

Reorganization Process of Public Junior High Schools After the Enactment of New Secondary Education System in Tottori Prefecture

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to make clear the integration and abolition process of public junior high schools in Tottori prefecture. Recently local governments are progressing with reorganization of public facilities rapidly for efficient management in Japan. Especially the reorganization of public education facilities in rural area based on depopulation has great effect on local communities. Therefore the location planning of public facilities is desired to meet the actual condition of local communities. However the reorganization process of public junior high schools in Tottori prefecture isn't concretely examined by the fine area. Accordingly in this study we attempt to clarify the actual condition of integration and abolition process of public junior high schools in Tottori prefecture after the enactment of the postwar secondary education system based on the analysis of historical background of foundation, location character and transition of the number of students in the unit of schools. Using each municipality history as a research method, to build the database. As a result we reveal the regional differences of the construction and reorganization process of public junior high schools in Tottori prefecture, and currently these differences are causing many problems for each areas.

Keywords: up to 5 words; Public Junior high school; Tottori Prefecture; Integration and abolition; Reorganization; Municipality

1. Introduction

The educational system in Japan was largely modified after WW II, and the Fundamental Law of Education was set as the new fundamental law for education in 1947. Therefore, the period of compulsory education was extended to nine years by this law, and attendance at new junior high school was required not only elementary school. Because of that, the Construction of new junior high school building was demanded on each local government. In the law for merger promotion established in 1956, the percentage of national subsidy for school building construction costs was increased from 1/3 to 1/2, and the Japanese government promoted the education policy to maintain the school facilities. On the other hand, the rapid economic growth period of the 1960s later, population movement from the district to the big city area went rapidly. The many junior high schools had been

integrated because the number of students had decreased in mountainous area and islands area of Chugoku district where depopulation were ongoing. At the time, the suitable junior high school consolidation was required, and the percentage of national subsidy for school building construction costs was increased again from 1/2 to 2/3 in 1970. On the other hand, the school integrations based on the uniform standard throughout the country caused several problem in many regions. Therefore, the Ministry of Education in Japan promoted the change in direction of the educational policy about the school integration in 1973. Thereby, the number of the school integration had been decreased temporarily.

In that same period, the decreasing trend of number of students in the district remained modest by the second baby boom. However, the number of students had been decreased after that, and the school integration and downsizing of school had been going on all over the country.

In Japan, the maintenance policy of school facilities had been greatly affected by the social changes as above. In recent years, as the further municipal consolidations advance, the school integration has become a significant social problem.

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The local government of the depopulated area merges with the city local government by the weakening of the administrative base and local government merger promotion measure after 2000, and there are many areas that formed the wide area local government. In addition, there are many local governments where the school reorganization with requests of deterioration, the earthquake resistance of number of students decrease, the school building or maintenance and the profit utilization of closed school facilities become the main problem.

It is important to solve the problems of including the continuation of the schools for domiciliation promotion in the child care household, reorganization and the rebuilding of the schools, the effective inflection of closed schools. Especially, the junior high school established as the new education system after WW II have been faced various problems. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the process of maintenance and reorganization of junior high school.

In this study, we attempt to clarify relationship the reorganization process of junior high schools and the rearrangement of municipalities after 1950 throughout case study of Tottori prefecture, one of the most depopulated area in Japan, based on public sources.

In this paper, we organize the situation of the junior high school maintenance in each local government of the junior high school founding period of 1947 for Tottori. We clarify the reorganization situation of the junior high school by municipal merger of the Showa after 1950. The analysis document assumes Tottori Board of Education jurisdiction school basic investigation (1960-2011), a Tottori staff of a school record (1949-1959) basics. In addition, we use the municipalities history and education history and merger journal and local government hearing findings document.

2. Foundation Process of the Public Junior High School

2.1. Foundation of the Junior High School (1947 – 1949)

In Tottori prefecture, the council for new educational system was organized in 1947, and examined the public school facility management. Thereby, the policy for establishment the public junior high school generally based on the school union of several municipalities was specified, because of the economic condition of each municipality. In this policy, the number of classes and students for one school should be 12 classes and 600 students.

