

Structure Modeling Of Improvement In The Quality Of Welfare Service And Research Trends On Welfare Industry In Japan

Ayako Oura, Waseda University, Japan
Manabu Yamaji, Waseda University, Japan
Atsushi Ogihara, Waseda University, Japan

ABSTRACT

In Japan, the quality of service provided in elder care facilities is drawing special attention after the enforcement of the Long-term Care Insurance Act in 2000. This study is aimed at proposing a structure model on improvement in quality of welfare service and clearing a research trend on welfare industry in Japan by systematic review. At first, Key words regarding to the quality of welfare service were taken by related papers. And then we discussed those key words using KJ method and developed the structure model composed of four areas and three-layer structure. Second, a literature search was exhaustively performed with 12 keywords on Cinii and Google Scholar databases for papers published between 1991 and 2010. From the papers returned by the search, the 63 original papers were examined. This study showed that the staff's care burden and nursing consciousness were featured themes. On the other hand, there were few researches as a customer satisfaction or information management. In addition, these researches only considered short-term effects.

Keywords: Quality of Service; Research Trends; Structure Model

1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, Japan has been facing serious concerns of a rapidly aging population and a very low birthrate, changing family structure, and the need to promote the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities. Further, the demand for welfare service in Japan has been rising every year. The growth rate in the population of people aged 65 years or older keeps rising. In 2015, the rate is expected to reach 20%, which will soon be followed by a full-blown aging society [1].

In recent years, with changes in society and economy, corporate structures and services have been diversified, and approaches to the quality of service have been given increasing attention. The idea of Total Quality Management (TQM) that started with manufacturing has been gradually extended to the service industry. Academically, discussion of this idea has centered on the improvement of awareness of users' rights and the stable management of facilities. In the welfare industry, the enforcement of the Long-term Care Insurance Act in 2000 called special attention to the quality of service provided in elder care facilities.

However, this involves several problems, one of which is that there is a lack of sufficient scientific validation in literatures about the quality of service in elder care facilities. In the welfare industry, which provides nursing services, the approach to improve the quality of service poses a serious challenge to the development of the welfare industry.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRUCTURE MODEL ON IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF WELFARE SERVICE

This study is aimed at carrying out a systematic scientific review of papers examining the quality of service in elder care facilities in Japan; the study also involves an attempt to systematically arrange the scientific evidence on the quality of service in elder care facilities.

First, we created a structure model on improvement in quality of welfare service shown at Figure 1. TQM is intended to provide employee satisfaction (ES), customer satisfaction (CS), and social satisfaction (SS). We classified the components of improving the quality of service in welfare into four groups: information management system, facilities environment/employment environment, care skill/welfare service, and management personnel and information.

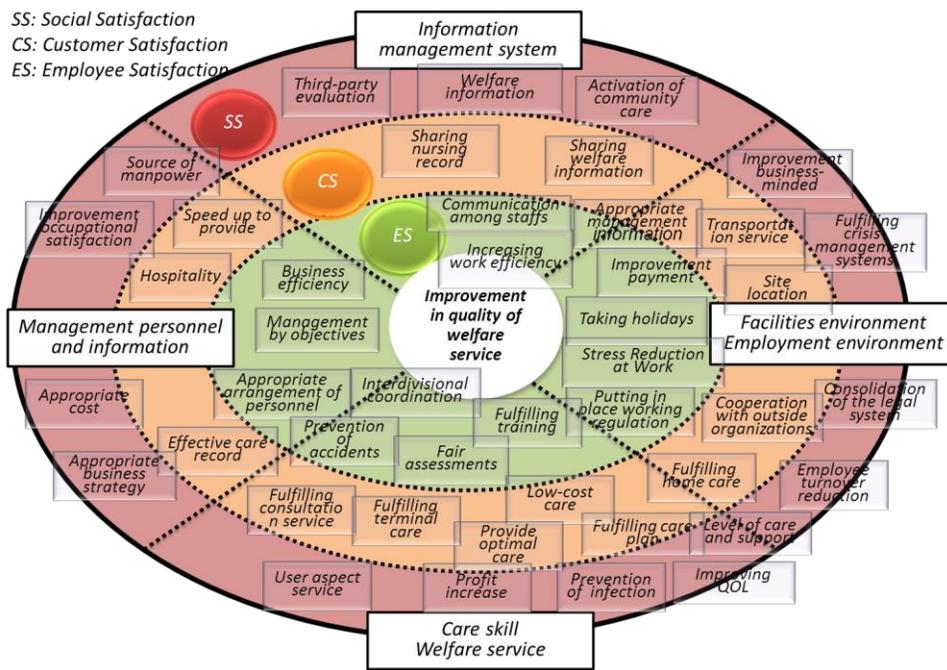


Figure 1. Structure model on improvement in quality of welfare service

Their components were taken by related papers [2-4]. And then we put in them each area on the model.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

A search was performed on Cinii and Google Scholar databases for papers published between January 1, 1999 and July 31, 2010. The retrieval period is June 20 through June 26, 2010, during which we searched the papers [5, 6]. Twelve combinations of retrieval wards were shown in Table 1.

For this purpose, it is important to develop a new methodology that will enable us to create a strategic service model that will anticipate customer requirements and supply those services at the appropriate time, and also assess the effectiveness of the service model (fig. 1).

