

Creating a Livable Community for Wheelchair Users

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

My grandfather has been in a wheelchair for a few years now and when I go out with him in my daily life, I feel that there are many places I can not go with a wheelchair, and even if I do, there are steps, etc. Therefore, I decided to investigate what problems people in wheelchairs and caregivers face, find issues, and think about how to create a livable community for wheelchair users.

2. Introduction

The aim is to raise awareness about the problems of being in a wheelchair and how we can make the city liable for everyone. I looked on the internet to find out what kind of people use wheelchairs and how many people in Japan use wheelchairs. I did a survey of high school students to ask what we, as high school students, can do for wheelchair users. The data collected for this study will include internet research, questionnaires, and my experience.” What are the problems of being in a wheelchair? How can we make the city livable for everyone? What is a "livable town"?

3. Results and Analysis

In Japan, there are 4.36 million people that are physically handicapped. It has been on the increase in recent years. Because, the population is ageing rapidly.

Among them, I researched wheelchair users. Currently, there are about 2 million people in Japan who use wheelchairs. People who use wheelchairs on a daily basis are those who are paralyzed or ageing, those who have lost one or both legs due to birth or accident, and those who are paralyzed and cannot move their legs. People who can walk with a cane or walker usually use a wheelchair for occasional or temporary use, but when they are too tired to walk, or when they can walk but have lower body disabilities, they use a wheelchair for sports. A survey was conducted to find out how high school students feel about people with physical disabilities. The target population consisted of approximately 30 randomly selected 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year Nara Prefecture Kokusai High School students.

Question①: What do disabled people have trouble with?

Answer: • Passing where there is no slope.

- Stairs and corridors without handrails.
- Building with only stairs.
- Big steps.
- Can't pick up objects in high places.
- Living alone.
- Communication with people.
- It's hard to talk to people.
- Difficulty in recognizing your disability.
- There are no accessible places for people with physical disabilities.

Question②: How can we make the city comfortable for everyone to live in?

Answer: • Eliminate road bumps.

- Increase the slope.
- Call out when you see someone in need.
- Give up one's seat on the train.
- Eliminate prejudice.

By conducting a questionnaire, it was found that high school students often think about people with physical disabilities, such as falling over when there is a step or stairs, or being unable to climb. And I found out that they are also thinking about how to make life easier for everyone.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

In this exploration, we sought to create a livable community for wheelchair users. To this end, a questionnaire survey was conducted to find out what could be done to make the community more livable for everyone, and to find out what the physically challenged people are having trouble with. As a result, the high school students' ideas of a livable community for the physically challenged included talking to those in need, eliminating prejudice, and improving roads. It was found that if each person is aware of calling out to those in need, they can help each other without having to maintain the roads. Since we were only able to conduct a survey in this exploration, we need to actually conduct the survey outside.

5. Reflection

In this exploration, I have focused only on wheelchairs, but from now on, I would like to explore a wider range of people with physical disabilities. I would like to

continue my quest to make the world a happy place where everyone can live comfortably, and to eliminate the world in which people like my grandfather, who can move around in a wheelchair, find it difficult to live.

6. Work Cited

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. "Welfare and Care."

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