

The Essence of the Problem of Elder Abuse through the Humanities and Social Sciences Convergence Approach

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Abstract

Background/Objectives: All over the world, "Elder abuse" has been at an escalation. Each of the countries is dealing with Elder abuse. **Methods/Statistical Analysis:** However there has not been any study in the past that utilized the convergence approach of humanities and social sciences as it was in this study. Here upon, this study is intended to analyze the causal factors and the essence of elder abuse through recognition of characters in drama "Ninkyo Helper", showing problem of elder abuse of Japan which is top aging country. An analysis method was used for the content analysis of the TV drama. **Findings:** First of all, family orientation and reliance that Japanese society has, were shown at peripheral characters. Secondly, denial and avoidance of abuse from family orientation and reliance, defense on victim, and self-permissive attitude, etc. were shown among victims. Thirdly, excessive burden on the support and issue of family from abuse were identified among assailants. As a private counter measure, a social relationship network was developed to prevent abuse and to enable early recognition of abuse. The will for abuse prevention allowed the victims of elder abuse to understand the supporting load of the supporters. With the will to change the current situation, the elders showed the will to accept the public service. It was found that public counter measures taken by individual public servants or facilities have various limitations to positively intervene and provide solutions for elder abuse, because decisions about appropriate intervention are difficult to make due to the conflict among values, and those who are responsible are difficult to identify in an unpredictable problematic situation. **Application/Improvements:** As for this issue, legal measures for public intervention, furthermore, change recognition about elder abuse and to be required to prevent elder abuse by maintaining social relation network and also seek for solutions.

Keywords: Convergence Approach of Humanities and Social Science, Elder Abuse, TV drama "Ninkyo Helper".

1. Introduction

1.1 Necessity of Study

According to the Cabinet Office, Government of Japan, the population ratio of the elderly aged 65 or over in the entire population of Japan was 23.3% in 2011, and is expected to increase to 38.8% in 2050, indicating that aging of the Japanese society is at the highest level in the world. As the elderly population rapidly increases, risk factors are also increasing, causing various problems of which core is the elderly abuse. Methods of solving elderly abuse problems include not only legislation of legal system, but also an approach to investigate the fundamental causes of elderly abuse in the sociocultural context.

A human thinks and acts through the experiences obtained in the culture and society to which he or she belongs. Recognizing and believing the fact form a discourse regarding issues about social problems. The indices and legal regulations based on simple quantification do not have a great influence on the in-depth human introspection based on more fundamental problem recognition. Rather, those indices and regulations eliminate human factors. This means that the approaches based on the social sciences and those based on humanities need to be converged. However, despite such a possibility, the trend of the research regarding social issues through the methods of humanities has not been made yet.

In discussing the elderly abuse problem in a cultural context through the converged approach, visual media such as movies and TV dramas may provide a useful framework of understanding. Media transmit sound and moving images all over the world regardless of time and space to create and propagate cultural products. The content spread by media has a wide effect on personal values, life style, consumption pattern, education, stereotype formation, cultural identity, and view of the world¹. In particular, TV is the most easily accessed mass medium, and TV dramas themselves are records of life history. Moreover, TV homogenizes varieties to let one program be reached to as many people as possible and thus the images provided by TV text confirms to universal views. For this reason, TV content provides a text based on the reality so that the content may be accepted by the public. "Therefore, TV dramas are the products of not only the producers but also the community²."

Hence, investigating the essence of the elder abuse problem by means of TV dramas produced in Japan where the aging of the society was the earliest and the fastest may provide appropriate implications for countries including Korea having similar social problems.

1.2 Objectives

The objective of this study is to analyze the cause and essence of elder abuse in the modern Japanese society through the recognition of the characters of the Japanese TV drama entitled "Ninkyo Helper"³ as well as the actual status of elder abuse described in the drama. The sub-tasks of this study according to the study objective are as follows:

First, how do the characters of the drama recognize elder abuse?

Second, what elder abuse counter measures or intervention methods based on the legal system is described in the drama?

Third, what are the appropriate elder abuse counter measures and intervention methods drawn from the analytical results?

