

《論文》

What was passed on to Eiko Araya from Ai Makino and Kohni Araya: The family history of Eiko Araya, who was a principal in a tsunami-prone zone, Taro Area, Miyako City, Iwate Prefecture

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Abstract:

This paper presents a case study of how the principal, teachers, and local residents safely evacuated students from an elementary school in a municipality affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. The focus of the paper is the action taken by the female principal of the schools. This paper analyses and considers an example of a female principal at a Japanese elementary school who demonstrated unique leadership in disaster prevention response. The paper also analyses the principal's family history. The principal's parents lost many family members in the 1933 Showa tsunami in the Taro district of Miyako City; an area frequently hit by tsunamis. However, from her parents, who still loved their hometown and returned to it, Eiko Araya learned the essence of the local disaster culture and disaster prevention education, and went on to become a school teacher and then principal. The actions the principal took during the earthquake were based on the devastating experience of the parents themselves.

Keywords:

tsunami, female principal, disaster prevention, family history, disaster culture

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1 Main Theme Elementary Schools and Disaster Prevention

This paper describes a case study of the disaster response at an elementary school in Taro District, Miyako City in Iwate Prefecture. The researchers of this study interviewed Eiko Araya, who was the principal at Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools when the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. The interviews were conducted seven times from June 2021 to February 2024. Two field studies were conducted in parallel. This paper also discusses literature in the field of elementary schools and disaster prevention, and tsunami in Taro District, Miyako City in Iwate Prefecture, which is the area under this study.

1.1 A Case Study of Eiko Araya

Eiko Araya was the principal at Taro Third Elementary School when the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. She worked together with the teachers and staff members at school and evacuated the pupils to protect them from tsunami. She saved the lives of children working collaboratively with the local residents.

Eiko's family history has a lot to do with the fact she played her role as a principal successfully at the time of the disaster.

It is impossible to generalize disaster prevention at schools. There are various cases how tsunami is formed, attacks, and causes damage. On the one hand, each area gets damaged by the natural and social environments. There are risks that are unique to the area. On the other hand, there is disaster culture that is unique to the area, and damages caused by the disaster depends on how the residents understand it.

It is important that there are teachers who are from Taro and familiar with the local environment. It is also

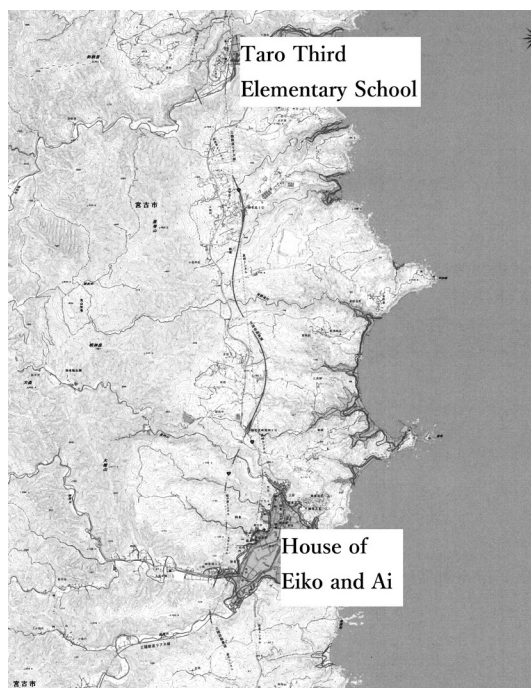


Photo 1 flood inundation area of Taro District in Miyako City before the tsunami caused by 2011 Tohoku Earthquake



Photo 2 The front gate of Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools

essential that they are prepared for disasters on a regular basis. Eiko Araya is one of the people who meet the criteria mentioned above. Eiko was born and grew up in Taro, where her parents loved. She worked there as a teacher, and she decided to live there after the retirement. It may be more accurate to say that she was destined to live there.

2 How Eiko Araya responded at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake

2.1 Eiko Araya's experience at Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools

On Friday, March 11 in 2011, the year of the Great East Japan Earthquake, Eiko left home to go to where she worked at in Settai, Taro Daisan Elementary School. It was a crisp sunny morning.

The school started on time. The elementary school and junior high school each had morning meeting. The classes were taught according to their schedule. Eiko was in the principal's office to prepare for the graduation and closing ceremonies, which were scheduled in the following week.



