

## 外国人介護労働者の受け入れと日本語教育

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1987年に国家資格の「介護福祉士」が創設された。2年後の1989年には出入国管理法が改正されたが、介護の在留資格は誕生しなかった。その後2008年に経済連携協定（以下、EPA）による介護福祉士候補者受け入れが始まり2017年に在留資格「介護」が、そして同年に「技能実習」に介護職が追加され、2019年には「特定技能1号」が制度化されて現在約7万人の外国人介護労働者が介護施設や病院で就労している。

対人サービスの中でも介護はとりわけコミュニケーション能力が要求される仕事であり、その業務を外国人が担うという新しい就労現場が現れた。更にこれら介護に関わる4種の在留資格にはそれぞれに日本語能力が規定されていることから日本語教育関係者から注目されるようになった。研究や教材開発も盛んになり、形式化された日本語力では対応しきれない介護業務に適した日本語教育という新たなテーマが浮上している。

日本語教育と介護現場双方のより良き協働の姿は複雑でまだまだ茫漠としているが、非力ながらも介護現場の視点から考察を試みた。

【キーワード】 出入国管理及び難民認定法、非熟練労働者、外国人介護職員、日本語教育、  
協働

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## Acceptance of Foreign Care Workers and Japanese Language Education

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The national qualification of Certified Care Worker (kaigo fukushi-shi) was established in 1987. Two years later, in 1989, the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was revised, but no residence status specifically for caregiving was introduced at that time. Subsequently, in 2008, the acceptance of Certified Care Worker candidates under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) began. This led to the establishment of the Caregiving (kaigo) residence status in 2017, and in the same year, caregiving was added to the Technical Intern Training Program. In 2019, Specified Skilled Worker (i) (tokutei ginō1-gō) status was introduced. Currently, approximately 70,000 foreign care workers are employed in care facilities and hospitals across Japan.

Among personal services, caregiving in particular requires a high level of communication skills. A new employment landscape has emerged in which foreign nationals are taking on these roles. Moreover, because each of these four caregiving-related residence statuses includes specific requirements for Japanese language proficiency, this development has drawn significant attention from Japanese language education professionals. Research and teaching material development have been thriving, giving rise to a new challenge: Japanese language education tailored to caregiving duties - needs that cannot be fully addressed through standardized language instruction alone.

Although the ideal form of collaboration between Japanese language education and the caregiving workplace remains complex and undefined, this paper makes a preliminary attempt to examine the issue from the perspective of those working on the ground in caregiving settings.

【Keywords】 Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, unskilled workers, foreign care workers, Japanese language education, collaboration

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