Thus, 97 junior high schools were established based on the guidance of the country and the actual conditions of cities, towns and villages in Tottori prefecture. Table 1 indicates the number of schools by municipalities during the foundation period.

Table 1. The Number of the Schools According to Municipal of the Foundation Period

Established form	The number of towns	Number of establishment				Subtotal	
		1	2	3	4	The number of towns	The number of school
Municipal	1	44			2	46	52
Municipal + Union	2		1, (1)	1, (1)		4	5, (2)
Union	2	14, (14)				27	(14)
	3	13, (13)				39	(13)
	4	11, (11)				44	(11)
	5	2, (2)				10	(2)
Subtotal		84, (40)	1, (1)	1, (1)	2	170	97, (42)

notes) The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of union school

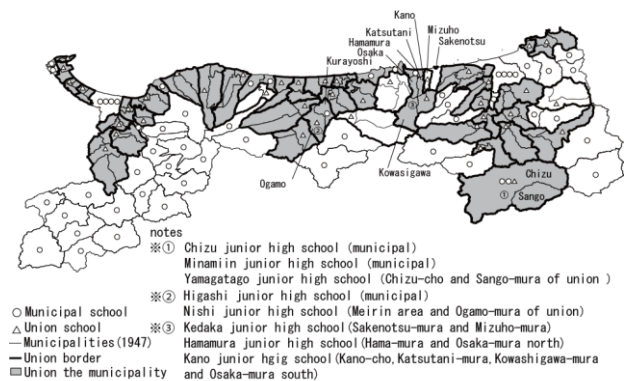


Fig.1. Junior High School Distribution (1947)

In 97 schools, 52 schools were established by only one municipality and occupied 53.6%. In Yonago-shi, 4 schools were established by only one municipality. However, other schools established by only one municipality were located in every municipalities.

In Kurayoshi-town and Chizu-town, several schools by two kinds of organizational methods were established. 14 schools were established by the union of 2 municipalities. 13 schools were established by the union of 3 municipalities. And 2 schools were established by the union of 5 municipalities.

From this, many municipalities in Tottori prefecture can be inferred that it was difficult to establish a junior high school by only one municipality.

Fig.1 indicates the distribution of the junior high school during the foundation period. The area of many municipalities organized school union were relatively small. On the other hand, the area of some municipalities established several schools by two kinds of organizational methods in every municipalities were relatively large.

2.2. The Number of Schools and Students During the foundation period

Fig.2 indicates the number of junior high schools divided by the number of students. And Fig.3 indicates the number of students of every municipalities. In Tottori prefecture, the junior high schools of the number of students from 101 to 200 were largest. The second largest was the number of students from 201 to

300. Also, the number of junior high schools more than 600 students were 21 of 101 schools (20.8%) as of 1950.

In short, the policy at the beginning didn't go as planned. And there were some problems on establishment of the junior high schools in shortly after the end of WW II. Also, 24 schools of the number of students from 101 to 200 and 14 schools of the number of students from 201 to 300 were established by only one municipality. The average number of students of these schools was 317. There were the junior high schools more than 600 students in urban districts, on the other hand, most were less than 300 in rural districts.

The municipalities which didn't establish schools based on school union characterized by the area of municipalities. These areas were too large to continue in school by only one municipality. Meanwhile, only 2 schools of the number of students from 101 to 200 and 6 schools of the number of students from 201 to 300 were established based on the school union. Especially, there were many junior high schools based on the school union more than 300 students, which was in contrast to the schools established by only one municipality. The average number of students of these schools was 487. The junior high schools established based on the school union were closed to the policy of Tottori prefecture.

In Tottori prefecture, there were many depopulated municipalities. Therefore, many school unions were organized, because to secure the number of students for every schools.

