

## The Role of Intergenerational Programs for Supporting and Enriching the Lives of Children, Youth and Elders in Japan.

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### Purpose:

In the context of growing concerns related to demographic and social changes taking place in Japan, the purpose of our research is to explore the significance of inter-generational programs and activities for simultaneously creating positive, productive roles for elderly people and positive development outcomes for young people.

### Method:

Over a 9-month period (1994-95), we studied intergenerational program initiatives and issues in Japan. This involved: conducting an interdisciplinary literature review, interviewing social researchers, educators, and health and human service professionals, and conducting site visits including three case studies of specific programs.

### Results:

There are numerous examples of intergenerational initiatives across the country and they are designed to achieve a variety of human and community development objectives. Participants learn about and gain respect for other generations, and receive needed social stimulation and support. Creative thinking and administrative support at the municipal and prefectural levels make such initiatives possible.