

[Review article]**Global activities of a community-rooted university**

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[Abstract]

Region-to-region disparities in health, population and economy are emerging issues in Japan. Japanese government has set forth regional revitalization as a national policy. The government expects that national universities located in rural areas should foster human resources and produce new knowledge for sustainable development of regional society in collaboration with local communities. Moreover, universities are requested by governments, citizens or professional associations to provide higher education which conforms to the global standards. Educational and research activities of each university are evaluated and reported in some assessment systems such as the World University Rankings.

Mie university is a typical university rooting in the local society. It has started collaborations with local governments and business companies for vitalization of the regional society. Even in such situation, universities are requested to make efforts to conduct world class education and research, and to provide human resources globally accepted.

Medical school of Mie university has been operating a large-scaled international health electives mainly in Asian and African countries for the last 10 years. In addition, the school carries out an educational program on community medicine, which was developed with a collaborative study with sister institutes in Asia and Africa. In clinical practice, global partnerships in the field of pediatric oncology, as well as those of maternal and child health and infectious diseases, was launched recently. Cancer was not highly prioritized illness of children in middle/low income countries 20 years ago because the medical care needed costly drugs and sophisticated facilities. Now there is a big disparity in survival rate of cancer children between high and middle/low income countries while the disease became curable with appropriate therapy. Cancer care in middle/low income countries has been changing with their economic growths and appearance of generic drug on market.

In this article, the author introduce educational activities of Mie university conducted for sustainable development of local and global communities, and then discuss the role of community-rooted universities.

Key words: community-rooted university, globalization, international health electives, community-based medical education, pediatric oncology