international comparison of living standard.

Author groups the types of living in various countries including Japan using index of living calculated by component approach. Next, he compares the income distribution in the United States, the United Kingdom and France and test whether mode of distribution of semi-skilled male worker is similar to the mode of distribution of the total in each country. The comparison of degree of equality in income distribution implies nothing but a comparison of relationship between the distribution of social strata such as other managers, self-employed workers, skilled worker and unskilled worker using the distribution of semi-skilled worker. Now if we assume that we have found the social strata α where structure of life resembles each other most markedly in country A and B, we can determine the entire comparison of country A and B by making quantitative estimation of location of α in each A and B after the quantitative comparison of living standard in $A\alpha$

and $B\alpha$ is made. Next if we find social strata β where structure of life resembles each other in country B and C, by repeating the similar method as mentioned above, we can determine the entire comparison of both B and C. Actual development of such method is future problem to be considered.

Dr. Fukutaro Okui and the Master-Plan of Kita-Kyushu City

by Ryuzo Okoma

The City of Kita-Kyushu is the seventh "one million population city" in Japan born after the annexation of five cities of almost same size. The old five cities shares such functions as foreign trade port by Moji City, business and commerce by Kokura City, iron and steel industries by cities of Tobata and Yahata and coal mining and shipping by Wakamatsu City. Therefore, it is told that such type of establishment of city is quite rear to find in other countries, but the annexation is taking over various kinds of problem to the newly created city.

Dr. Okui submitted a future plan of the city fourteen months after his acceptance of the chairmanship of the committee organized to study its master-plan, and it was only two months before his sudden death.

The drawing of master-plans is quite popular in Japanese cities in these years, and some of them were actually dealt by Dr. Okui; however, his committee can boast of such characteristics as its size of the organization and, especially, the participation of citizens. The committee consisted of some 160 people of universities, scholars and experiences and representatives of citizens. The creation of a master-plan for Kita-Kyushu City was the biggest work of the closing days of his life to which he devoted his utmost passion from the relationship as the president of the Japan Society for Urban Studies and his wide range of study fields in municipal problems, urban sociology, regional development and livelihood of the people.

Urban Life and Urban Structure

by Takeshi Yamagishi

The purpose of the present paper is to analyse complicated form of city from four points of view. The four points are as follows. (1) Urban life structure. (2) Stratified structure. (3) Regional structure. (4) Form structure. In other words, this implies to consider the following four aspects. (1) Foundation of life. (2) Organization of life. (3) Idea of life. (4) Prospect of life. Among these, (1), (2) and (3) were the basic concepts used by Prof. Okui Fukutaro. I have added *prospect of life* as another indicator.

In this paper I would like to make clear one side of Urban life and Urban structure stressing mainly prospect of life. Especially, I shall take up the contrast between downtown and uptown in Tokyo. Since Meiji era Tokyo has changed a great deal in four points of view as well as four aspects mentioned above. Such changes were the changes from trade to business and at the same time it was the transformation from downtown Tokyo to uptown Tokyo.

In the present paper I have used the method that observes city through literary works.

The Contributions of the Late Dr. Fukutaro Okui to our Study of Urban Sociology

by Hitoi Sato

Contents;

1. Dr. Okui and Urban Sociology—on its social background.
2. Dr. Okui's Urban Theory and its approach to Life Theory.
3. Dr. Okui's Life Theory and its vision.
 - A. Interpretation of "National Life".
 - B. Social Structure of Life (Organizational Theory).
 - 1) Foundation of life—system of life—idea of life.
 - 2) What is organization—Theory of Organization.

- C. Life and labor.
- D. Three modes of life.
- E. Modern life and consumption revolution.
- F. Improvement in life.

Solution of "Urban Problem" is one of the most urgent problems today. Also one can say that this problem has been discussed most frequently by people in the latter half of the twentieth century.

At this period of time we met with the sudden death of Dr. Okui who was an authority on "Urban problem" and who was considered as an originator and forerunner of "Urban Sociology" in Japan. I introduce his contribution here in a memory of Dr. Okui.

When Dr. Okui graduated from Keio University and took in charge of lecture in Urban Economics, major trend in the field of urban regional study in the United States was "Human Ecology" type analysis which is one of the approaches. Sudden inflow of population into cities was taken up as an important social problem. It was also the period when industrialization and urbanization came into the front. Therefore one may say that in the field of urban research they started to systematize so-called urban sociology from social improvement point of view. In this period Dr. Okui grasped the problem of cities which is an economic phenomenon empirically in the movement of world society and international society. Thus Dr. Okui named the modern large cities as "World City" and said that central functions of world market, international market and national market are located in the large cities of today.

As present society is organized by division of labor, he thought the social organization from economic point of view as a consideration of means to fulfill human wants and approached to "Life Theory". For the vision on "Life in the large cities", he advocated re-organization of urban regional planning based on joint disposal and public disposal.