

1.

The Constitution of Japan guarantees people, including older people, the freedom of choice of occupation (Articles 22 and 29), freedom of residence and relocation (Article 22), and property rights (Article 29). It stipulates the right to life that guarantees a healthy and minimum standards of cultured living for the people of Japan (Article 25).

The Aged Society Basic Act states that the national government should take measures to "ensure diverse opportunities for older people to work according to their motivation and abilities"(Article 9) and "promote the development of housing, suitable for older persons and ensure housing for older person" (Article 12). However, these are not positioned as the basic human rights and the rights of older people.

2.

The Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare defines the "relative poor" as households with less than half of the median equivalent disposable income, based on the method used to calculate the relative poverty rate. The Public Assistance Law sets minimum living standards, based on the area of residence, age, household members, and the presence or absence of disabilities; anything below these standards is considered a state of poverty.

3.

The biggest challenge is low pension. It was recently announced that pensions would be reduced by 0.4% in 2022. In the past 10 years, pensions have been reduced by 6.6%. In the absence of a guaranteed minimum pension system, the cuts continue, and among them, low pensions for women are a problem.

Other issues include being killed by family members due to the burden of long-term care. There are also issues of discrimination in housing due to old age and the inability to choose one's own housing style due to the need for care.

4.

The two main data released by the government are as follows. The first is the "National Life Basic Survey," which surveys the income, poverty rate, and living conditions of older people. The second is the "Labor Force Survey," which clearly shows the employment status of older people; it is possible to estimate the status of poverty among older people from the employment rate.

5.

Japan has a universal pension system, but the guarantee for those without pension or with a low pension is inadequate. Although there is a public assistance system, the level is low, and the government restricts applications, making it difficult to use the system. The guarantee of the right to housing is also insufficient.

6.

Price increases occur when economic stabilization policies are implemented through fiscal and monetary easing policies. In addition, pensions have a mechanism called macroeconomic indexing, which means that pensions are raised in line with rising prices; however, since 2004, macroeconomic indexing has been lowered. In the pension system reform, the starting age for pension payments has been raised and the amount of the payments have been reduced, while the

ceiling for insurance premiums has been set. Price hikes and pension reductions have thus had a significant impact on the lives of older people. Policy options include the expansion of guaranteed minimum pensions and social security systems.

7.

- "Older People Corporation" provides jobs according to the abilities and wishes of the older people. It originated in a trade union for day laborers and has evolved with the aging of workers. From the 1980s, the government began to provide subsidies "Older People Corporation" .

- "Pension reduction unconstitutional trial"; This is demanding cancellation lawsuit because the uniform 2.5% pension reduction from 2013 to 2015 violates the constitutional rights concerning living and property. More than 5,000 plaintiffs have filed suits in 39 district courts. The request for examination before filing was unprecedented for 126,642 pensioners. It is still under dispute.

- With the passage of "Workers' Cooperative Law", workers are investing in a way of working where they create their own rewarding jobs and decide on the management through discussions. Employment for the older persons is also being created in response to local conditions.

8.

In the field of economic security, measures to eliminate ageism and age-based discrimination are scarce. One of the measures is the "Housing Safety Net System." Older people seeking suitable housing are only provided with information on rental housing that is open to them . In addition, an adult guardianship system is available for those with dementia.

9.

At present, in economic security, those who are dissatisfied with the provision of pensions and public assistance can use administrative and judicial reviews.

In the future, it is necessary to state in law that the exclusion of older people from economic security and the right to an adequate standard of living is a violation of human rights, and discrimination based on age is prohibited. Under this, there is also a need for a body, independent of the government, to monitor violations of the rights of older people.