TRANSITION AND PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS
ABOUT WELFARE FACILITIES FOR THE AGED AND CHILDREN
- With an analysis of the articles on the opposition movements against construction -

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Recently, in Japan, the establishment of numerous nursery schools is suspended due to neighborhood opposition. Back in the 1990s, homes for the aged were in a similar situation. This research aims to examine the chronological transition of social consciousness about these facilities. As the research material, newspaper articles on the opposition were dealt with. By analyzing the articles and the surrounding condition of the site of 23 homes for the aged and 15 nursery schools extracted from the articles, the causal factors of this phenomenon were clarified.

The homes for the aged had the peak opposition from the late 1980s to the early 1990s because of prejudice against the facility itself and its users. However, it soon decreased as the aging society advanced, while there remain some cases caused by the government’s promoting of construction in green or public spaces.

Nursery schools had the first peak in the 1970s, treated as undesirable noise sources. After passing it, the second peak appeared in the 2010s, caused by the deregulation in the 2000s, psychological distance to children in recent society under the declining birth rate, and incomprehension of the necessity of nursery school among the elderly who have never used it.