2. Subjects and Method

2.1 Subjects

The drama "Ninkyo Helper", broadcasted by Fuji TV in July 2009, is an 11-episode omnibus drama where each episode has a different theme. The average rating was

17.5% (surveyed by Video Research) ranked at the second among the dramas broadcasted in the third quarter of 2009, and ranked at the six among all the Japanese dramas broadcasted in 2009. The drama won an Excellence Award in the serial drama section of Tokyo Drama Award 2010, indicating that the popularity, commercial viability, and quality of the drama was recognized. The drama was also broadcasted as a special drama in January 2011. The drama is a human comedy dealing with the events that take place as a gangster full of righteous indignation happens to be in charge of elderly nursing due to an unexpected case. The drama was also remade as a movie in 2012. The drama is about that the Yakuza who used to make money by cheating old people recovers the past chivalry spirit as he takes care of the old people. Even though the setting is quite unrealistic, the drama earnestly tells the story about the social issues related with the elderly⁴.

The third episode entitled "Block the Elder Abuse," which is the theme of this study, begins as the hero together with his fellows visits a family where elder abuse is suspected. The old person lives together with a grandson. Although elder abuse is suspected, the old person and the grandson do not welcome the hero and his fellows coming to their home. Eventually the hero and his fellows happen to intervene in an abuse situation and transfer the old person to a nursing facility, but the problematic behavior of the old person is revealed and the symptom becomes more serious.

Unless being a worker of the relevant field, people generally do not have an opportunity to encounter elderly welfare service or facility. Since the main stage of the drama is an elderly nursing home, the drama deals with various elderly issues of the current society, together with the administrative matters of facilities, with the stories which may win the sympathy of the workers of the relevant field, not for the sake of arousing interest, thus providing the opportunities of indirect experiences to the viewers and drawing the attention to the elderly issues and aging society.

2.2 Methods (Content Analysis)

To investigate the degree of recognition of the elder abuse described in the drama, a content analysis method appropriate for media content study was employed. The goal of content analysis is "to provide knowledge and understanding of the phenomenon under study⁵." The employed method is a practical method to enhance the

sensitivity to the individual issues mentioned as social issues, thus pursuing the convergence of humanity studies and social science.

It may be assumed that “viewers of a TV drama may be influenced by the content on the basis of the imagination of fiction⁶, the probability that an event may take place in a real situation, due to the nature of the drama⁷.” “The scope of the imagination may either be limited to an individual or the recognition or relationship between individuals in the aspect of humanity study or be extended to a system consisting of the individuals in the aspect of social science⁷.” Therefore, the discourse formed as individual’s recognition that has been changed or that will be changed may influence of the social system, ultimately inducing a sociocultural change.

In the analytical procedure, all the episodes of the drama (totally 11 episodes) were viewed in the preliminary viewing to understand the flow of the plot. In the second viewing, each episode was analyzed in more detail. As a result, it was found that other episodes except Episode 3 do not show significant problem recognition of elder abuse. Episode 4 may be taken into account in the category of financial abuse, but it was not included in this study of elder abuse because the story was focused on the loneliness of the old person and the financial fraud derived from the loneliness. Therefore, the analysis of this study was centered on Episode 3 “Block the Elder Abuse,” which specifically deals with elderly abuse. In addition, the wild speech and conduct of the hero and his fellows was given consideration due to the setting that the hero was one of the Yakuza members within the limit not damaging the problem recognition.

In the third viewing, the video of the Episode 3 “Block the Elder Abuse,” which is the material of this study, was viewed for analysis in comparison of the script. Attention was paid to not only the lines of the characters but also nonverbal information such as the background music creating the atmosphere and physical expressions in order to understand the accurate flow of the context.

In the third viewing, the first analysis was recorded, and the result of the first analysis was reviewed by viewing the episode again in comparison with the script. The final result was reviewed with the workers of elderly nursing facilities and relevant researchers with respect to the validity of the significance.