Table 1. Retrieval words and dates

Combination of retrieval words (in Japanese)	Date	
	Cinii	Google Scholar
Welfare & management	20-Jun	20-Jun
Nursing & management	20-Jun	20-Jun
Nursing & quality	20-Jun	20-Jun
Welfare & quality	20-Jun	20-Jun
Welfare & ISO	22-Jun	22-Jun
Nursing & ISO	22-Jun	22-Jun
Welfare & standardization	25-Jun	25-Jun
Nursing & standardization	25-Jun	25-Jun
Welfare & information	26-Jun	26-Jun
Nursing & information	26-Jun	26-Jun
Welfare & human resource	26-Jun	26-Jun
Nursing & human resource	26-Jun	26-Jun

We added each total and the overlapping papers were removed. Moreover, papers pertaining to child welfare were removed.

As a result, the total papers including overlapping were 132,269, removing overlapping were 1144, and of which 63 were the original papers. We showed the secular change of the papers, and classified them by the objective, theme, and the method.

4. RESULTS

We obtained the following results. Table 2 shows the retrieval word and hits. Figure 2 shows a process of screening all papers.

Table 2. Retrieval word and hits

Combination of retrieval words(in Japanese)	Cinii		Google Scholar	
	Total	Original Papers	Total	Original Papers
Welfare & management	2,818	4	12,900	299
Nursing & management	1,824	0	5,130	114
Nursing & quality	1,633	18	8,100	288
Welfare & quality	3,920	80	21,400	986
Welfare & ISO	155	1	859	40
Nursing & ISO	80	1	225	9
Welfare & standardization	166	4	4,350	300
Nursing & standardization	77	0	1,270	86
Welfare & information	8,999	72	29,200	937
Nursing & information	4,214	5	12,000	437
Welfare & human resource	940	1	6,990	213
Nursing & human resource	1,830	1	3,180	70

The most number of the combinations of searching wards were “welfare& information” on Cinii and Google Scholar.

4.1 Secular change of the number of papers

As a result of the paper search, it was found that the total number of papers is 1,144, and of which 152 are the original papers. Figure 3 shows the secular change in the number of papers. It shows the total number of papers, the original papers, the research papers and others.

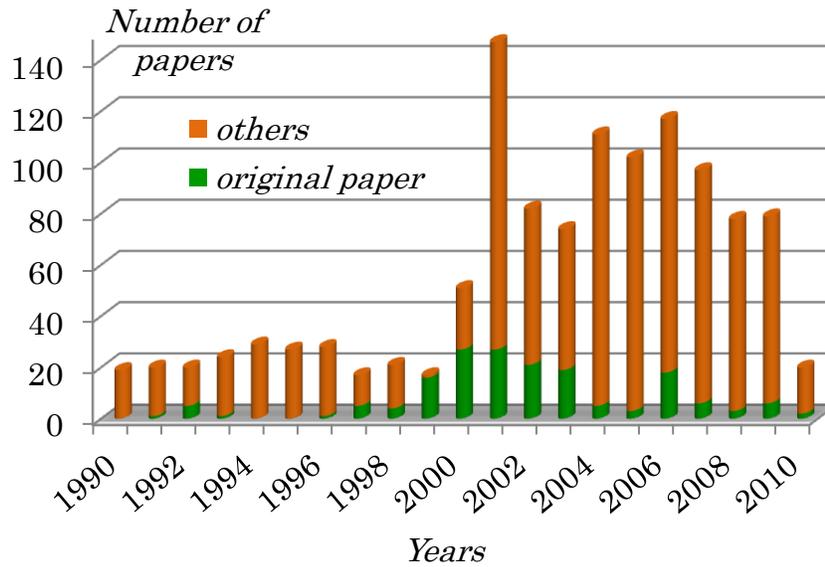


Figure 2. Secular change of the number of papers

Figure 2 show that academic interest in the welfare industry reached a peak in the beginning of 2000. The nursing insurance system was also implemented in 2000, and the welfare industry was reviewed in 2005 [7]. For this reason, related papers increased by 2001 and 2006.

4.2 Base Attribute of Paper Search

Totally, the 63 original papers were classified by subjective, objective, theme and method using the title and content summary (Table 3)

