

Spread of survival technique 'chakuiei' in Japan

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A survival technique for sudden water accidents has kept children alive during this decade. The survival technique is called chakuiei in Japan and taught at the elementary school before summer vacation. Water Rescue Forum in Japan has trained more than 1000 chakuiei instructors in this decade. In this research, the degree of spread of chakuiei is described and discussed.

According to the National Police Agency, more than 800 persons were killed by water accident, including many victims with clothing in 2009. In Japan, approximately 80% victims fall into water during fishing, walking playing nearby sea and river. Approximately 400 children experienced water-related accidents in 2009. The children include citizens younger than middle school student, usually 15 years old or less.

The chakuiei instructor includes mainly firefighter, coast guard personnel and others. They are invited as instructor who teaches survival technique from sudden water accident by mainly elementary school. They teach to children how to float with clothing until rescue activity starting by the fire department and the coast guard office. In 2009, more than 30,000 students experienced floating fully clothed programmed by the Water Rescue Forum at the swimming pool in Japan, implying 0.5% of all elementary school children of 6 million.

A survival rate $R\%$ is defined by equation, $R\% = (N_a - N_d) / N_a \times 100$, where N_d is number of death by the water accident and N_a is number of person who experienced water accident. In 2005, the survival rate of children was 74%. It increased to 84% in 2009 according to an annual report of the National Police Agency, suggesting that the survival technique from sudden water accident is beginning to spread among children.

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