Photo 3 The south side of the school playground
Tsunami came very close to the playground

At around 14:46 it started to shake. The shakes were what they had never experienced before, and she could not keep standing any more. She heard the old wooden school building shake in an eerie way, and she intuitively knew tsunami would be coming.

The vice-principal instructed on the air that all the students and staff members everyone should come together. There was no electricity then, so he used the emergency system to give his instruction. It was a small school, but some classes were held at different places on the premises; such as the gym and music room.

Emergency drills were held several times a year at the school. So the children knew how to listen to the broadcasted instructions and meet at the assembly spot. They were able to evacuate calmly and swiftly without panicking. Tsunami is coming. Let's evacuate. All the staff members saw eye to eye. In compulsory education, it is important to have repeated practice. When everyone assembled, they checked how many students were there, and ran to the designated evacuation area.

Eiko the principal was at the tail end, but she could not see the deputy. When she looked back, she saw him at the school gate. She shouted, "What are you doing? You are evacuating, too!!" He said, "According to the manual given by the board of education, one staff member has to stay at school to deal with parents who might come to the school." Eiko shouted again, "Don't worry about

that. You are evacuating, too!” Then, the deputy joined the line.

The students did not take anything with them; the junior high school students took the hands of the elementary school students. The teachers encouraged the students to ensure their safety while evacuating together. On the way to the designated evacuation spot, they saw some elderly people, who they encouraged to evacuate with them.

The designated evacuation spot was on the hill, away from the ocean. It was a cemetery of this district. It was a safe spot, which was close to Route 45, and local people started arriving there. There were strong earthquakes often, and it was snowing and cold.

The tsunami hit the area around 15:26 although it did not hit the evacuation area. What happened to the elementary school? The tsunami didn't hit the school. All the students and staff members of the elementary school were safe although it was snowing, cold, and dark. They had to decide whether children should return to their families or not. The other option was to make the school an evacuation spot.

As a principal, it was important for her to have trustworthy relationships with the children's parents. Important things were: 1. The children should go home, 2. Children should not stop anywhere on the way home, 3. They should not go to the beach, and 4. They should wait at home until they hear from the school.

In the evening, the local people kindly brought heaters (which do not require electricity), warm clothing, flashlights, heaters, and blankets. It was very much appreciated. Making sure their safety, the teachers handed the pupils to their parents. Some teachers were worried about their own families and were permitted to leave the school at their own risk. Eiko was the principal there in 2011, so she concentrated on her duties believing “My mother will be safe because she is at the day care centre, and my sister will also help.” It was a day when her mother visited the day care centre “Fureaiso” which was on the hill in the same district.

Tsunami warning had not been cancelled yet. Therefore, they decided to move to the public hall in Mizusawa area, which was on a higher hill. Eiko and two other teachers stayed there on that evening with other people who lived in the same community. They got a little information on the tsunami late at night. Eiko asked the teachers to come back to school in one week.

A few days after the big tsunami, they found out all the children and their families were OK, and no damage was found on the school building and the playground. The tsunami that hit Settai area was about 10 meters high, and it came very close to the school. The school was about 800 meters away from the ocean. The decision to evacuate with the local people was an important one. They discovered later that six people died in Settai area, where the school was.

From her house where she lived with her mother, which was in the central Taro, Taro Daisan Elementary School was still 20 kilometers away from it.

2.2 The day after the disaster (12 March, 2011)

Next morning, the principal Eiko headed towards the centre of Taro Town by car. She had some essential responsibilities working as a principal. Firstly, she had to receive admission permit from Miyako Kita High School for the students who were graduating from Taro Daisan Junior High School. Secondly, she had to go to Taro Daiichi Junior High School to coordinate the elimination and consolidation of Taro Daisan Junior High School starting in April. Thirdly, she had to use the

phone at Miyako City Taro Office to receive instructions.

However. Prior to that, she wanted to see how her house was, which should be protected by the tide walls that Taro was proud of. The central area of Taro was miserably covered by dirt and debris as far as she could see. She could not get closer to her house; therefore, she walked on the tide walls. A little further down, she was able to see her house. She went around the tide walls to get close to the ferroconcrete three stories house, which was still standing but unlivable. Maybe it was because her father was very particular about building a house that could survive tsunami.