Table 3. 63 of original papers

Author	Bibliographic information	Subject	Methods	Classification		
				Methods	Sub-ject	Theme
Yumi, T (1991)[9]	<i>The journal of Juntendo Medical College of Nursing</i> 2, 30-40.	Patients and their families who receive visiting nursing from the hospitals and clinics in certain limited areas.	The fact-finding survey giving questionnaires	Questionnaire research	Both	Home care
Eguchi, N (1997)[10]	<i>Memoirs of Ashikaga Junior College</i> 17(1), 65-72.	Nursing staff at facilities for homes.	Giving questionnaires to find the relationship between the basic attributes of stresses and stressors, as well as the effects of psychological stress responses and the observation of the process.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Eguchi, N (1998)[11]	<i>Memoirs of Ashikaga Junior College</i> 18(1), 103-108.	A stratified multi-level randomization method from new and middle class matrons who were actually involved innursing	The survey items included health status and subjective recognition of stress.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Iwamoto, S (1998)[12]	<i>Bulletin of the School of Nursing, Yamaguchi Prefectural University</i> 2, 13-21.	Living in "H City" of Yamaguchi Prefecture was conducted. This city is 10 years ahead of the national averages in terms of the proportion of aged citizens in the general population.	Understanding the elderly population's knowledge and understanding of such reforms interviews of elderly citizens.	Interview research	User	Governance
Ogata, M., Doi, M (1999)[13]	<i>Kawasaki journal of medical welfare</i> 9(2), 155-161.	Four special nursing homes.	Complaints of fatigue in 38 care givers working day and night shifts in the special nursing home for the aged were surveyed.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Takeda, I (1999)[14]	<i>Kawasaki journal of medical welfare</i> 9(2), 169-176.	1 city 6 town in Okayama, two welfare institutions for elderly people.	Creating a reliable and valid QOL index based on an investigation of the public care insurance system and a questionnaire investigation concerning QOL.	Questionnaire research	User	Care assessment
Eguchi, N., Ishiguro, K., Tomizawa, M (1999)[15]	<i>Memoirs of Ashikaga Junior College</i> 19(1), 55-61.	By observing such parameters as the qualifications of case managers, professional requirements, activities of "ON-LOK" in the United States and through a comparison of the management of home nursing systems in Japan.	Investigating the manner of activities of home nursing stations in Japan by comparing the health care systems of the United States and Japan.	Related document research	Staff	Home care
Higashi, T., Uchiyama, K., Kusano, T., Nakamura, R., Ishida, K., Tomita, Y (1999)[16]	<i>Bulletin of the School of Allied Medical Sciences, Nagasaki University</i> 13, 103-107.	The caretakers of persons, using day care service in a clinic, about the Long Term Care Insurance.	Questionnaire.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Governance
Hirayama, S., Kanemitsu, Y., Shindo, T(1999)[17]	<i>Kawasaki journal of medical welfare</i> 9(1), 55-60.	92 home caregivers who had suffered bereavement within the past one half to 3 years.	The quality and quantity of their perceived social support was analyzed from the viewpoints of the kinds and length of time of that support.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Others
Yokoyama, M (1999)[8]	<i>Kawasaki journal of medical welfare</i> 9(2), 191-200.	114 persons who participated in the 1st class of home helper training school.	The set questionnaire in question paper.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Home care

Table 3: continued

Hashimoto, H (2000)[18]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 10(1), 25-32.	The ethical codes of conduct of professionals working at medical welfare institutions.	The ethical codes of conduct of professionals working at medical welfare institutions were divided into following three categories: 1) The relationship between the professionals and their patients: 2) the relationship among professionals and other kinds of professionals (including institutions), and: 3) whether the professionals can intervene in the relationship between other professionals and their patients to advocate for them.	Related document research	Staff	Governance
Uchida, F (2000)[19]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 10(2), 219-224.	A persistent disturbance of consciousness patient Okayama prefecture.	Question by a mailing method.	Questionnaire research	Both	Caregiver awareness
Hitomi, H., Nakamura, Y., Osawa, G., Miyahara, S., Tokuyama, C., Ogawa, T (2000)[20]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 10(1), 87-95.	Two rural areas were selected at random from each prefecture in Japan.	The questionnaire requested information about: 1) The number of elderly people, 2) The number of elderly people who died and the number who died at home, and 3) The type of social services available. More detailed information was also requested about those who die at home, including 1) The cause of death, 2) Age at death, 3) Condition of the patient at the time of death, 4) The type of social services being used for the patient, and 5) Whether the patient or family members had requested that the patient would be allowed to die at home or not.	Questionnaire research	Both	Home care
Mihara, H., Yokoyama, M., Minemoto, K (2000)[21]	Bulletin of the School of Nursing, Yamaguchi Prefectural University 4, 20-25.	One hundred-fifty careworkers in four nursing and residential homes were selected as research samples.	Focusing on perceptions about carework by careworkers held in nursing and residential home for the aged.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Nakamura, Y., Miyahara, S., Hitomi, H., Ogawa, T (2000)[22]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 10(2), 225-230.	18 visiting nursing stations in Osaka City.	Questionnaires by mailing method.	Questionnaire research	Both	Home care
Hiroe, H., Osawa, G., Nakamura, Y., Ogawa, T., Nakanishi, K., Ehara, A (2000)[23]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 10(2), 273-284.	417 care workers who attended on elderly people	The grief process two years after the death of an aged family member was examined by questionnaire.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Elderly lifestyle
Nagae, H., Naruse, K., Kawagoe, H (2000)[24]	Bulletin of St. Luke's College of Nursing 26, 31-43.	Nursing records of seven cases and seven nurses who cared them were interviewed for defining contents of nursing supports.	Interviewing for defining contents of nursing supports.	Nursing report	Staff	Home care
Higuchi, K (2000)[25]	Memoirs of Ashikaga Junior College 20(1), 73-81.	14 home-nursing-care users of a nursing station.	It interviews after the end of assistance, helping a person requiring care.	Interview research	Staff	Home care