3. Municipal Merger of Showa

3.1. Recommendation on Municipal Merger

In Tottori prefecture, the governor recommended on merger for every municipalities in 1952 to improve the scale of municipality and to fiscal consolidation. In this recommendation, the concrete plan on municipal merger was brought up about the target area, the population before merger, the population after merger, and the merger plan map. Fig.4 indicates the municipalities after merger and the merger plan. Many municipalities in 1952 were merged as drafted but with some exceptions on regardless of the school union.

3.2. Process of Municipal Merger

Fig.5 indicates the transition of the number of municipalities by the merger of Showa in Tottori prefecture. In the merger of Showa, the number of municipalities was decreased to 121 as of 1953 from 170 as of 1950. In addition, the number was decreased to 53 in 1956. After that, there were 41 municipalities as of 1960. The number of mergers peaked during 1953 – 1955. In this period, the number of municipalities dropped by 70 percent. Before the low for merger promotion established in 1956 to be enforced, most of mergers had been finished. Especially, large-scale

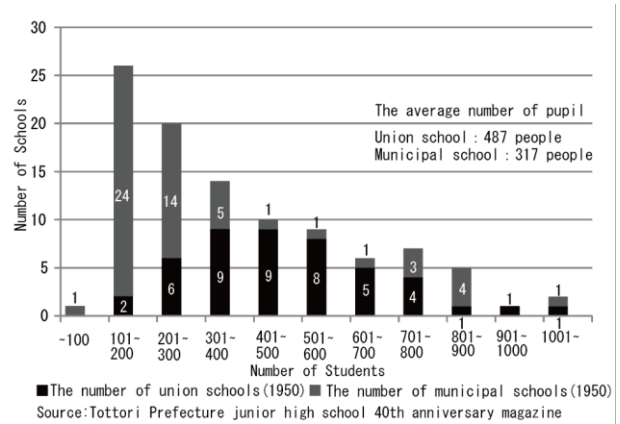


Fig.2. The Number of Schools According to the Number of Students (1950)

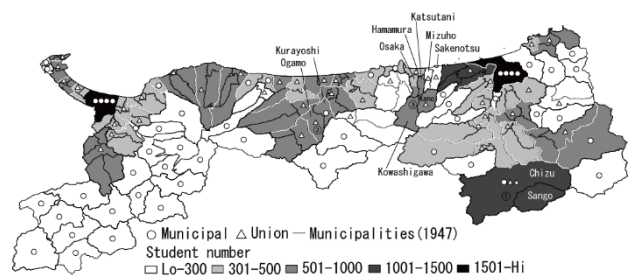


Fig.3. Student Scale Distribution Map

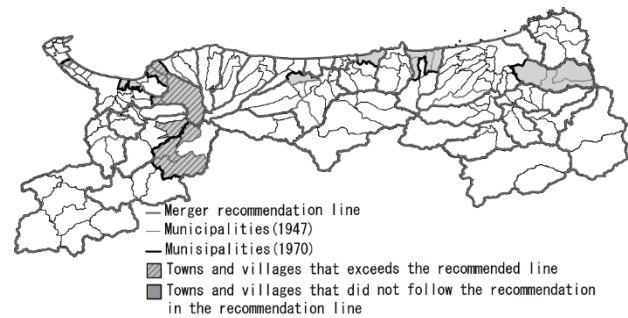


Fig.4. Merger Recommendation Line and 1970 Municipal Division Line

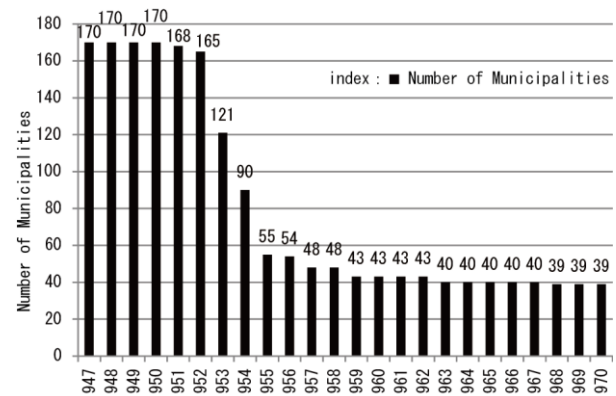


Fig.5. The Transition of the Number of Municipalities

mergers were implemented in major urban districts (Tottori-city and Yonago-city) and a part of rural districts. The Japanese social condition in those days were as fellows.