3. Analysis Results

3.1 Difference in Recognition of Elder Abuse Report

Article 7 of the Act on Prevention of Elder Abuse and Support to Elder Caregivers of Japan states that “One who finds out an elderly person who is suspected to be abused by a caregiver shall report to Sijeongchon (a basic institution of local self-government system), if there is a serious risk to the life or body of the elderly person.” However, it is very difficult to judge an act of abuse based only on the doubted situation as described in Scene #10, “Even if I heard out of a house something was broken, I cannot say that an abuse happened.” Table 1. Even when an act of abuse has actually happened, if the one who was abused wants to hide it or refuse an intervention, the right of self-determination should be respected (#14

Table 1. Difference in recognition of elder abuse report and current situation of elder abuse

Category	Subcategory	Scene	Lines Spoken by Characters
Difference in Recognition of Elder Abuse Report	Difficulty in Judging Elder Abuse	#10	(Izumi) Even if I heard out of a house something was broken, I cannot say that an abuse happened. Maybe because of slippery hands...
		#14	(Rico) No, I didn't, because Grandma said no.
		#14	(Kengo/Nihonbashi) No matter how strongly she denied...
		#14	(Masato) It may be body restriction in worry of disturbance. They might be frightened because they saw the two strangers.
		#14	(Masato) It's not easy to decide an abuse.
		#18	(Izumi) She may be abused, but it's too much to report. There's no evidence.
	Recognition of Elder Abuse Report	#14	(Mikiya) It's definitely an abuse, if there was a ligature mark. Isn't that something that should be reported to the district office? Did you?
		#28	(Misora) We happened to visit Setsuko... I don't understand. Why not call the abuse counseling office?

“No, I didn’t, because Grandma said no.”). Even in the case of Scene (#14 “It’s definitely an abuse, if there was a ligature mark.”), the possibility that “the person has such a skin type that is easily wounded or bruised may not be excluded, and by lapse of time it may become more difficult to judge what caused the wound⁸.” Article 5 of the same Act states that “Workers in elderly nursing homes, medical doctors, lawyers, and other people who are officially related with elderly welfare should recognize that they are in a position to easily discover elder abuse to strive for early discovery of elder abuse,” but the regulation has no legal forcibleness. If a person reports elder abuse in an uncertain situation, the person may find himself in a situation described above, and thus the person may be reluctant to report.

In cases where elder abuse is not clearly judged, what is absolutely required for clear judgment is continued interest of people around the old person including the neighbors who have relatively high frequency and possibility of physical contact. Although the judgment based on individual pieces of information may be unclear, information about a certain case accumulated by continued interest may greatly help judgment and prevention of elder abuse.

3.2 Various Cases of Abuse

According to the Act on Prevention of Elder Abuse of Japan, “elder abuse” refers to abuse of the elderly by caregivers and abuse of the aged by workers of nursing facilities. According to the survey performed by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare of Japan in 2013⁹, the number of cases of elder abuse by workers of nursing facilities was 221, 66 cases more than the previous year (42.6% increase), while the number of cases of elder abuse by caregivers was 15,731, 529 cases more than the previous year (3.5% increase) indicating that the ratio of elder abuse by caregivers was dominantly higher Table 2.

Table 2. Number of cases judged as elder abuse (Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare of Japan, 2013)

	By workers of nursing facilities	By caregivers
Year 2012	155	15,202
Year 2013	221	15,731
Increase (%)	66 (42.6%)	529 (3.5%)

As the number of aged people who need care is

increasing worldwide, the number of aged people entering nursing facilities is also increasing. Therefore, elder abuse committed by nursing facility workers is definitely a serious social problem. However, in comparison with the elder abused by nursing facility, workers exposed to the eyes of other people include the fellow workers, the elderly people residing in the facility, and external visitors such as guardians, the elder abuse by caregivers is more serious since it takes place in homes which are hidden from the eyes of other people. In the Episode 3 “Block the Elder Abuse” of the drama analyzed in this study, “Ninkyo Helper,” the abuser was the blood-related grandson who was a caregiver of the victim. Therefore, with respect to the elder abuse committed in homes, the causes of the abuse may be considered from the viewpoints of various persons including the victim, the abuser, and the people around them.