Feeling devastated, she heard her father's voice. He had passed away several years before. "You helped your mother, good work. Hold on, just hold on." She heard her father encouraging her, and tears started falling, she cried and cried endlessly.



Photo 4 The house in which Eiko and her mother Ai lived in.

Only a few houses and stores kept the shapes on the inner side of the tide wall



Photo 5 Eiko's house which she wished to be kept as remains

The hotel behind (Taro Kanko Hotel) is earthquake remains

2.3 The day after the earthquake (12 March, 2011)

The town of Taro was devastated by the tsunami which was about 15 meters high, and there was also a bushfire. She stood on the tide wall of Taro, which was the symbol of Taro, and people also called it “The Great Walls.” Her house, which was monolithic, did not get washed away, but the house was badly damaged. Most of the buildings which were in the central area of Taro were destroyed and became rubble. Only a few houses including Eiko’s still kept the forms.

If her mother had been there, she would have been dead. Luckily, she was at the care home on a hill, and Eiko’s sister found out that their mother was OK. Her life was saved because it was the day her mother was at the day-care. Eiko protected the school children, and her mother was safe. However, Eiko saw what the tsunami did to the central part of Taro, and she only could stand there feeling paralyzed. She could not stop crying.

When she saw her house destroyed by the tsunami, she remembered her father who died 13 years before. Eiko determined “I am going to keep living in this town.”

3 The Devastation History of Taro by tsunami

The coastal area of norther Tohoku region has been designated as a national park in Japan. The area includes the coasts from Aomori to Miyagi prefectures. It is faced to the Pacific Ocean, and the landscape of the deeply indented coastline is magnificent. However, this area has been affected by major disasters in the past, which is explained later in this section.

The coastline extends over a couple of hundred kilometers and the view of the ocean and the land is not all the same. Each place has a view that is special to the area. Some places look similar. However, for the people who live in the area, it is a world that fully includes ocean, land, sky, green mountains, lives of the local people and culture.

The central bay of Taro is facing the Pacific Ocean, and is surrounded by low hills. It has been prosperous due to the blessing of the sea, and traditional fishery industry has been popular. There have been prosperous merchant families that have supported the self-sufficient living area. The blue sky and the ocean, the green hills have created scenic beauty where people and nature can co-exist.

The residents got accustomed to the area, and have learned how to live there. Nature sometimes causes overwhelming damage to people’s lives, but the people in this area have been managing its damage, and enjoying its blessing. Great damage has been caused by mega-tsunamis in 1960, 1896, 1993, 2011.

Eiko’s house was in the centre of Taro area in Miyako City. This area has been hit by many mega tsunami in the last 150 years. In the 1896 Meiji Sanriku Tsunami, almost all the houses in the area were stricken, and 1867 people, about 80% of the population lost their lives. Thirty years later, in the 1933 Showa Sanriku Tsunami, 911 people died. After surviving the 1960 Chile Earthquake Tsunami, 200 residents lost their lives in 2011, in the Great East Japan Earthquake (Mega Tsunami of Heisei).

This area became Taro Village in 1889, when municipality system was introduced. Taro Village, Otobe Village, Suemae Village, and Settai Village were merged. Taro Daisan Elementary

and Junior High Schools, where Eiko was the principal at, was in Settai Village before the merger. Taro Village was hit by mega tsunami twice. In 1944 during the World War 2, it became Taro Town. In 2005, it was combined with Nisato Village and the old Myako City and became a part of the new Miyako City.

In the 1960 Chile Earthquake and Tsunami, the area was protected by the tide wall built after the Showa Sanriku Tsunami. However, many people became victims in the 2011 in the Great East Japan.

4 Eiko's parents

4.1 Eiko's Parents' Experience of Tsunami

With the fact that there was no personal damage at the time of 2011 disaster at her school. Her family history has a lot to do. Both Eiko's mother and father are from Taro. Both lost their houses and family members in tsunami. Especially, her mother lost all the members of her family in the mega tsunami in 1933.

Both of Eiko's parents survived the Showa Tsunami, and they were heirs to their families. Her father was born on February 11, 1914, and her mother on June 7, 1921. Her father was 19 and her mother (Ai Makino) was 11 on March 3, 1933, at the time of Showa Sanriku Tsunami.

