The change of the concept of community care
— Aiming at a new care system based on the importance of community —

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this paper is to effect a reconsideration of the meaning of community, and the meaning of care, by inspecting changes in community care theory. At the start of the 1970s community care theory was introduced into Japan from the United Kingdom. Thereafter, the argument shifted from community care theory to home care service theory in the 1980s. Ways of thinking about community care gradually inclined towards more technical ideas concerning the service supply. Criticism of the community care theory arise due to a wide gap between the ideal concept enabling people to live in peace and harmony in their communities throughout their lives, and the very noticeable lack of resources available for social support.

Inhabitants in communities do not exist originally solely as receivers of care service or services. Community inhabitants think of care by themselves, and can carry out care by themselves. They are the driving force for initiating actions that will raise the overall quality of care service. In future, community care must be more comprehensive involving not only care “in the community,” but also “care for the community.” It is only through this changed thinking and practice that community care autonomy can be supported.

Key Words: community care, autonomy, care for the community