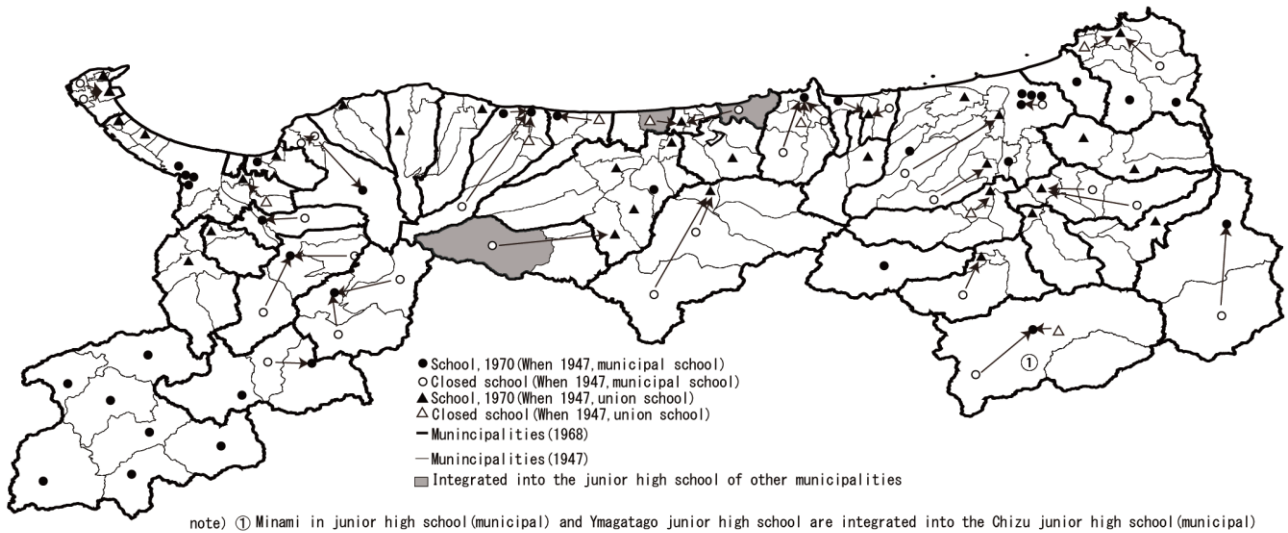


Fig.7. Junior High School Distribution (1970)

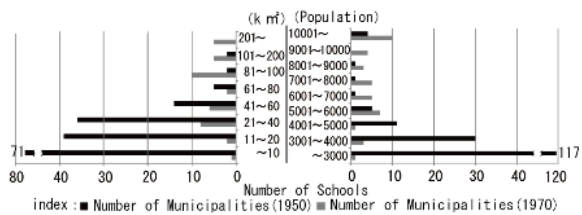


Fig.6. The Distribution of Area and Population Before and After the Municipal Merger

- 1) To achieve local fiscal consolidation was required for the promotion of welfare programs.
- 2) The municipal merger was used as the fiscal consolidation efforts.
- 3) The legislation maintenances for municipal merger were promoted since 1953 to 1956.
- 4) The municipal merger of Showa caused various problems related to education, and the movement against the school consolidations became active in rural areas.
- 5) The number of small-scale schools increased in many parts of Japan.
- 6) There were a large number of difficulties on the small-scale schools to maintenance the school facilities, to assign teachers and so on.