Ai lost six members of her family, after Showa Sanriku Tsunami at the age of 11. Ai became an orphan and she was taken to her relative's house in Hokkaido. She wanted to return to Taro so badly, and came back. She married Kohni Araya (Eiko's father) at the age of 19. Kohni also lost his family members in Showa Sanriku Tsunami, and he used to pity Ai, who was left alone and became an orphan.

In Taro, where tsunami hit many times, people have dealt with tsunami disaster. Araya Family and Makino Family had family rules.

What her parents experienced is losing family members. A number of lives were lost in Taro after every tsunami. However, her parents came back to Taro, and determined to started their life again there, and had their houses rebuilt.

4.2 The House Eiko Grew up in

The newly married couple's house was rebuilt near the fishing port in Taro. They had six children. The oldest daughter and the son were born before the war. Eiko's father was drafted and served a soldier. After the war, four more children were born.

In the Japanese marital system, one surname has to be chosen out of the husband's or the wife's. There is controversy over this issue now, but the system has not been changed. Eiko's mother Ai Makino became Ai Araya when she got married at the age of 19. Changing the family name was common at that time although there is a controversy over the issue now. There was no more Makino in the Makino family. Her father was an heir to Araya Family, which was devastated by tsunami. Eiko was born to these parents.

There were two boys and four girls in the family. Eiko was the fourth daughter. All the

children grew up hearing the stories of Makino and Araya Families. They also heard why their parents kept living in Taro. They started having collaborative relationship to keep the two families. They expected the second oldest brother to succeed to the Araya family, and Eiko to succeed to the Sano Family. This was never forced by their parents, but the children themselves thought about naturally. They were rooted in Taro. Taro was always their home even though they had to go to big cities to work. They expected some of their children or grandchildren to stay in Taro. It was a proof of their valuable family tie.

All the six children who grew up near the beach in Taro went to Taro Daiichi Elementary School. Probably because their father was a school teacher, four of the children grew up to be school teachers. Eiko was one of them. She became interested in the profession as she was raised by her parents. Teaching was an ideal profession, and the image was brought by her father.

In the family Eiko's mother lived with, there were six children. The children left home and became independent as time went by. The husband who loved Taro just like her deceased. Eiko aer mother, and the second older sister lived locally in Taro.

Her father who was a teacher died in 1998. His children got reconfirmation without discussion. "We cannot lose our mother by tsunami."

4.3 What Eiko learned from her mother: She passed on the tsunami history through her essay

The mega tsunami of Showa (1933) came after the big earthquake, which occurred at 2:30 in the morning. However, the residents who lived in the areas where many people died from a mega tsunami in Meiji knew they had to escape to hills.

Eiko's mother's maiden name was Makino. Ai Makino's family was also heading towards a hill right after the big earthquake. She was waiting her family members, but they did not come. Therefore, she decided to evacuate to a hill with other people who lived in the same area and her friends.

She waited for a long, long time, but none of her family members came to the hill. When she looked down, she found that her house had been washed away.

This has been described in "Sanriku Kaigan Otsunami (Mega tsunami of Sanriku Coast)" written by Akira Yoshimura. Later, Ai wrote about her experience in a school essay. (The fact that Taro is a tsunami-prone area has been marked in "Tsunami to mura (Tsunami and villages)" written by Yaichiro Yamaguchi.

5 What the mother taught was to write about the disaster experience in the essay

5.1 The Taro Village Tsunami Record Magazine

One year after the Showa Sanriku Tsunami (1934), the Taro Village Tsunami Record Magazine was published by Taro Daiichi Elementary School. In that book, the essay written by Ai Makino was put, but didn't attracted a lot of attention until later. The reality that everybody in

her family was affected by the disaster was described vividly.

This essay attracted a lot of attention afterwards. Her mother wrote about her experience in the following manner.

It was published in the Tsunami History of Taro, and people started reading and talking about it. The disaster and the fact she lost her family became unforgettable. That is because she wrote the essay, and she always talked about the significance of it. A writer Akira Yoshimura also published it in his book, and more people read it.

Akira Yoshimura came to Taro to interview the victims who experienced Sanriku tsunami and he also came to see Ai Araya. They have kept in touch, and even after the mother died, and Yoshimura.

