

外国人介護労働者受入れの現状について ——受入れ制度と日本語教育の観点から——

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2010年に65歳以上の高齢者が全人口の21%を超える「超高齢社会」を迎えた日本では、厚生労働省の試算によれば2040年には280万人の介護職員を確保することが必要だと推定されている(1)。今後、介護現場において日本人だけではカバーできない介護労働者不足の解決策として「EPA（経済連携協定）」「在留資格介護」「技能実習」「特定技能」などの新たな制度による外国人介護労働者(2)の受入れが近年急速に進んでいる。本稿ではこれらの新たな外国人介護労働者受入れ制度について整理し、それぞれの制度が作られた経緯と現状について考察した。また「介護福祉士国家試験」「必要な日本語能力」「在留資格」という面からも外国人介護労働者受入れの問題点について考察した。最後にまとめとして実際に4つの制度で受入れを実施している介護施設のアンケート結果を紹介し、そこから明らかになった課題について考察し、今後の日本における外国人介護労働者受入れの改善についての提言を行う。

【キーワード】外国人介護労働者，在留資格介護，技能実習介護，特定技能介護，介護日本語
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The Current Situation of Reception of Care Workers from Abroad: From the Perspective of Reception Systems and Japanese Language Education

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In Japan, an “extreme-aging society” in which adults aged 65 and above accounted for upwards of 21% of the total population in 2010, it will be necessary to secure 2.8 million care workers by 2040, according to estimates by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. Hence, in recent years, the reception of care workers from abroad has been greatly accelerated through new systems, such as Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), Care Worker Residence Status, Technical Intern Training, and Specified Skill Workers, as solutions to the shortage of care workers at caregiving facilities that cannot be offset by Japanese people alone. This paper summarizes these new systems for the reception of care workers from abroad and examines the background and status of each system. Further, the problems posed by the acceptance of care workers from abroad are considered from the perspectives of the Care Worker National Examination, necessary Japanese language proficiency, and residence status. Finally, as a summary, the paper presents the results of a questionnaire survey of nursing care facilities that currently accept care workers from abroad under the aforementioned four systems, considers the issues identified therein, and makes recommendations toward improving the reception of care workers from abroad in Japan in the future

【Keywords】 care workers from abroad, Care Worker Residence Status, care work under the Technical Intern Training Program, care work under the Specified Skill Program, Japanese language education for care work

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