3.3. Effects of Municipal Merger

Fig.6 indicates the distribution map of area and population before and after the municipal merger in Tottori prefecture. Before merger, the area of 71 municipalities (41%) were 10 square kilometers or less. After merger, there were few municipalities having an area of below 10 square kilometers or less, and municipalities having an area of over 81 square kilometers increased. Also, before merger, the population size of nearly 70 % of municipalities were 3,000 people or less, and nearly 90 % of municipalities were 5,000 people or less. After merger, the

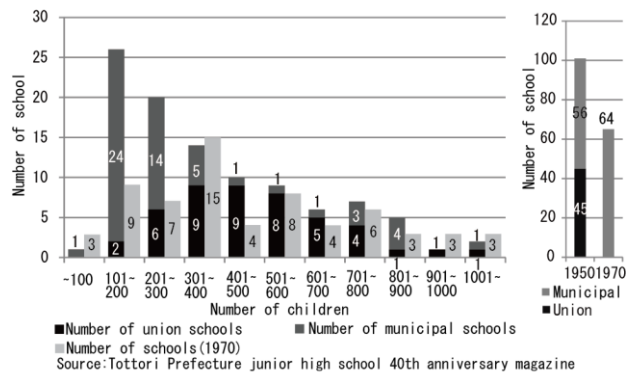


Fig.8. The Number of the Schools According to the Number of Students

municipalities more than 6,000 people increased, and many municipalities more than 10,000 people increased. In short, the reference population (more than 8,000 people) in 1953 greatly influenced the municipal merger in Tottori prefecture.

4. Integration and Abolition Process of the Junior High School

4.1 Background of Integration and Abolition Process of the Junior High School (1947-1952)

In Tottori prefecture, many junior high schools were consolidated, because of the improvement of educational effect and promotion of fiscal efficiency. In 1950, the policy for integration and abolition of the junior high schools had been determined already. On top of that, the committee on integration and abolition of the junior high schools was established in the board of education. This committee decided 11 place (22 schools) targeted for integration. After that, the committee had recommended these schools should be integrated and abolished. As a result, 5 integration

(Seigo, Tohaku, Yodoe, Kamogawa, Neu) were carried out. In this way, the integration and abolition of the junior high schools in Tottori had been promoted linked the municipal mergers at an early stage in Japan.

4.2. Process of Integration and Abolition Process of the Junior High School (1953-1970)

Fig.7 indicates the distribution of the junior high schools in 1970. The major integration and abolition of the junior high schools had been promoted to the 1970s. Many junior high schools established based on the school union as of 1947 had been integrated with the municipal mergers. However some schools were integrated over the municipalities between the municipal and neighboring areas. In west side of Tottori prefecture, many schools established by only one municipality had been continued.

Fig.8 indicates the number of schools according to the number of students after integration and change of number before or after. There were great variations on the number of students of the schools established by only one municipality from less than 100 to more than 1,001. But, there were striking differences between the city districts and the rural districts. There were many schools established based on the school union of 301 – 400 students. The number of students didn't reach 600 people of the policy of junior high school integration and abolition, but had the number of students that was an almost appropriate scale. The number of schools decreased a little 40, and the schools established by only one municipality existed only after integration and abolition.

5. Conclusion

- 1) In Tottori prefecture, the reorganization of the junior high school had been promoted in conjunction with the municipal merger of Showa.
- 2) The concrete policy on establishment of the new junior high school was put forward in Tottori prefecture after WW II .
- 3) The junior high schools established by only one municipality which satisfied the policy of were located in the city districts mainly. On the other hand, the Junior high schools in the rural districts were the small-scale schools. In contrast, the junior high schools established based on the school union were founded with the number of students that almost the scale of the policy.
- 4) Because of the recommendation by Tottori prefecture, large-scale mergers were implemented.
- 5) The reorganization of the junior high school had been considered as an important measure since 1949, and it was performed ahead of the whole country from the concern of the improvement of educational effect and promotion of fiscal efficiency.
- 6) In the municipal merger of Showa, the educational system 1 junior high school in 1 municipalities was

established by the reorganization of the junior high schools.

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