5.2 An Extract from of Ai's essay

At 2:30 in the morning of March 3, Ai's father woke up everyone saying "It's an earthquake!!" He opened the door, and went outside, but came back in. The house did not fall over, so it seemed safe. We went back to bed and made a fire. Her father thought it was weird, and said, "The ocean is ringing, evacuate to the hill." We woke up Sokichi, and put Senchan on Mum's back. When Shizuko and I went outside, Dad was crying "Light the lanterns!!" Ai said to her younger sister Shizuko, "Let's go!," but Shizuko said she was going to go with Dad.

When standing in front of the house, Toshiko Tamazawa came and we evacuated to the hill pointing at it. There were many people, but we made it to the hill. We went further from the shrine at Mt. Akanuma. The parents of other kids came to collect their kids, but no one came from my family to collect me.

I went down the hill when it became light and searched my family, but I could not find anybody. No one told me where they were. Then, I understood that I was left alone. I went to the grave and saw Kobayashi, who also left his/her family. We cried together. I could not sleep at all that evening thinking about my family.

Every time I heard that a dead body was found on the beach, my heart pounded with fear. Every time I went to where the house was in the town, it was scary. The following day, my uncle found my family members; Grandpa, Dad, and Shizuko. I asked him where Mum was, and he said "Probably she went to the sea."

The neighbors said, "Why didn't you pull your dad when you evacuated?" I cried, and they wiped my tears with their sleeves. I became all alone.

6 What Eiko's Father taught her

6.1 Both Eiko and her father were principals at Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools

Eiko's father Kohni Araya was born and raised in Taro. He was a victim of the mega-tsunami in Showa, and he lost his family then. He left Taro once, but came back when the area was reconstructed. He took over the family and became an elementary school teacher after graduating

from college, and worked as a principal at the end. Eiko was the 16th principal of Taro Daisan Elementary School, but 60 years before that, the first principal was her father. Eiko was the principal there at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake. She fulfilled her duties as a principal and protected the lives of the students and staff. Two years after the disaster, in March 2013, she retired. Four years after that, the school was closed.

6.2 What she learned from her father

6.2.1 Education that gives no answers

A number of study groups visit Taro to learn about tsunami. One day, a student asked the former principal Kohni Araya, “Why do people keep living here? They know this area has been damaged by tsunami many times.” He thought about it a little bit, and said, “You will understand when you become as old as I am.”

Maybe he felt he was unable to explain it logically. He wanted the student to find the answers after thinking about it and experiencing life over a long period of time. It is impossible to give simple and “correct” answers like in tests given at schools.

If we ask someone else who lives in the same area, he/she will give a different response from Eiko’s father’s. Her father chose to give such a pregnant response.

When Eiko Araya told me this episode, she was as old as her father in the episode. She has had the same question for decades as her family history was not forgetful. Eiko said “I understand it now I am as old as my father of that time.”

6.2.2 Learn from nature: An Episode: “I was a child of nature.”

Eiko says she was a wild child. She spent time having adventures in the nature of Taro, which is surrounded by the ocean and mountains. This experience deepened her relationship with her hometown, Taro. She was truly a Taro child.

When Eiko was about five years old, she started having interests in the things outside her house and building relationships with people besides her family members. However, she still had to be in the safe environment managed by adults. Eiko started going to a nursery. She went there every day, but she stayed there only for an hour and came home. It is not that she hated going there, but she liked exploring the natural environments. As soon as she came home. She went to the ocean, the forests, and the fields in Taro.

What Eiko was interested in was the town of Taro and its environment and nature. In the fields and forests in Iwate, there are poisonous snakes. However, Eiko never was afraid of them. She observed the snakes and learned that they would not attack her.

The second author of this paper has asked from a famous city planning scholar what is important for him to do as a scholar in the field. The response he gave was “Walking. Walk in the town you are researching and learn about it. That is most important.”

Eiko liked spending time with her friends, but she liked exploring in the nature of Taro



Photo 6

Kohni Araya: the first principal of Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools

more. “I was a child of nature,” that is the explanation she gives after reflection her childhood. It helped her build the strong relationship with her hometown Taro, and affected her life afterwards.

6.2.3 Education to make students think: Episode from the beach, what Eiko learned from her father and his way of education

Eiko learned a lot from her parents when she was a child. What was unique about the way of her father’s education was that he educated her to be able to think herself.

When she was playing on the beach, they never said “Don’t play on the beach because it is dangerous,,” but they asked “What will she do when a big earthquake occurs when she was playing on the beach?”