The causes of the abuse were analyzed and classified into four categories: 1) family-oriented and dependent values, 2) recognition of the victim, 3) recognition of the abuser, and 4) supporting load Table 3.

First, as described in the scenes (#18 “She will definitely say that she’s happy with her grandson.”) (#28 “He is the only family to her.”) (#41 “The grandma is waiting for a guy like you.”), the recognition of the surrounding people shows the family-oriented and family-dependent sociocultural features.

The culture and values of each country or society have a great effect on abuse. In other words, “The cultural differences affect the decisions on how to define abuse specifically, how to recognize abuse, and further, how to respond to abuse¹⁰.” With respect to the recognition of elder abuse, the studies about elder abuse among minor ethnic groups having different cultures indicated the risk factors of filial duty and support expectation because the minor Asian ethnic groups including Koreans has a high tendency of recognizing elder abuse as a matter of family relationship¹¹.

“Japan has the history of emphasizing family relationship, blood relationship, and regionalism, and prioritizing the norms of group over the norms of individuals, since Japan, as a single-race nation, maintained an exclusive society for a long time¹².” As indicated by these studies, it is necessary to consider the sociocultural situation of the society to which the elderly belong for understanding the elder abuse problem. Therefore, the sociocultural background of each society plays an important role in understanding the recognition

Table 3. Various causes of abuse

Category	Subcategory	Scene	Lines Spoken by Characters
Various Causes of Abuse 1	Family-oriented and dependent values	#18	(Matsubara) She will definitely say that she's happy with her grandson.
		#28	(Rico) Do you think that's what the grandma wants? He is the only family to her.
Family- orientedness and dependency 2	Excessive generosity to blood-related families and family dependency	#17	(Setsuko) Sorry, but Takashi is taking care of me well.
		#27	(Setsuko) The boy is the only one to me. He is my family. You say that you are friends, but I don't know how long you can be my friends. Care workers? They are not with me forever. They don't change the bulb, they don't buy things for me. But, the boy has been with me for a long time. He is a good boy. He came a long way to be with me. So, he did nothing wrong. (Crying) He's just innocent.
Recognition of the victim 3		#33	(Misora) Ms. Setsuko was very happy to live with her grandson together. So, she has hidden the fact that she is abused.
Recognition of the abuser 4	Violent symptoms of dementia and family dependency	#41	(Rico) The grandma is waiting for a guy like you.
		#44	(Setsuko, pushing Rico away and yelling) You... you did it to Takashi... (Setsuko turns herself upon Rico on the ground in fury, and other helpers stop Setsuko.)
Supporting load	Nonvoluntary self-negligence due to denial of abuse and avoidance	#26	(Setsuko, pushing Rico with arms) Go! (Sobbing) Because you came, I was once again... (Rico) Grandma! (Setsuko, Sobbing) Leave me alone, please!
		#27	(Setsuko, shaking the head) This is what I did.
	Will to refuse intervention based on the recognition of abuse as a blood relationship problem	#32	(Takashi) Don't meddle in other's business. A senile old hag! No matter what a family does!
		#41	(Takashi) I don't know the dirty old hag. I was willing to care her at first. But, how do you know? Do you know what the families feel when they have to serve the senile old hag all day long?
		#33	(Takashi) I tried. (Covering the face with both hands) But, I don't know why I did so.
Expert's understanding of supporting load		#33	(Head of nursing facility) I can't forgive abuse, but I understand what you feel. People in general don't know how hard it is to care an old one. It is too much to bear the heavy load alone.

of elder abuse and the attitude of the elderly toward asking help.

Second, the victim, despite being abused, hides the fact that she is abused (#17 "Sorry, but Takashi is taking care of me well."). The victim is afraid of letting the abuse be known to others, because the victim may be abused more severely (#26 "Because you came, I was once again..." "Leave me alone, please!"). The victim also thinks that the family is the only one who can be with her forever, even though the family is the abuser (#27 "The boy is the only one to me. He is my family. He did nothing wrong."). These scenes reveal the victims' blood-related family-orientedness, denial and avoidance of abuse, and Korean Dementia of the abuser due to the family dependency.