Table 3: continued

Bessho, Y., Hosoya, T., Hasegawa, M., Yshida, Y., Kitade, J., Agata, R., Kawabata, A (2000)[26]	Journal of Fukui Medical University 1(3), 495-509.	Three staffs in three home nursing station Fukui, F city, and three experienced in rehabilitation	Reporting collaborated ways of three cases' rehabilitation care practiced by Ns and PTs. The Ns assessed physical and mental health, activities of daily living, and the PTs assessed physical function and mobility level. After setting the goal of the program, they exchanged information along the process of care and recorded them. The Ns and the PTs evaluated the clients' goal achievements.	Nursing report	Staff	Home care
Bessho, Y., Hosoya, T., Kitade, J., Agata, R., Kawabata, A (2000)[27]	Journal of Fukui Medical University 1(1), 191-198.	63 persons at the home elderly requiring nursing care of the Fukui F city, with no dementia at bedridden degree rank B-C, and they are the level I.	The survey was conducted on rehabilitation programs of sixty-two bed-ridden elderly clients who agreed to join this study by asking their home care nurses to complete questionnaire.	Interview research	Staff	Home care
Saeki, K., Miura, M., Kido, T., Tsukasaki K., Kimura, R (2001)[28]	Memoirs of School of Health Sciences Faculty of Medicine Kanazawa University 24(2), 39-46.	187 married female teachers.	With a support of Women's Division in the Teacher's Union of S city, blank questionnaires were distributed to watch kindergarten, elementary and junior high school in S city.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Matsui, T., Okada, S (2001)[29]	Bulletin of Osaka Prefectural College of Health Sciences, 55-62.	2,211 of care and a welfare staff in a home care support center.	A cross-sectional mailed survey.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Lee, Y (2001)[30]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 11(2), 255-260.	"Care Conference" for one community, "A-cho".	Interviewing the public official assigned to the Care Conference on Social Welfare together with the social worker who is its chairperson and four men who are staffs members.	Interview research	Staff	Community welfare
Tsukahara, T., Miyahara, S (2001)[31]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 11(1), 17-24.	The heads of nurses of 530 facilities selected by systematic sampling from 2,770 special nursing homes for the elderly established before 1993.	A survey of the present status of terminal care at special nursing homes for the elderly sending a questionnaire.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Field survey in facility
Kunitake, K., Furukawa, H., Noguchi, F (2001)[32]	Journal of the faculty of nursing and nutrition Siebold university of Nagasaki 1, 7-19.	12 elderly people and 12 caregivers.	They belonged to the two groups, B and C, by using of the Activities of Daily Living (ADL) Scale made by the Ministry of Health & Welfare. The researcher face to face interviewed them and the caregiver.	Interview research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Tsukada, M., Uno., Kamiyama, M., Kobayashi, H., Tamura, Y., Matsuda, E (2001)[33]	Higher brain function research 21 (4), 236-241.	A total of 364 subjects with cerebral vascular injury receiving community-based speech therapy in Tokyo participated in the survey.	A survey was conducted to study the situation of adults who are in speech therapy at community-based health-care and social-welfare facilities	Questionnaire research	User	Field survey in facility
Miyahara, S (2001)[34]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 11(1), 9-15.	All Residents at home A in Okayama prefecture (capacity: 110person) between 1993 and 1998.	The actual conditions were studied by perusing medical records and referring to the deaths certificates, ect.	Related document research	Staff	Staffing
Segawa, M (2001)[35]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 11(2), 277-286.	Three non-functional case of the sub-system of patient and main care-giver.	Studying families that are taking care of old people, looking at the family structurally according to the system-theory approach.	Observational research	Both	Home care

Table 3: continued

Sawada, Y (2002)[36]	Kwansei Gakuin policy studies review 1, 1-17.	A data of 715 nursing home care workers drawn from 42 nursing homes located western part of Japan.	Four hypotheses were tested by F-test.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Kono, M., Kuroda, K (2002)[37]	Bulletin of Aino Gakuin 15, 79-87.	378 of special elderly nursing home in the Keihanshin area.	The questionnaire by a mailing method	Questionnaire research	Staff	Field survey in facility
Washio, M., Arai, Y., Izumi, H., Mori, M (2002)[38]	Japanese journal of geriatrics 40, 147-155.	Caregivers who took care of frail elderly persons 1 year after the introduction of the public long-term care insurance system (i.e., kaigo hoken) in the northern part of Fukuoka Prefecture, Kyushu, Japan.	Forty-seven caregivers answered a self-administered questionnaire involving the Japanese version of the Zarit Caregiver Burden Interview (ZBI) and thus described their own caregiving situation.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Mahune, T., Ando, S., Sema, A (2002)[39]	Niigata Medical Journal 116(2), 78-89.	Many materials related to the Community Care System for Olds, and interview to 8 Main Care Giver (M•C•G) co-residence with Alzheimer' disease.	The questionnaire of the interview are held MMS, FAST, etc for Alzheimer's Disease and QOL of Health & Life, etc for M•C•G. RESULTS.	Related document research	Both	State of dementia
Shindo, S (2002)[40]	Bulletin of College of Allied Medical Science Akita University 10(2), 165-170.	50 residents. (12 men, 38 women aged 53 to 94 years, mean age 75.5years)	Analyzing their ADL (mobility, eating, toileting, bathing, grooming, dressing and communication) for five years after institutionalization.	Observational research	User	Changing nursing care level
Minematsu, A (2003)[41]	Japanese journal of occupational medicine and traumatology 51, 405-409.	19 of care givers who works in a certain welfare institution for elderly people, 38 students who aim at a care worker in a certain welfare vocational school.	The questionnaire concerning rehabilitation knowledge and technology about the occupational consciousness of a care job person and a student.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Human resource development
Morimoto, H (2003)[42]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 13(2), 262-269.	157 care staffs in study 1 and 201 care staff in study 2 were examined respectively.	ANOVA and path analysis.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Kobayashi, A., Yajima, M., Umabayashi, K., Kobayashi, K., Ohno, A (2003)[43]	Gumma Paz Gakuen College 5(1), 33-46.	In-home services users living in a town in Gunma Prefecture. After mailing the questionnaires to the subjects, we visited their houses and collected the questionnaires.	Questionnaires were used to assess the quality of in-home services by taking a hard look at the long term insurance system.	Questionnaire research	User	Care assessment
Higuchi, K., Dai, Y., Wakasa, R (2003)[44]	The Journal of Juntendo Medical College of Nursing 14, 85-94.	56 after the end of the first half of junior home-health-care in nursing system junior college real.	The contents described by the record thing of the "conclusion of home-health-care training" of a student are deciphered in detail.	Nursing report	Staff	Human resource development
Yamamoto, T., Aoki, Y., Kawabe, F., Takahashi, S., Nagata, A., Wazumi, Y (2003)[45]	Journal of School of Nursing, Chiba University 25, 45-51.	A nurse who applied nursing practice methodology into paper patients.	Intending to make what kind of knowledge was used in judgment of a nurse who applied nursing practice methodology into paper patients.	Others	Staff	Human resource development
Hisano, S., Shimizu, H (2003)[46]	Journal of health sciences Hiroshima University 3(1), 21-36.	157 care staff in study 1 and 201 care staff in study 2 were examined respectively.	ANOVA and path analysis.	Literature research	Staff	Field survey in facility
Koike, S (2004)[47]	Journal of the Keio Medical Society 81(4), 271-286.	All municipalities in Japan.	Questionnaires were sent to all municipalities in Japan in November 1999 (before the introduction of LTCI) and in 2001(after the introduction of LTCI).	Questionnaire research	Staff	Community welfare