Eiko’s father started worrying about her when he found out that she had been skipping nursery and playing by herself on the beach and in the forests. The area had been hit by tsunami many times in the past, and her parents had lost many family members from tsunami. They still loved Taro, and lived there after getting married and raised Eiko.

Eiko’s father was a school teacher who never told her not to play on the beach. It was not his way of education. Instead, he would ask Eiko, “What will you do if tsunami comes when you are playing on the beach?” Eiko would respond “I will be OK because I will swim away.”

When Eiko was playing on the beach and in the forests of Taro, the first tide wall was about to be completed. People in Taro started thinking they would be safe. Eiko’s father would ask her, “What will you do if tsunami comes when you are playing on the beach?” Eiko would respond, “I will be fine because we have the tide wall now.” Then, he would ask, “What will you do if tsunami comes over it?” Eiko answered, “I will swim away.” Her father asked no more questions.

However, Eiko started asking herself this question; if she can really swim away when a big tsunami hits the area. The question had been kept in the back of her mind for a long time. Her father made his children think. It was his educational method. He probably used the same method in his classes. Four of Eiko’s six siblings became school teachers. They learned from the lives of their parents and determined their future.

After 50 years from then, a big tsunami that came over the tide wall and hit Taro. The tide wall was completed in 1958 after the big tsunami hits in 1896, 1933, and 1958. In 1958, 25 years after the mega tsunami in Showa, the first tide wall was completed (the first construction period was from 1934 to 1958). The city area was extended and the second and third constructions were conducted. The completed tide wall looks like an X-shaped fortress. The height is 10.63m above sea level. The total length was 2433m. It was said the wall resembled the Great Walls of China.

When Eiko was a child, tide walls were built in Taro as measures taken to prevent Showa Sanriku tsunami. This has brought a sense of security to the local people. However, Eiko’s father was worried that people would forget there was ocean on the other side of the walls.

That is why he asked Eiko what she would do if tsunami came over the walls. Her father, and as an educator, he may have wanted to help Eiko think about the matter. Eiko always tried to teach it in her professional life

6.2.4 Her father left a book opened

Eiko’s father read a lot. How he read books was interesting. He would put the book opened and upside down on the floor in his room. There were many books left like that in his room.

When Eiko was a child, she wondered why he read books and left them in that way, but afterwards she speculated it may have been his way of getting his children interested. He may have expected his children to find what they were interested in reading, rather him telling them what to read. Probably that is why all the six children loves reading.

7 Eiko, who became a teacher and the town of Taro

7.1 The connection of Eiko and Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools

Eiko was the youngest of the six children. She has two older brothers and three older sisters. Her parents had to raise their children when Japan was going through the most disastrous time, which is during and right after the World War II. The first daughter was born in 1941, and the first son was born in 1942. Eiko's father received a draft-notice after that. The war finished (Japan lost), the second daughter was born in 1946, the third daughter in 1948, the second son in 1950, and finally the fourth daughter Eiko was born in 1952.

When Eiko was about five years old, her father became a principal of the elementary school in the Settai area, which in the north of Taro, Taro Daisan Elementary School. It was about 20 kilometers from their house, and it took 2-3 hours on the bus. Therefore, Eiko's father started living alone in the area.

However, Eiko's father was worried about Eiko, who was energetic and was always playing on the beach and in the forests. He decided to take Eiko with him and his wife. The oldest two children had left Taro to go to high schools in an inland area. The other three children remained in Taro, and the one who was in a junior high school was supposed to look after the younger ones. Ai and Eiko, who was a preschooler, often went to the elementary school in the Settai area (Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools), stayed there for a few days, and came back to the house in Taro.

The youngest child Eiko was a preschooler and wild. He could not leave her at home; therefore, he took his wife and Eiko to Taro Daisan Elementary School. They stayed there for a few days a week. The school was new and he was the first principal there. At that time, there were no housing for teachers, and they lived at the school. They slept in the teachers' room. Her parents could not leave Eiko at home, who played in the nature of the local area.



Photo 7

Eiko and her mother Ai at Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools

Taro Daisan Elementary School was in the Settai area in Taro and it was not near the ocean. It stands in a area for farmers along Settai River, but the sea level is not so high. There were risks of tsunami if it comes against the flow of the river. Eiko played in the rice fields near the school catching tadpoles, and spent with teachers who worked and talked in the teachers' room after school in the evening.

