

A STUDY ON USE FOR GROUP HOME AND CARE HOME IN OSAKA PUBLIC HOUSING

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The amendment to the Public Housing Act has made it possible to use dwelling houses as group homes and care homes. This study examined rented houses owned by Osaka Prefecture, where the greatest number of such houses are used as group homes and care homes in Japan.

The houses in Osaka are mostly used as care homes, in which case, two unadjacent houses comprise one unit. Although the distance between them causes anxiety and inconvenience, traveling between them creates opportunities to communicate with neighbors and may bring rehabilitation effects. The houses can be used after minor renovations on the inside, although it depends on the degree of disabilities. Because oppositions from the neighbors can be resolved by holding explanation meetings and promoting understanding toward disabilities, very few cases of trouble have been reported. The houses are perceived as an intermediate between a welfare facility and independent living.

Thus, there are various advantages, such as securing of places to run a home, low launching and operational costs, and interaction with neighbors. Furthermore, neighbors' awareness toward welfare will increase through communication with the disabled and welfare personnel. It can therefore be expected that these houses would become new bases for community welfare.