Table 3: continued

Nitta, S., Mochizuki, N., Shimizu, Y., Uemura, N (2005)[48]	Yamanashi Nursing Journal 4(1), 27-33.	50 elderly receiving both day-services and home-health nursing.	A statistical work about the copy data of a connection note.	Related document research	Both	Field survey in facility
Mochizuki, N., Nitta, S., Shimizu, Y (2005)[49]	Yamanashi Nursing Journal 3(2), 27-32.	The aged people requiring care of day-care-services use eight within the prefecture, 54 nursing-care-by-family-members persons living together.	Beforehand and the posttest experimental study design in an intervention group and a contrast group.	Interview research	Staff	Caregiver awareness
Otsu, H., Takayama, S., Handa, Y., Ogawa, C., Nomura, S. (2006)[50]	Humanity and science: journal of the Faculty of Health and Welfare 6(1), 25-35.	Participants ten elderly residents with Alzheimer's disease living in nursing homes whose age was over sixty-five and who could communicate with others verbally and express their opinions.	With the ultimate aim of exploring methods of nursing care appropriate to their feelings while wandering.	Observational research	User	State of dementia
Saito, Y., Matsumoto, M., Ohta, S., Yoshinaga, T (2006)[51]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 15(2), 529-537.	The 9 subjects were classified into an independent group, a partial assisted group and an assisted group according to mobility.	The living location and activity in the daytime, sleep-wake rhythms, sitting pressures and sitting postures before and after adoption of technical aids were investigated.	Experiment	User	Care support,
Furuse, M., Saeki, K (2006)[52]	Journal of the Tsuruma Health Science Society Kanazawa University 29(2), 55-64.	The study was performed on 14 Japanese visiting nurses data collection.	The study was performed on 14 Japanese visiting nurses using semi-structured interviews and the M-GTA.	Interview research	Staff	Care support,
Shinagawa, Y., Kishimoto, T., Ohta, S (2006)[53]	Kawasaki journal of medical welfare 16(1), 121-128.	Monitored data at home for 25 months.	To establish detection method of health condition of elderly people living alone, we statistically analyzed monitored data at home for 25 months.	Experiment	User	Others
Nishikawa, T (2006)[54]	Journal of the Socio-Cultural Research Institute, Ryukoku University 8, 189-205.	Type A Moderate Fee Senior Citizen Home.	Investigating the situation of Type A Moderate Fee Senior Citizen Home in November 2004.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Field survey in facility
Matsumoto, K., Wakasaki, A (2006)[55]	Kawasaki journal of medical 6(1), 67-72.	36 senior citizens of 65 years or more based on the report of authors' preceding this time.	The qualitative factor search type of the current state of Successful Aging was researched using a questionnaire survey.	Questionnaire research	User	Elderly lifestyle
Futoyu, Y., Okada, Y., Shinpou, T., Okuyama, M., Takeda, K., Kawaguti, T (2006)[56]	Kawasaki journal of medical 15(2), 423-431.	89 persons of the solitude aged 65 and over which resides in the Tomiyama area, and an elderly-people husband-and-wife household.	Hearing investigation	Interview research	User	Community welfare
Takeda, K., Futoyu, Y (2006)[57]	Kawasaki journal of medical 16(1), 53-66.	Nine previous papers containing concrete information about the spirituality of elderly Japanese.	Analyzing with reference to literature, to extract concepts related to spirituality and put them into some structural relationship	Literature research	User	Elderly lifestyle
Mochizuki, S., Yamagishi, H., Iijima, S (2007)[58]	Yamanashi Nursing Journal 5(2), 19-24.	Using random sampling, unsigned questionnaires were mailed to public health nurses at 40 municipalities throughout Japan.	Unsigned questionnaires.	Questionnaire research	Staff	human resource development
Suhiura, K., Ito, M., Mikami, H (2007)[59]	Japanese journal of geriatrics 44(6), 717-725.	1,818 users of the public Long-term Care Insurance Act, randomly stratified and sampled in Higashi-osaka city, Osaka prefecture. Data	Data were collected through mailed, anonymous self-report questionnaires.	Questionnaire research	Staff	Caregiver awareness