People in the area got to know Eiko, who blended right in Taro Daisan Elementary School and the local area. When Eiko came back to Taro Daisan Elementary School as the principal, she saw elderly people who remembered as children. Eiko grew up in the nature and grew up in a desirable educational environment. Eiko was the 16th principal there.

7.2 We can never lose Ai by tsunami

Her family loved the area and the community although it was affected by disasters a number of times. Eiko grew up there to be a school teacher just like her father. She was a principal in April, 2009. Two years after that, in March 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. Her house was severely damaged, but she protected the students of Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools.

The government announced that the area where her house was unreconstructible.

She rebuilt her house in a place a bit farther out from Taro. However, Eiko really wanted to come back to Taro. Therefore, she bought a piece of land on a hill in Taro and came back there. From the hill, she can see where she lived before. The site is at the foot of the newly built bank.

Four years after the disaster, Taro Daisan Elementary School was closed after the graduation of the students. When she was five, Eiko's father was the first principal of this school, and her family lived there. Fifty years after that, Eiko, the youngest child in the family, was the 16th and the last principal of this junior high school (second from the last principal at the elementary school).

初代	二代	三代	四代	五代	六代	七代	八代	九代	十代	十一代	十二代	十三代	十四代	十五代	十六代
荒谷 功二	千田 三治	中村 巖	千葉 民雄	川村 健也	内村 慶次郎	吉田 吉男	柿崎 和昭	菊池 勉	尾張 十三昭	山口 了紀	四戸 正	菅野 和枝	大平 健一	松岡 康夫	荒谷 栄子
昭和32年4月	昭和44年4月	昭和46年4月	昭和48年4月	昭和49年4月	昭和53年4月	昭和56年4月	昭和60年4月	平成元年4月	平成4年4月	平成7年4月	平成10年4月	平成13年4月	平成16年4月	平成18年4月	平成21年4月
昭和44年3月	昭和46年3月	昭和48年3月	昭和49年3月	昭和53年3月	昭和56年3月	昭和60年3月	平成元年3月	平成4年3月	平成7年3月	平成10年3月	平成13年3月	平成16年3月	平成18年3月	平成21年3月	平成23年3月
昭和44年3月31日	昭和46年3月31日	昭和48年3月31日	昭和49年3月31日	昭和53年3月31日	昭和56年3月31日	昭和60年3月31日	平成元年3月31日	平成4年3月31日	平成7年3月31日	平成10年3月31日	平成13年3月31日	平成16年3月31日	平成18年3月31日	平成21年3月31日	平成23年3月31日

Photo 8

List of principals of Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools

7.3 Ai cannot die from tsunami

Eiko's house that she rebuilt stands on the hill that looks over the sea of Taro. When you stand at the entrance of the house, you can see the ocean beyond the green hills.

The house in which Eiko and her mother lived was destroyed completely. Ai's life was saved though and they decided to move her to the second oldest daughter's house, which was in an inland area of Miyako City. Ai lived there for 1 year and seven months there. Eiko decided to build a house in a residential area in an inland area in Miyako City as she did not bother her sister for such a long time.

It was impossible to build residential houses in many inundated areas in Taro District. They had to move to a different area to build a new community. They have decided to cultivate a small hill that looks over the sea of Taro to make a new residential area for the victims. It was going to take along time though.

Eiko and her siblings had their houses rebuilt in different districts in Miyako City, which was safe from tsunami. However, they could not see the ocean there or could not walk along the beach. After a few years, Eiko and Ai started to have health problems although they were living in a safe house. Eiko thought it was not good for Ai's health, and she decided to go back to Taro, and they moved to a residential district for disaster prevention group relocation.

7.4 Eiko's mother died on 17 January, 2017 at the age of 95.

Eiko really wanted bring her mother back to a place where she could have a view of the sea of Taro. Taro was the home to Eiko's mother, where she felt deeply connected to. The house in which Eiko and her mother lived was inland, which was safe, and tsunami would not hit. However, her mother started to look lifelessly. Eiko decided to move to a hill that looks over the sea of Taro.

In 2015, Ai started telling Eiko that she wanted to go back to Taro. Eiko often drove her there. Because Ai said so often that she wanted to return to Taro, Eiko explained many times why it was impossible to do it. She had to scare Ai by saying that Taro had become a terrifying place after the disaster. Ai stopped telling Eiko that she wanted to return to Taro. Ai passed away in a hospital in January, 2017. Eiko cried loudly there and held Ai without worrying about what others might think of her.