This may be because of the cultural background that the victim does not want to expose the conflict situation for being shameful of the abuse by the family and for saving the family's face. Eventually, Setsuko denies that she is being abused (#27 "This is what I did."), avoids the fact, and neglects herself. As the fact that Setsuko has been abused is exposed by the efforts of Rico, Setsuko is cared in a facility. However, Setsuko thinks that she has to be separated from her family because of Rico and thus shows problematic behaviors caused by dementia, including turning herself upon Rico in fury or hurting herself.

Third, Takashi, the abuser recognizes abuse as a matter between family members (#32 "Don't meddle in other's business. A senile old hag! No matter what a family does!")

Table 4. Private countermeasure and will for resisting elder abuse

Category	Subcategory	Scene	Lines Spoken by Characters
Private Countermeasure and Will for Resisting Elder Abuse	Private efforts of employed workers in a situation where abuse is suspected	#17	(Rico) So, it is okay for me to come as a friend, right? I will come again, and, if you like, open the door. Sorry for the unexpected visit.
		#19	(Rico) I just can't leave the grandma.
		#21	(Misora) You go to Setsuko's house everyday after leaving for the day, don't you?
	Abuse-resisting effect of social network	#24	(Misora) It's fine that the situation is better now. Now there is no more ligature mark. He must be cautious because somebody may come to visit anytime.
	Pattern of passive response as a employed worker	#14	(Masato) It's not to be involved.
	Understanding of private realm (meaning of family)	#33	(Head of facility) Please understand Grandma's heart.
	Dependent's understanding of caregiver's supporting load and will for changes	#35	(Setsuko) Sorry that I am relying only on you. You said that you alone can do it, but why not accept care worker's help again from now on, Takashi? Is it okay?

and shows a negative view to external intervention. In the Scene #41 (“I don’t know the dirty old hag. I was willing to care her at first. But, how do you know? Do you know what the families feel when they have to serve the senile old hag all day long?”), Takashi shows the wrong recognition about in-family abuse as well as the supporting load that he bears. “In the relationship between supporting families and the elderly, negative feeling to the elderly increases as the elderly dependency and family support increase¹³” In addition, “Like a chronic disease, elder abuse, which is a type of domestic violence, is not a one-time event, but gradually develops and recurs as time passes¹⁴.” However, due to the features of old age which is one of the stages of human life cycle where the physical functions and the social functions are weakened, it is difficult for individual old persons to appropriately deal with the damage caused by elder abuse.

Fourth, in the conversation with the head of the nursing facility (Takashi expresses the supporting load that he bears as a caregiver (#33 “I tried. But, I don’t know why I did so.”), and the facility head, as an expert, sympathizes his supporting load and suggests the need to accept the help of experts (#33 “I can’t forgive abuse, but it is too much to bear the heavy load alone.”). The survey by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan also shows that the top cause of abuse was “Nursing stress of caregivers” (in 1,398 cases, 25.55%) (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan, 2013).

In elder abuse, the abuser is mostly a person who is close to an elderly person. The injury caused by elder

abuse leaves a mental scar on not only the victim of the abuse but also the abuser who is close to the victim due to the pang of conscience.

3.3 Private Countermeasure and Will for Resisting Elder Abuse

Despite the negative response of the care facility (#14 “It’s not to be involved.”), Rico and his fellows continuously visit Setsuko, who is suspected to be abused, to form a relationship (#17 “So, it is okay for me to come as a friend, right? Sorry for the unexpected visit.”) (#19 “I just can’t leave the grandma.”). Table 4 Such a social network has a measure of abuse-preventing effect. (#24 “It’s fine that the situation is better now. ... He must be cautious because somebody may come to visit anytime.”) Eventually, due to the continued efforts of Rico and his fellows, an abusing situation was found out. The head of the caring facility reminds Takashi that the grandson is an existence who Setsuko likes to depend on and Setsuko has no other choice but to depend on, that is a blood-related family, in spite of Takashi’s being an abuser (#33 Please understand Grandma’s heart.). Setsuko, the victim, also shows her understanding about caregiver’s supporting load and the will for changes (#35 “Sorry that I am relying only on you. ... Why not accept care worker’s help again from now on, Takashi? Is it okay?”).