Table 3: continued

<i>Ichiki, N (2007)[60]</i>	<i>Bulletin of Kyushu women's university 43(3), 1-20.</i>	<i>The nursing insurance system.</i>	<i>Providing the universal care service of sincerity in this paper in the nursing insurance system.</i>	<i>others</i>	<i>staff</i>	<i>community welfare</i>
<i>Ozawa, M., Mizuno, M., Sato, E., Takaya, T., Masaki, H., Hirose, C., Takeo, K (2007)[61]</i>	<i>J Nurs Studies N C N J 6 (1), 3-9.</i>	<i>Type of hospital hired new nurses, and trained them for 11 nursing skills considered to be particularly related to patient safety.</i>	<i>An original questionnaire is developed and investigated.</i>	<i>Questionnaire research</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Human resource development</i>
<i>Igarashi, H (2008)[62]</i>	<i>Yamanashi Nursing Journal 6(2), 25-30.</i>	<i>153 nursing persons of a home nursing station user.</i>	<i>The account type question paper investigation of self-was used for investigation. In distribution of a survey form, it is cooperation of 8 home nursing stations of A prefecture.</i>	<i>Questionnaire research</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Home care</i>
<i>Nakanishi, J., Morishita, M (2008)[63]</i>	<i>Bulletin of Nagasaki University School of Health Sciences. 20(2), 9-18.</i>	<i>759 A school-of-nursing graduates.</i>	<i>Postal survey was conducted with unsigned questionnaires.</i>	<i>Questionnaire research</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Community welfare</i>
<i>Mochizuki, S., Mogi, M., Iijima, S. (2009)[64]</i>	<i>Yamanashi Nursing Journal 8(1), 9-14.</i>	<i>250 visiting nurses in A Prefecture</i>	<i>Unsigned questionnaires were distributed</i>	<i>Questionnaire research</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Caregiver awareness</i>
<i>Takayama, N., Takeo, K (2009)[65]</i>	<i>J Nurs Studies N C N J 8(1), 1-9.</i>	<i>First, an evaluation standard for measuring team work and impacting factors in nursing was created using existing scholarship and clinical experiences.</i>	<i>Creation of the rate scale about the teamwork and the factor affecting in a nursing care activity.</i>	<i>Questionnaire research</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Nursing teamwork</i>
<i>Watanabe, N (2009)[66]</i>	<i>Tokiwa Journal of Human Science 17, 19-28.</i>	<i>270 welfare service workers, 81 care worker training organization second graders.</i>	<i>Questionnaires.</i>	<i>Questionnaire research</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Caregiver awareness</i>
<i>Kemuyama, S (2009)[67]</i>	<i>Bulletin of Graduate School of Health Sciences, Akita University 17(2), 1-11.</i>	<i>152 staff in 3 institutions in A prefecture.</i>	<i>Intending to clarify the recognition of depression state in dementia by care workers and nurses and corresponding problems was carried out.</i>	<i>Questionnaire research</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>State of dementia</i>
<i>Fukuma, M., Shiwaku, K (2010)[68]</i>	<i>Journal of the Japanese Association of Rural Medicine 58 (5), 516-525.</i>	<i>The relationship between changes of care levels of frail elderly people residing in Izumo City, Shimane, and such factors as gender, age, activity of daily life and care services utilization, in a cohort study of 1965 certified elderly individuals in 2000, and of 2547 such individuals in 2002.</i>	<i>Tracking the care levels of each cohort over a two-year period.</i>	<i>Related document research</i>	<i>User</i>	<i>Changing nursing care level</i>
<i>Mitoku, K (2010)[69]</i>	<i>Japanese Journal of Tobacco Control 5(1), 10-17.</i>	<i>2,720 employees who were directly involved in geriatric care at 114 facilities that included a special care home for the aged and F geriatric health care facilities under the jurisdiction of Okayama Prefecture Bizen General Service Bureau and Okayama Prefectural Group Home Association.</i>	<i>To measure the level of stress, the "Simple Survey Sheets for Occupational Stress" was used. Through 57 questions, stress factors were described by 9 items, stress responses by 6 items and other factors affecting stress responses by 4 items.</i>	<i>Questionnaire research</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Caregiver awareness</i>

4.2.1 Classification by the research object

First, we classified papers into three categories: a user aspect, a staff aspect, both the user aspect and the staff aspect. As a result, the papers classified as dealing with the user aspect made up 19%, those related to the staff aspect made up 70%, and those related to both the user aspect and the staff aspect, 11%. Figure 3 depicts these.

