A Study on Elderly Care in Sweden
Staff quality of working life in residential care, and family satisfaction with care

Yukie INOUE
Owe ANBÄCKEN

ABSTRACT

This study examines elderly care in Sweden from three viewpoints. First, elderly care in Sweden is examined using various statistical data on the elderly population, support for the elderly in regular housing, and support for the elderly in special housing and housing which is not usual. Second, the staff Quality of Working Life (QWL) in residential care is researched so as to reveal the structures of the staff QWL in Sweden. Third, family satisfaction with care is researched so as to reveal the structures of the family satisfaction with the care and with services that are provided, and also the family life changes as a result of an elderly person having moved into the residential home.

Various statistical data shows that the proportion of the group aged 80 and more, and the average life expectancy of men are on the increase. In order to take action on the increases and also improve the quality of care for the elderly, the Swedish government has allocated many resources to all municipalities for competence development in all areas of care for the elderly from 2006 to 2008. Furthermore, the results of research and analysis reveals: 1) the structures of the staff QWL in Sweden consists of four factors, one of which significantly influences the staff general satisfaction with their work and job and staff intentions to continue working at the same workplace, and 2) the structures of the family satisfaction with care consists of four factors though the one of which and the family life changes, frequency of visits to the care home, and family negative emotion and the like did not significantly correlate with family overall satisfaction. More research and study is needed about these results when comparing with similar situations and results in Japan, Korea, and China.

Key Words: Elderly Care, Sweden, job satisfaction, family satisfaction