The analysis showed that a private network such as participation in social activities, that is, social factors, may give positive effects. However, in the stage of old age; the

social network is often downside due to retirement, death of spouse or friends, and physical degeneration. The realm of private countermeasure, which was represented in the drama by the social network formed by Rico's personal effort, may be extended in the practical application to the sharing of the realm of private countermeasure with the public realm by connecting the family of the elderly with public institutions and neighbors.

3.4 Public Countermeasure for Resisting Elder Abuse and its Limitations

In the early part of the episode, Takashi, who is revealed as the abuser, gives a complaint call to the headquarter of the nursing facility, feeling bad about Rico frequently

visiting his house (#18 "We received a warning from the headquarter. Perhaps the grandson of Ms. Setsuko gave a compliant call to the headquarter, saying that he will cancel the contract if such things continuously happen."). Table 5, shows the nursing facility was able to continue to operate thanks to the franchise contract of the headquarter of the company, although the facility came near to shutdown due to the management difficulties and the elderly ones in the facility came near being scattered. Hence, the nursing facility is sensitive to the response of the headquarter (#18 "The headquarter tells that we should not intervene. What happens if the franchise contract is cancelled as we intervene?"). In addition, Akira, the head of the franchise says to Rico, (#19 "You

Table 5. public countermeasure for resisting elder abuse and its limitations

Category	Subcategory	scene	Lines Spoken by Characters
Public Countermeasure for Resisting Elder Abuse and its Limitations	Limitation in service provision due to the conflict between the values sought by facility and the values sought by individual care worker	#18	(Head of facility) We received a warning from the headquarter of "Heartful Bird." Perhaps the grandson of Ms. Setsuko gave a compliant call to the headquarter, saying that he will cancel the contract if such things continuously happen.
		#18	(Matsubara) The headquarter tells that we should not intervene. What happens if the franchise contract is cancelled as we intervene? (Head of facility) It shouldn't be happening.
		#19	(Akira) You are a salary man, so just focus on the things you are supposed to do.
	Justifiability of body restriction	#45	(Izumi) Let me go. The head allowed me to go. It's a body restriction. If we leave it as it is now, she will be in danger.
	Difficulty in identifying the responsible one in a problematic situation	#42	Her relationship with the son's couple has been broken off, so nobody can officially take her. It's a difficult case if a problem happens.
	Justifiability of body restriction and limitation of public countermeasure to abuse	#45	(Rico) She should be bound here also?
	Limitation of care workers in providing public service	#18	(Izumi) Didn't I tell you that you will make troubles if you keep visiting her? If you arbitrarily act, it's violation of the rule!
		#19	(Akira) Don't act carelessly. A useless act may make the user uncomfortable.
		#19	Do you think abuse is such as simple problem? If the grandma doesn't ask help for herself, there's nothing you can do. You are not her family, are you?
		#33	(Head of facility) Whenever you call us, our experts will help you.
		#34	(Misora) She didn't say that she will accept our help again.
		#34	(Head of facility) The decision will be made after discussion, so just wait for a while. It's not something to push ahead.
		#45	(Akira) This is our limitation, understood? We shouldn't blindly give our heart. Caregivers won't be the family.
#46		(Rico) It's not easy. I can't help her because I am not her family.	

are a salaryman, so just focus on the things you are supposed to do.”) Other scenes also show the limitations (#18 “Didn’t I tell you that you will make troubles if you keep visiting her? If you arbitrarily act, it’s violation of the rule!”) (#19 “Don’t act carelessly. A useless act may make the user uncomfortable.”) (#19 “Do you think abuse is such as simple problem? If the grandma doesn’t ask help for herself, there’s nothing you can do. You are not her family, are you?”). These scenes show a multilayer conflict among different values: the values of the facility that a facility worker should strive for the maintenance of the facility and an arbitrary act is violation of the rule, the personal values of Rico that neglecting Setsuko who is suspected to be abused is unrighteous, the values of the caregiver (guardian) that the intervention is worthless meddling, and the values of the victim, Setsuko, that her right of self-determination should be respected.

