The Occupational Structure of Okinawan Cities

NAMIHIRA ISAO

This present paper investigates the social structure of Okinawan cities based on a longitudinal surveys on occupational structure conducted every ten year in 1977, 1987, and 1997. The series of surveys has pursued three major problems: namely (1) factors to determine individual occupational status, (2) the relationships between changes in occupational positions and social consciousness, and (3) comparison of ten Okinawan cities in relation to those two points.

The subjects of investigation were male and female beings from twenty to less than seventy years old living ten Okinawan cities. The research materials were collected through interviews by means of using questionnaires.

The major findings were as follows: viewed from upward and downward mobility, the occupational structure of Okinawan cities are relatively open in spite of chronically low economic growth; the Okinawan cities are structurally not group-oriented but individual-oriented society, which promotes to form informal routes in social relations as observed in population mobility and even job-placement, but does not effect upward and downward occupational mobility as such.

Furthermore the Okinawan cities are structurally unequal society in relation to educational opportunity, mate selection, inter-generational mobility, and achieving motivations. However, there seem no consistent relationships between occupational mobility and social consciousness.