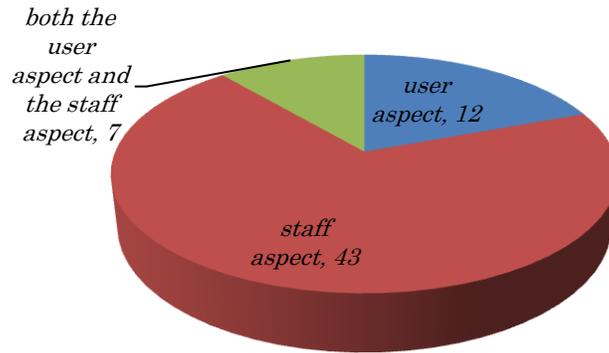


Figure 3. Classification by the research object

Yokoyama [8] showed an example of the staff aspect. He investigated home-care nurse’s posture and consideration to record. As a result, it was shown that the nursing report notes which are an opportunity for staff to communicate, and the greatest need was for reports, training, and self-study of the nursing report notes.

4.2.2 Classification by the research theme

Second, we classified 13 categories as depicted Figure 4. As a result, the category of care giver’s awareness included 16 papers; home care, 11; field survey in facility, 6; human resource development, community welfare, and governance, 5; state of dementia, elderly lifestyle, and care assessment, 3; care support, and changing nursing care level, 2; and nursing teamwork, and staffing, 1.

Totally, 57% of the papers were classified as consisting of questionnaire research and interview research. However, none of the research results were actually approaches used.



Figure 4. Classification by the research theme

We picked up the top five researches. First, for the category of care giver’s awareness, Mihara[21] focused on perceptions about care work by care workers at nursing and residential homes for the aged. The result showed that they felt that it is better for the aged to live in their own home than to stay in a nursing home. Furthermore, these care workers felt that the social status of care work is not high. Mihara proposed the necessity of movements to improve the social status of care work among care workers and social workers.

Next, for the category of home care, [35] studied families that are taking care of older people, looking at the family structurally according to the system-theory approach. As a result, it was cleared that it is possible to apply the system-theory approach to care- giving in the home.

Through a field survey in facilities, Nishikawa [54] showed the choices presented by a type A moderate fee senior citizen home. The realities are reported the urge of the selection whether A type is on the direction of “Tokutei institution” and elderly in need of nursing care is accepted positively, or place to live for an independent senior elderly as usual.

In respect to the category of human resources, Yamamoto [45] intended to make what kind of knowledge was used in judgment of a nurse who applied nursing practice methodology into paper patients. Process of thinking of the nurse who applied nursing practice methodology was described, and analyzed. As a result, the knowledge used for judgment of a nurse extended to human science, physiology, pathology and social welfare studies in depth.

In respect to the category of community welfare, Tsukada [33] showed the actual condition of those who used the speech therapist service in the community welfare system and the health facilities.

Regarding the category of governance, Hashimoto [18] proposed to clarify the advocacy functions of employees of medical welfare institutions. He divided medical welfare institutions into the following three categories: 1) The relationship between the professionals and their patients; 2) the relationship among professionals and other kinds of professionals (including those at institutions), and; 3) whether the professionals can intervene in the relationship between other professionals and their patients. It was found that the most important factor was to guarantee the patients’ rights. A common ethical code of conduct for professionals working at medical welfare institutions needs to be proposed.

4.2.3 Classification by the research method

Moreover, we classified the papers by analytical method as depicted in Figure 5. As a result, the category of questionnaire research comprises 36 papers; interview research, 8; related document research, 6; nursing report, 4, observational research, 3; paper research, experiment research, 2.

Figure 5 shows that about 70% of the researches are classified as questionnaire research and interview research. However, none of the research results were used to devise an actual approach to quality improvement.

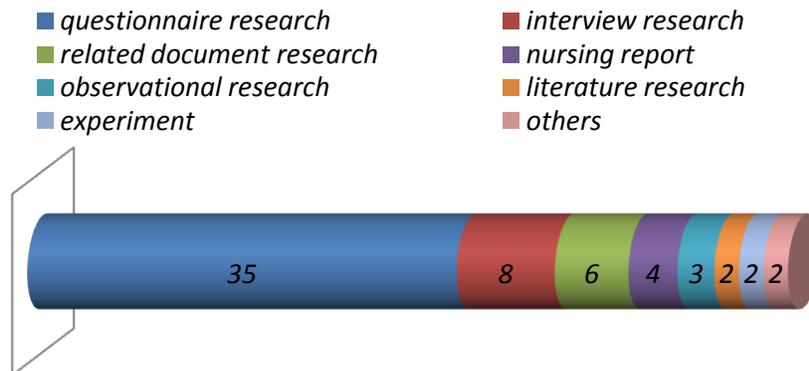


Figure 5. Classification by the research method

5. DISCUSSION

In this paper, we examine the trend in research on the quality of service provided in the welfare industry. However, the trend is not directly related to the quality of service in the original paper. All researches take a partial view as themes for improving quality and have a short-term consequence.

Mochizuki [64] analyzed causal relations between occupational satisfaction and the burnout experienced by the home-care nurse. It was shown that a factor causing burnout of the home-care nurse is the lack of awareness about the profession and decreased occupational satisfaction. Additionally, it is shown that increasing awareness of the profession through job experience and in-service education may improve occupational satisfaction.