Although post-counter measures are provided after the abuse was revealed, the limitations of offering public service are more highlighted than the solution of the problem or the positive effects.

Although the supporting load is sympathized (#33 “Whenever you call us, our experts will help you.”), Takashi and Setsuko return home without asking service (#34 “She didn’t say that she will accept our help again.”) (#34 “The decision will be made after discussion, so just wait for a while. It’s not something to push ahead.”). However, through the non-official intervention by Rico, Setsuko is once again found as her body is bound and neglected although medical remedies are necessary. According to the survey performed by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare of Japan in 2013, a high ratio of the healthcare insurance service designated care managers and care insurance staffs as elder abuse counselors and reporters. This indicates that the care insurance service has the positive effect of exposing the elder abuse issues hidden in the families to the public.

Eventually, Rico brings the victim Setsuko to the nursing facility. However, according to the Long-term Care Insurance Act, it is impossible to enter a facility without a contract with the guardian, since the service should be provided on the basis of a contract, not by an administrative action (#42 “Her relationship with the son’s couple has been broken off, so nobody can officially take her. It’s a difficult case if a problem happens.”). Akira, the head of the franchise, tolerates the entering, thinking that he should give a lesson to Rico who acts by putting his own moral motivation first (personal values). There

are a variety of implications in respecting the views of the one who receives the service and the one who provides care. Respect to their rights should be put first, but the arrangement is to prevent troubles and to make sure the one who is responsible in an unexpected situation.

Setsuko, who has been a victim of abuse by the blood-related grandson, starts to live in the nursing facility, but, as predicted by Akira, she makes a disturbance and turns herself in fury upon Rico who helped her, even injuring herself. Eventually, the facility staff restricts Setsuko’s body (#45 she should be bound here also?). Restriction of body is a type of elder abuse, but it may be justified in exceptional cases where there is a high possibility of causing risk to the life or body of the persons who receive or provide caring or where the body needs to be temporarily restricted for the purpose of relieving symptoms. In these exceptional cases, the guardian should agree, and the physical and mental state of the one who receives caring, the period of body restriction, and the reasons of body restriction should be recorded.

The qualification of care helpers is directly related to the quality of long-term care service¹⁵. Understanding the latent desires of the service users is very important, and it helps to provide better service. However, it is also important for the caregivers to determine an appropriate limitation and distance with the service users and to control the emotions. Maintaining a balance between the two extremes is the professional skill that caregivers have (#45 “This is our limitation, understood? We shouldn’t blindly give our heart. Caregivers won’t be the family.”). Due to the ambiguity of the boundary between public work and private intervention, Rico chose an extreme solution. However, the different countermeasures to elder abuse taken by the individual characters are not simple matters of their own personality or moral hazard. This is a matter of the limitation of public service and the social structure. Therefore, the episode reflects the fact that the issues of elder abuse are the social problems that individuals are not able to perfectly solve.

4. Conclusions (Summary and Proposal)

This study analyzed the essence of elder abuse in the Japan by considering the recognition of elder abuse by the characters of the Japanese TV drama entitled “Ninkyō Helper” as well as the actual status of elder abuse described

in the drama by means of a convergence approach of humanities and social science. The analysis showed that there were various types of recognition and countermeasures to elder abuse among the victims of elder abuse, the abusers, and the surrounding people, indicating that they were affected by the stereotypes and the cultural background of the society they belong to. The TV drama, which is one of the most popular and influential media of the modern society, was analyzed to approach the issue through a convergence approach of humanities and social science to identify the application status and limitations of the systematic service and to overcome the limitations.

Specifically, the recognition of the elder abuse that the individual characters, the differences in the judgment of the necessity to report elder abuse as well as the various causes of abuse had been shown. The scenes of the drama also showed the private countermeasures to prevent elder abuse, the will to take private countermeasures, and the public countermeasure and their limitations.

