A Study on the relation between Reuse of Closed Elementary Schools and Community transformation and Renaissance: Kyoto Elementary Schools’ case studies

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With the recently decrease of elementary schools nationwide, Kyoto is not either an exception. After the Meiji Restoration, 64 Bangumi elementary schools were built in Kyoto starting from 1869.

In the 90’s Kyoto decided to unified or closedown 25 schools. Seven were unified among the 25 and 18 schools closed down and, were subject to a reuse program by other institutions.

The closedown of those Bangumi Elementary schools, which used to be the nucleus of communities and their activities, is a heavy story for inhabitants. In addition, it is thought that they may be concerned about the way how those elementary schools are going to be reused.

A Bangumi elementary school, almost a handmade of inhabitants, was a common property of inhabitants in early Meiji, and it was the center of social and cultural activities of the communities. Even if the school disappears, depending on a way how it will be reuse, the community members are still concerned whether or not, it can continue to serve as a local activity center?

The purpose of this study is to grasp and understand the ways the former Bangumi Elementary Schools are reuse and whether or not they are influencing the inhabitants’ daily community activities. At first, in this study, I will try to understand the change in the community structure according to the moving in and out activities of residents. After that, I will analyze the relation between the so called old and new communities by asking they participation and commitment to the community activities, the Chonaikai. I will conclude this study by investigating both, the management side and the users of the new facilities which replace the former Bangumi Elementary schools. Based on those results, I will analyze the influences of the reuse and its process on local residents.