Eiko often went back to Taro and made her best efforts to have a new house rebuilt there. She was finally able to do it in Sanno, Taro. She wanted Ai to spend her last days there, which never happened.

Ai died of old age on 20 January, 2017 at the age of 95. She lived in and with Taro throughout her life. The four children were sad, but they were relieved at the same time because they did not have to lose Ai by tsunami.

Eiko's husband also lost his family and his house was washed away by the tsunami in Showa. They had their house rebuilt in Taro and raised six children. Eiko had their house rebuilt there. When she moved into the new house, she was able to sleep very well. She had not slept as well as that time for several years. The only regret was she was not able to see Ai leave this world at her house in Taro. Books of family history of both Makino and Araya families as well as the photos of her parents and siblings are put on the family Buddhist altar in the newly build house.

Eiko prays in front of it before she leaves the house to go to disaster preparation events.

8 Eiko wonders what protected the children

Conclusion

Elementary schools are important in school education on disaster preparation in the community. There are many kinds of natural disasters in Japan, and there are also various kinds of risks. In order to survive these natural hazards, it is important to overcome the vulnerability of the society. Three kinds of power is needed for this: 1 power of science, 2 power of schools 3 power of community.

The cause of disaster, and the factors that did not prevent damages and victims need to be determined scientifically. In order to respond to emergency, local communities need to have disaster prevention plans, and enhance emergency drills. Schools need to be built in places which are safe from natural disaster so that students can be protected and local people can evacuate there. Infrastructure to save various kinds of people need to be set up. As part of public help, school teachers and staff should work together with the people in the local communities to respond appropriately in times of emergency. The disaster prevention culture of communities need to be practiced and passed on.

There was good collaborative relationship between the local people and the staff members of Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools where Eiko was the principal at. We cannot forget that Eiko, who knew a lot about the natural environment and disaster culture of Taro, was the principal there. Working with the natural environment and community of Taro is what she learned from her parents and her professional life.

An elementary school which is the important site in the community in terms of disaster prevention cannot be abolished. Teachers who know the risks in the time of disaster and the local culture of disaster preparation need to be placed. Schools and local communities need to work closely. All local communities have residents who love the area. To maintain the power of the community, it is important to have strong support based on scientific power from the country. It is also essential to combine that kind of support with the power of schools in the community. This is what we can learn from the case of Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools and Eiko's family history.

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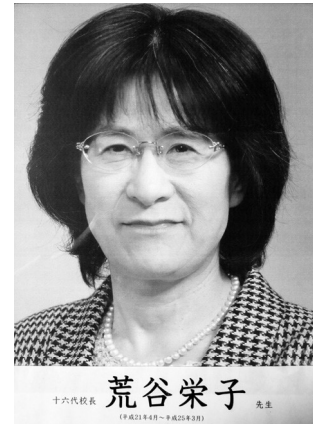


Photo 9

The 16 th principal of Taro Daisan Elementary and Junior High Schools

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牧野アイと荒谷功二から荒谷栄子へと 受け継がれたもの ——津波常襲地・岩手県宮古市田老で校長を務めた ファミリーヒストリー

麦倉 哲
小川 春美

要旨:

本論文は2011年の東日本大震災で被災した自治体の小学校において、学校長を中心とした教員たちや地域の人々が、いかにして児童生徒を安全に避難させたかの事例研究である。そのなかで焦点となるのはこの対応をとった主体が、当該小中学校の女性の校長先生であったことである。日本の小学校において、女性の校長先生が防災対応において独自のリーダーシップを発揮した例を分析・考察する。論文では当該校長のファミリーヒストリーの分析に及ぶ。津浪の常襲地域である宮古市田老地区において、校長の両親は1933年の昭和の津波でたくさんの家族を亡くした遺族であった。しかし、それでもふるさとを愛し、故郷に戻ってきた両親から、荒谷栄子はこの土地の災害文化や防災教育の神髄を学んで、そして学校教師となり、校長となったのである。校長が大震災時にとった行動には、この両親が経験した甚大な被災経験が背景にある。

キーワード:

津波、女性校長、防災、ファミリーヒストリー、災害文化

