

To leave wood houses

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

Since 10 years ago, the matter of empty houses has been in the news. However, empty houses are increasing. In 2008, there were about 2.68 million empty houses in Japan but in 2018, it increased to 3.74 million so I was interested in that. Also, I was interested in old Japanese houses and I was surprised that these days, there are less old houses and beautiful views like Kyoto. For these reasons, I researched wood houses.

2. Introduction

The aim of this paper is to spread information about wood and wood houses. A study conducted by Saitama prefecture shows that most people have misconceptions about wood. Recently, houses are increasing over 150 per year but more houses are being built than houses being demolished. Of course, wood houses are increasing too but houses built with other materials are more than wood houses so the ratio of wood houses has decreased 80% to 60% for 30 years. Also, Japanese law says years of value is 22 years but it is different for each realtor and it decides only value so it is different from years of durability but some Japanese misunderstand about years of value and years of durability because it has a similar name in Japanese, so most of houses are broken down about 30 years. Why are the wood houses decreasing? I considered that they are seen to be less interesting and

they don't have correct information so in this research paper, the following is described with reference to the "Public Opinion Poll on Forests and Livelihoods" and other sources. Data was collected by researching online sources and will include "public opinion poll on Forests and Livelihoods".

3. Results and Analysis

According to a public opinion poll conducted by Forests and Livelihoods in 2019, when asked if respondents would prefer to live in wooden houses or other houses, 69.5% of people over 70 years old chose wood houses with traditional construction while 21% of those aged 18 to 29 chose wooden houses built with the traditional Japanese construction method, and even if they include how many people choose "wood houses expecting traditional construction", the percentage is only 59%. It is the lowest rate of the age-group so 18 to 29 year old people that choose "no wood houses" are the highest rate of age-group and it is 39%. The reasons are that they are afraid of destroying forests, fires starting more easily, less earthquake resistant and so on. In fact, the forests are devastated but the reason is that people don't care for them and if people don't care for them, the woods are not cut so they grow up forever. When the wood grows over standard, they don't photosynthesize so they breathe more and make more CO₂. Therefore they actually speed up global warming.

About durability of wood. When comparing durability of wood, iron and concrete, iron is the strongest material but it is heavy. Woods are weaker than iron but they are strong and light. Concrete is weakest and heavy. They can not stand up for themselves.

In 2019, Japanese wood self-sufficiency rate was 36.2%. This number increased from 18% in 2002 but most wood is imported from other countries. The reason is that in 1945, because of war and natural disasters, the wood was decreased so the government made a policy of forestation but it was not enough. In addition, in 1955, the government started to freely import and export wood. Wood made in other countries was cheaper than the wood made in Japan so they sell well. Therefore wood self-sufficiency decreased.

Also, if we want to extend home durability, we have to do maintenance every few years. However, most people don't do maintenance for durability. In addition, wood houses have to do more maintenance than other materials houses so some people don't have time or forget but it is important to live longer in your home.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

The Public Opinion Survey on Forests and Livelihoods shows a bias in knowledge. The reason is that it connects the image of forest fires and deforestation in the world with Japan. Therefore, we have to spread the correct knowledge through the media or something like that. Also, we have to campaign to grow forestry. For example, events in the woods and making posters. To spread knowledge of woods, the government and local communities have to help.

5. Reflection

This research has changed my image of wood. For instance, we have to use wood when we want to maintain the forest and most of the Japanese territory is

mountainous so I thought that wood self-sufficiency is 100% but it is not. This surprised me. Also, the fact that wood is stronger than concrete and steel has changed my thought.

6. Work Cited

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