The judgment of the necessity to report may be different depending on the recognition of elder abuse because the real cause of a wound suspected to be a result of elder abuse is not easy to identify, an elderly person may have a skin type that is easily wounded or bruised, and the right of self-determination should be respected if a victim denies being abused.

The causes of the abuse were analyzed and classified into four categories: 1) the surrounding characters had the family-oriented and dependent values of the Japanese society; 2) the victim had excessive generosity to blood-related families and family dependency, violently displayed symptoms of dementia, family-dependent values, and the fear that more abuse will be done if the fact of abuse is known to others, which resulted in self-negligence due to denial of abuse and avoidance; 3) the abuser recognized elder abuse as a matter of blood relationship, which is a family matter, and thus refused external intervention; and 4) the caregiver had unavoidable load of supporting. The Elder Abuse Prevention and Rights Advocacy published by the Bureau of Social Welfare and Public Health mentions the nursing fatigue, personality or characteristics, insufficient knowledge about disease and nursing, and economic problem (as the factors of the abuser), the personality, confusion in speech and conduct caused by dementia, and mental and economic dependence (as the factors of the victim), and indifference of surrounding people, weakened human relationship, and isolation from

the society (as factors of social environment).

The intervention described in the drama was first a private countermeasure to resist the elder abuse. In the situation where elder abuse was suspected, the caregiver made a personal effort to form a social relationship, which enabled resistance and early discovery of the abuse. As the will for resisting the abuse, the drama showed that the victim, who was the elderly person who received the supporting, understood the supporting load of the caregiver and expressed the will to change the current situation by accepting the public service. As for the public countermeasures for resisting elder abuse, the drama showed that the judgment of appropriate intervention was difficult due to the conflicts among the values of the nursing facility, the values of the individual caregivers, the values of the one who provides caring, and the values of the abused victim. Even though the victim was made to enter the nursing facility by prioritizing resistance of abuse in such a situation where the judgment may not be easily made, the one who was responsible was not easily identified in an unexpected problematic situation. As the victim transferred to the facility showed problematic behaviors including self-injury, the facility eventually restricted the victim's body. This indicated that under the current systematic and cultural conditions there are too many difficulties and limitations for individual caregivers or facilities, not the blood-related family members, to positively intervene and solve the elder abuse problem where various patterns of issues are included and various values conflict with each other.

The drama does not show a *dues exam china* happy ending where all the characters are dramatically reformed. Rather, the drama shows the actual limitations of the modern society with regard to elder abuse. The final line spoken by Rico (#46 "It's not easy. I can't help her because I am not her family.") Gives the viewers questions and concerns.

The relevant suggestions are as follows. First, a legal measure needs to be prepared for positive and immediate public intervention to risky situations. For example, in Korea, the occupational groups having higher possibility of discovering abuse were designated as those who have the responsibility to report to promote early discovery.

Second, a broad-scale attempt for conversion of recognition (e.g. public service advertisement or relevant TV series) is needed with respect to all the social members including the workers in relevant service and the families

taking care of the elderly to help them understand the scope and properties of elder abuse and to promote positive report and investigation even with tiny evidence suspected to be a result of abuse. For example, webtoon (web comic) is employed in Korea to draw attention of young people who have less recognition about elder abuse.

Third, not only in situations where abuse is suspected but also in situations where there seems to be no problem as a preventive measure, a social network should be maintained between the elderly generation and the local society in order to prevent elder abuse and find solutions for the problem.

Finally, elder abuse is neither a personal matter nor a family matter, but a matter of social structure, and thus a social approach is necessary. In addition, in any situations, the elderly ones should be allowed for making a reasonable choice by themselves to keep human dignity and independency. The rights of such a choice are not just the rights of the elderly but the rights of all human beings. If there is an unavoidable situation where the elderly ones are unable to make a reasonable decision due to the social stereotypes and recognition problems, such social and cultural recognition and systems must be changed by making efforts. In the same context, the rights are not automatically given; the elderly ones also need to strive to keep their rights. In addition to systematic countermeasures such as appropriate education, the fundamental recognition should be changed through the power of humanities studies including reasoning and philosophy.

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