

Ageing and Population Decline: Implications for Sustainability in the Urban Century in Japan and Globally

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Abstract

Major demographic transition characterized by an ageing and declining population are taking place in many parts of the world. At the same time most of these areas are either highly urbanized or are urbanizing rapidly. From that reason sustainability needs more intensive analyses in academia, policy and practice at various scales to evaluate implications of these demographic transition processes. Identifying the challenges and opportunities that ageing and declining urban populations will facilitate pathways for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has also become apparent that many areas will face increased risks from Climate Change while facing increase of aged population which is the most vulnerable group in the society. Moreover, COVID19 pandemic also exposed the vulnerability of urban areas especially in countries with high ratio of elderly people, highlighting the necessity of adjusting urban planning towards larger green spaces allowing outdoors recreation. As already many innovations embracing the ageing and declining population exists (examples in Japan and other countries countries), yet we need to consider employing even more technological, socioeconomic, institutional and governance responses to enhance opportunities and minimize related risks in order to achieve long-term sustainability.

Reference:

Jarzebski M.P. et al. Ageing and Population Decline: Implications for Sustainability in the Urban Century, npj Urban Sustainability - Nature (in press)