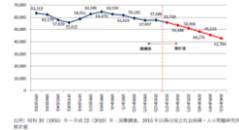


Sustainable Regional Reactivation With Footpaths from Britain

Introduction

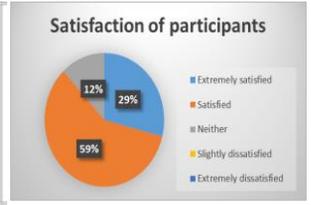
The Chikuho area, which we live in, used to flourish as a coal mine town. However, as the coal industry has been declining, our area has been losing the activity which it once had. With an ever decreasing and aging population, how can we reactivate the area? Are there any ways for the area without enough tourism resources to attract many people not only from Japan but from overseas?



年次	総人口	0歳～14歳	15歳～64歳	65歳以上
1980(昭55)	8,892	22,108	2,889	22,875
1985(昭60)	8,849	21,708	2,841	22,682
1990(昭65)	8,713	21,296	2,875	22,242
1995(昭70)	8,602	21,088	2,826	22,184
2000(昭75)	8,488	20,838	2,778	21,744
2005(昭80)	8,381	20,588	2,730	21,304
2010(昭85)	8,269	20,338	2,682	20,864
2015(昭90)	8,158	20,088	2,634	20,424
2020(令和2)	8,047	19,838	2,586	20,000

Result

Public relations by Miyawaka City.



Questionnaire for locals who helped us make courses.

What is the advantage?	
Deepen relationship in the area.	85%
Get more chances to meet young people.	80%
Lead to our good health.	77%
Rediscover community resources.	75%
Being able to participate anytime.	70%
No burden to the area.	70%

Questionnaire for students.

What is the advantage?	
Know the characteristic of the area	81%
Know the history of the area	71%
Know the local assignment	71%
Communicate with different generations	68%
Communicate with local people	58%
Enjoy nature	55%
Think positively about the area	52%

Questionnaire for Students.	Yes	No
Did you actively engage in this activity?	94%	6%
Did you go to research other than the time of the class?	85%	15%

Research Question

We concentrated on “Footpaths” from Britain.
What benefits can regions receive by introducing footpaths?

What is Footpath?

Footpath means “Walking along a path”.
The birthplace of Footpath is Britain.

UK's Public Rights of Way
Footpath facilities and organizations
Signs and Maps
Footpath facilities and organizations

Two main types:
Footpath: walkers
Bridleway: walkers, horse riders and cyclists

Also ok: dogs (sometimes on a lead), push chairs, wheel chairs, prams

Signs and Maps
Every county council must:
maintain signs
have maps of public footpaths.

Footpath
Network of Footpaths and Ways. Open to walkers only, accompanied with a guide dog.

Bridleway
Network of Footpaths and Ways. Open to walkers, horse riders and cyclists, accompanied with a guide dog.

Footpaths in Japan

Hokkaido has a lot of footpath courses.



Discussion



- Footpath is that anyone can freely participate in any time.**
 - The local people only have to enjoy having conversations with walkers.
 - There are few burdens to the area.
 - ⇒ These points are important for sustainable activities.
- Positive changes in the attitude of the local residents through footpaths.**
 - Local people can have deeper communication each other.
 - The atmosphere of welcoming visitors is spread among the area.
 - ⇒ Local residents can get a sense of satisfaction.
- Footpaths have an educational effect on students.**
 - They can learn the local history and characteristics.
 - They can interact with different generations.
 - ⇒ We can utilize footpaths as an educational resource.

Method

- Making footpath course plans.
- Proposing their courses to the area.
- Holding a footpath tour.
- Analyzing the effect of the footpath with a questionnaire.

with help from the University of Kitakyushu, and local residents



Future work

There are 6 criteria required to establish footpaths in any region.

- Obtain local support to welcome walkers to the region
- Obtain formal support from the local government
- Encourage the use of public transport
- Maintain paths in good conditions
- Establish adequate marketing of footpaths
- Show how footpaths will be maintained in the future
 - ⇒ How can we spread footpaths?
 - ⇒ What can we do to continue footpaths?

Using footpaths as an “educational resource”

- Cooperation with elementary schools.
- Footpaths with foreign people.
 - ⇒ We are going to hold a footpath tour with foreigners next year.