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Social Security for the First Half of Life

-- Employment, Marriage, Childbirth and Childraising: Risks and Guarantees

Introduction

The transition to smaller government that is the aim of reforms in the public sector requires the rebuilding of bonds of mutuality in households and regional communities, and is predicated on the concept of individual responsibility. However, the stable employment conditions and family relationships that characterized the past can no longer be taken for granted in considerations of national lifestyles. Following structural reforms, Japan's future social order rests on shaky foundations.

A variety of analyses have been applied to problems associated with the younger generation, such as the NEET phenomenon, late marriage or the inability to marry, and the low fertility rate, but it is the present and future uncertainty surrounding education, employment, marriage, reproduction and childraising that appear to be at the root of these problems. Risk is increasing in the lives of members of the younger generations.

“Social security for the first half of life” will be necessary if members of the younger generations are to work, have children and ensure social continuity with unwavering confidence. What types of system will need to be set in place to give young people confidence and trust in society, and how should such a society be established?