Takayama [65] analyzed team work and the related factors in the nursing care activity. As a result, it was shown that “Confidence in team work” meaning a good relationship with the superiors and colleagues has a positive influence on the “Desire for work”, “Confidence in nursing”, and “Job satisfaction”.

It is certain that the topics of their researches included elements composing TQM. However, their researches did not aspire to TQM.

As regards the approach to improvement of patient satisfaction, there are researches that use a mental health assessment before and after. However, these researches does not seek that gone after the root cause of them and a continuing cycle of management in the following years still needs to be established. This result suggests that the concept of TQM does not percolate throughout the welfare industry unlike in manufacturing, for example, where Toyota is known for its leadership enterprise in quality management.

As regards the increasing papers about care burden or the development of human resources might indicate one direction, it is thought that it may be required to make a manual of human resource development including mental health skills for individuals.

It is quite possible that the manual of human resources development will be used for education in a general setting in the future. Ozawa [61] showed that the actual training in nursing technique focused on the novice nurse’s education. It was shown that a lot of the hospitals with beds for patients in general care assigned these to the novice nurses, and most of the hospitals taught nursing technology as directly connected with patient safety. It is necessary to have efforts improving the quality of the facilities with these researches. For example, what kind of training will be effective, and reason why the training needs to do in the general care wards at the hospitals.

Furthermore, because the researches that described information storage made up about 50% of the papers, we predict increasing numbers of facilities will implement electronic health record systems or ordering systems. However, in the research on information storage, there are no original papers about a concrete system. For instance, the research by Nitta [48], investigated the actual conditions with regard to the description of the report note. We found that there was no evaluation of the electronic health record system and ordering system at the present stage in terms of their effective use. Effective use of these systems would both increase business efficiency and enable the sharing of information between staffs in the facilities and staffs among facilities.

Thus, these systems would have a positive effect on the quality of service. Hence, it seems that the importance of an engineer who is well-versed in the welfare industry arises. Moreover, people working in the welfare profession should also acquire knowledge of quality management.

Furthermore, we summarized their results at Figure 6. The chart is color-coded on Figure 1 according to the number of cases which showed the depth of red color. The deepest red is over 10, the second deepest is from 5 to 9, the third deepest is from 1 to four, and white color is zero.

Figure 6 showed that there were many white, the results shows that there were a lot of frontier in welfare service to improve the quality of service. And we thought the important of the quality of service isn’t understood very much. Particularly examples were in the dimension of “Information management system”, and “Management personnel and information”

other is that the field of paper and numbers differ according to site. Therefore, these search sites require additional work with respect to their search functions, and work must be done to ensure that more science publications are registered with these sites.

6. CONCLUSION

In Japan, the enforcement of the Long-term Care Insurance Act in 2000 called special attention to the quality of service provided in elder care facilities. However, this involves several problems, one of which is that there is a lack of sufficient scientific validation in papers about the quality of service in elder care facilities. This study is aimed at carrying out a systematic scientific review of papers examining the quality of service in elder care facilities in Japan.

The results suggested by a scientific review of papers is that the quality of service is not examined in total judging from the original papers extracted during a particular period of searching.

As regards the tendency of the researches, there were many researches on the facilities staff using the questionnaire survey and about 80% of the object focused on the staff aspect.

Moreover, we expect that the facilities that will introduce information systems in the future will increase, because 50% of researches focused on information. The researches that examine the quality of service overall in the welfare industry will increase, and business manuals, a system for the development of a manual of human resources development, and a system for intelligence sharing on the welfare front will be efficiently implemented in the future. We expect that the form of welfare work will be reviewed, and the approach to the quality improvement of each original facility's service will be extended.

The challenge of the study lay in using only Google Scholar and Cinii, which are paper searching systems and index sites in an integrated field. Although, few general academic concerns stood out in relief, a paper searching system for the specialized field would be expected to lead to more detailed results.

Furthermore, we found that the paper searching system have two problems. One problem is that the operational expression cannot be correctly read. The other is that the field of the paper and the numbers are different according to the site.

Therefore, additional work is required for these search sites with respect to their search function and ensure that more science publications are registered.

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Ayako Oura is a graduate student of Department of Health and Welfare Sciences, Graduate School of Human Science at Waseda University, Japan. She majored in management engineering in the general areas in BA. Her current research interest is an applied study of quality management in hospital and welfare facility with biological survey. E-mail: ayako_oura@yahoo.co.jp. Corresponding author.

Manabu Yamaji is a researcher in Advanced Research Center for Human Sciences at Waseda University, Japan. He received his Master of Engineering degree in Graduate School of Information Systems at University of Electro-Communications in 1999. His current research and teaching interests are in the general area of quality management. In particular, he is interested in Total Quality Management, Computer Aided Engineering. E-mail: manabu.yamaji@gmail.com

Atsushi Ogihara is an associate professor of Department of Health Science and Social Welfare, Faculty of Human Sciences, Waseda University, Japan. He received the degree of Ph.D in Medical Science from Juntendo University of Japan and the Akino memorial research fellowship of the United Nations University. He has organized a quality management of welfare facilities research group to elucidate factors and process about quality of service in welfare facilities. E-mail: aogi@waseda.jp.

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