

# Medical–Welfare System Caring for People with Severe Intellectual Handicapps in Japan

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## Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to summarize a historical perspective of social-welfare for Japanese with a severe intellectual handicap and to present the major characteristics of the care system at hospitals–homes in Japan as compared with the system in Denmark. In addition this paper describes Japan's unique system for the care of "Jusho–shinshin–shogai–ji" (people with a severe physical and mental handicap). This includes its history and functions, particularly the important role of hospital–homes as community–based centers. Also, we propose a plan for the role of a community–based medical–welfare system for the severely intellectually handicapped based on the concept of "normalization". Introduced is a model for community–based care of "Jusho–shinshin–shogai–ji" in a city of one million people.

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