Concept of well-being based on “capability” and its sustainability based on relational intergenerational ethics

1. Health status, quality of life, and well-being in terms of capability

Health status, QoL, and well-being in terms of capability

a. Examination in healthcare

* health status & QoL

- Def 1: A person’s health status is measured as the integrated sum of her/his bodily (i.e., physical and mental aspects centered) QoL that is and will be actualized in the course of time from the moment of estimation on until the end of life.

Common target of medicine = to improve the integrated sum of a person’s QoL as better as possible

Palliative or curative treatment

QoL & scope of choice/capability

- Def 2: A person’s QoL at the moment of estimation is measured according to how wide the scope of choices available to the person is: the essential measure of a person’s QoL is the person’s actual capability at the moment.

- The person’s QoL (測定の時点における) is the person’s actual capability and is measured according to the scope of choices available to the person.
**quality of life - capability**

- The life is something to live (生きる)
- Live one's life → satisfy → “This life is good!” (QoL Evaluation)
- characteristics appropriate to satisfy people who live their own lives:
  - multidimensional construct relating to symptoms, impairments, functional status, emotional states
  - not all the characteristics that in fact satisfy people:
  - The common characteristic / criterion: capability (QoL, or actual capability at the moment of QoL)

**Satisfaction and quality of things**

- Drink sake of brand X → satisfy → “This is good!” (evaluate the quality of sake)
- Drive a car → satisfy → “This is good!” (evaluate the quality of the car)
- We recognize what characteristics a thing needs in order to satisfy most people who use it.
- QoL, or actual capability at the moment of QoL, or actual capability at the moment of QoL estimation, depends on the circumstances in life which she/he lives, and not exclusively on the physical and mental conditions.

**Aspects of QoL / its multidimensional structure**

- Mari cannot walk by herself: her scope of choices is narrow. マリは自力では歩けない: 選択の幅が狭い
- Mari can use a wheelchair: She becomes able to do more things: マリは車椅子を使う: より多くのことができる
- Roads, buildings etc., are made barrier-free: Her scope of choices is widen further: 道路や建物をバリアフリーにする: 選択の幅がさらに広がる

**QoL: the object of measurement is environment**

- QoL is a term that has been used widely in various social science contexts to refer to the overall, subjective appraisals of happiness or satisfaction experienced by individuals.
- “in health, the term QoL has been used often in a more particular way to refer to a multidimensional construct relating to symptoms, impairments, functional status, emotional states and what we have labeled as health domains.”

**QoL: evaluation of environment in which one lives**

- We recognize what characteristics a thing needs in order to satisfy most people who use it.
- A term that has been used widely in various social science contexts to refer to the overall, subjective appraisals of happiness or satisfaction experienced by individuals.
2. Relational intergenerational ethics and sustainability of well-being

関係相対的世代間倫理と人のよい状態の持続性

2. Relational intergenerational ethics and sustainability of well-being

Defining one’s well-being

Defining one’s well-being

b. relational system of ethics

two elements consisting in ethics

a. sustainability of well-being

b. relational system of ethics

- principle of closeness, or togetherness 近さ・同の原理
  - Originated in natural human relationships in primitive human bands, where collaboration and care make the members close and strengthen the unity（原始的な人の群のあり方）
  - ethical codes among people in close relationships.
- principle of remoteness 遠さ・異の原理
  - Originated in invented agreements for peaceful coexistence among bands that are not close, or even hostile, to each other; e.g., mutual non-aggression and noninterference in other groups’ internal affairs. (異なる群同士の共存を目指す合意)
  - ethical codes among people in remote relationship
- Each human relationship has both of the two elements to varying degrees → the two types of ethical coexist there （全ての人間関係には二要素が並存）
- Cf. ethics of care vs. ethics of justice (Carol Gilligan’s challenge) （ケアの倫理 対 正義の倫理）

+consortism / symbiosis

simply a live-and-let-live system?

- consistent with the ethics of remoteness

Need an attitude of live-by-helping-each-other 「互いに助け合いながら生きる」姿勢が必要

- the ethics of togetherness

- the Latin word “consors” means “one who shares an inheritance”
  - ラテン語consortの基本的意味は「遺産に共に与える者（同盟）」
c. Relational approach to intergenerational ethics

The sustainability of well-being

- *live-and-let-live* principle (ethics in remote relationship) --- ‘intergenerational equity’
  - 「自分も生き、他者が生きるのを妨げない」原理 --- 遠い関係における倫理

- *live-by-helping-each-other* principle (ethics in close relationship) --- ?
  - 「互いに助け合いながら生きる」原理 --- 近い関係における倫理

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Our positive attitude toward bringing down appropriate capability is an act of caring for the future generations

- 適切な実際的可能性を遺そうという積極的姿勢は、未来の世代をケアする働きである

- Future generations are not like bands coexisting with us, but like those reproduced in a band and cared for by elder members of the band.

- Our generation is responsible for the existence, i.e., reproduction, of the future generations.

- We hope to leave an appropriate environment behind for the future generations to live in
  - "appropriate" in the sense that such generations will be capable of promoting their lives with a wide range of choices.

- Inheritance of wisdoms and of better circumstances, or environment, i.e., succession of capability, is the way our ancestors had done for later generations until our generation --- and now we are doing for future generations.

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Generativity 世代継承性

- a term used in the psychology of Erik Erickson

- “Generativity is an adult’s concern for and commitment to promoting the well-being of youth and future generations through involvement in parenting, teaching, mentoring, and other creative contributions that aim to leave a positive legacy of the self for the future.” (Foley Center, Northwestern Univ.)

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equity and generativity

- Present generation ⇔ future generation

- Balance between them/ equity

- Differentiating present g. and future g. and comparing them

- (自らの世代と未来の世代を区別し、比較する→衡平という考え)

- corporate body of human beings who lives now and will live in the future : e.g.,

- (例えば、今後百年間の諸世代を一体として考える)

- def 5: Our human beings’ well being is measured as the integrated sum of our capability that is and will be actualized during a hundred years from now on.