Play Streets Revitalise Low Birthrate Communities in Tokyo

Hitoshi Shimamura
Tokyo Play Japan
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London-Tokyo Twinning of Play Cities
Playbourhood Street
Tokyo Project

Supported by HSBC

- Started in 2014 on a street crossing.
- 840 designated play streets since 1970s still exist, but most of them are not used.
- Interest from shopping street unions, children/play/community organisations.
Childhood in central Tokyo in 1990
Compared with last generation

- Parents used to play more than children now. • • • 88.1%
- Reasons children now not not playing outdoor?
  - Busy with cramming schools, lessons, sports clubs • • • 83.7%
  - Play activities such as ball games are prohibited • • • 42.1%

Daiiichi Life Insurance Institute (2008)
Total Birthrate in Japan

- 3.65 (1950)
- 1.91 (1975)
- 1.36 (2000)
- 1.45 (2015)
## Rate of Population over age of 65

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>Korea</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**National Statistics 2015**

- Huge rise between 1975–2000 in Japan
- High pressure on academic competition?
- Broken community & isolated parenting?
- Too expensive to bring up a child?
Rate of young, labour, elderly population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>0-14</th>
<th>15-64</th>
<th>65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2060</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>50.9</td>
<td>39.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Number of Adults per Child under Age of 18

1920
25,640,273/34,096,549
1.33 adults per child

1970
29,992,674/73,727,386
2.46 adults per child

2010
20,450,761/107,606,591
5.26 adults per child
The Number of Adults per Child under Age of 15

2060
7,910,000/78,820,000 9.96 = almost 10 !!

How do you think those 10 adults see a child play?

Reference:
Population of Tokyo: 13,043,703
Child Population: 1,848,969 (14.1%)

Jan 2017

64 local authorities in Greater Tokyo

Children’s lives are...?
Children & Parents Become Nuisance

- “Street gangs”
  - Those annoying children and parents who let children play on neighbour streets without common sense & proper supervision.

- There are some accusing websites
  - One site pointing those “street gangs” on Google Map.

- Who created communication loss?
  - Cars? Parks? Busy childhood?
写真

“通りで遊ぼう！”

親子が通りで遊んでいます。子供たちは楽しそうに遊んでいます。

詳細はFacebookのページをご覧ください
http://www.facebook.com/AtsomeAvenue
みちあそび！
3じ〜6じ

写真を撮影しています。
気になる人は、スタッフまで声をかけてくださいね。

豊川保育園 & 豊島中央通り商店街
Children Need to be More Visible in Communities

- Where common people can do something regardless they have children or not.
- Playworkers need to go beyond playgrounds into communities.
- For the society not to choose children because by fee, booking or abilities.
Thank you!