

5 Social Activities of Elderly People

Neighborhood companionship has weakened

- Looking at the neighborhood companionship of the elderly 60 years old or above, those who have a "close relationship" are 52.0 percent, while "just greet each other" are 40.9 percent. Comparing the result with the past investigation, those who used to have a "close relationship" tends to decrease and on the other hand, those who used to "just greet each other" or "hardly associate" have increased, suggesting that relationships in neighborhoods are weakening. (Figure 1-2-51)

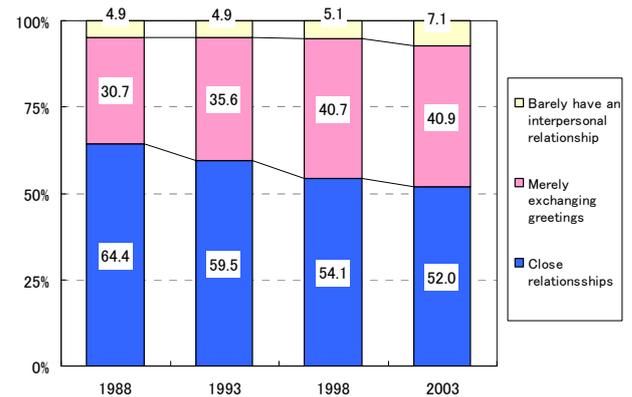
Many are interested in NPO activities, but due to insufficient information and opportunities, not many people actually participate

- Surveying whether people have any interest in NPO activities (citizens activity group) which aim to improve the welfare and environment of the region, people who answered "already participating in the activity" were 3.6 percent, "want to participate in the activity in the future" were 9.2 percent, and "have an interest but are not sure," 34.4 percent. Compiling all three answers,

"people who have an interest" stands at 47.3 percent. On the other hand, "people who do not have an interest" is 42.6 percent. (Figure 1-2-54)

Figure1-2-51

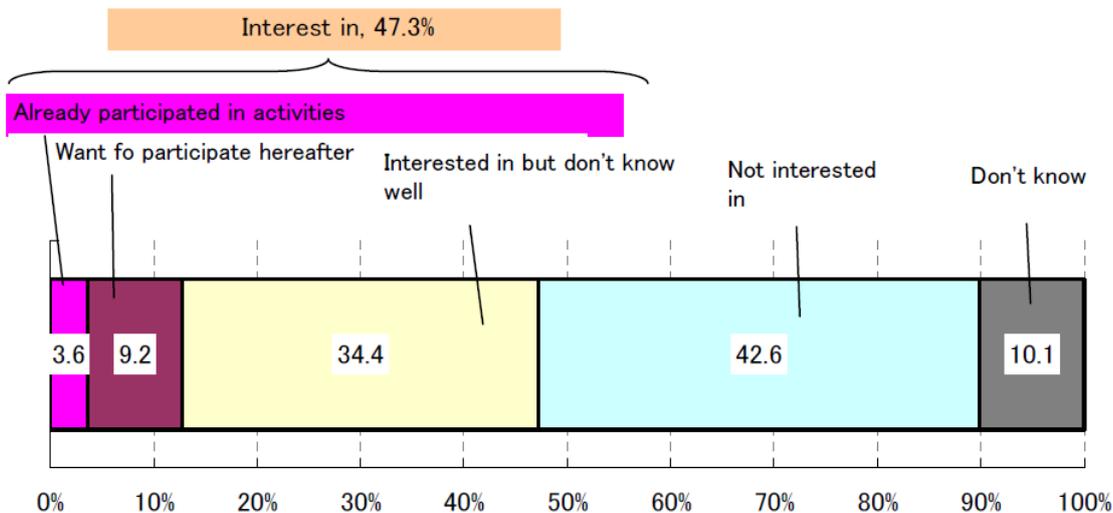
Communication between



Source: Cabinet Office, "Survey on Participation Attitude of the Elderly in Local Communities" in 2004

Figure 1-2-54

Experience in participating in NPO activities

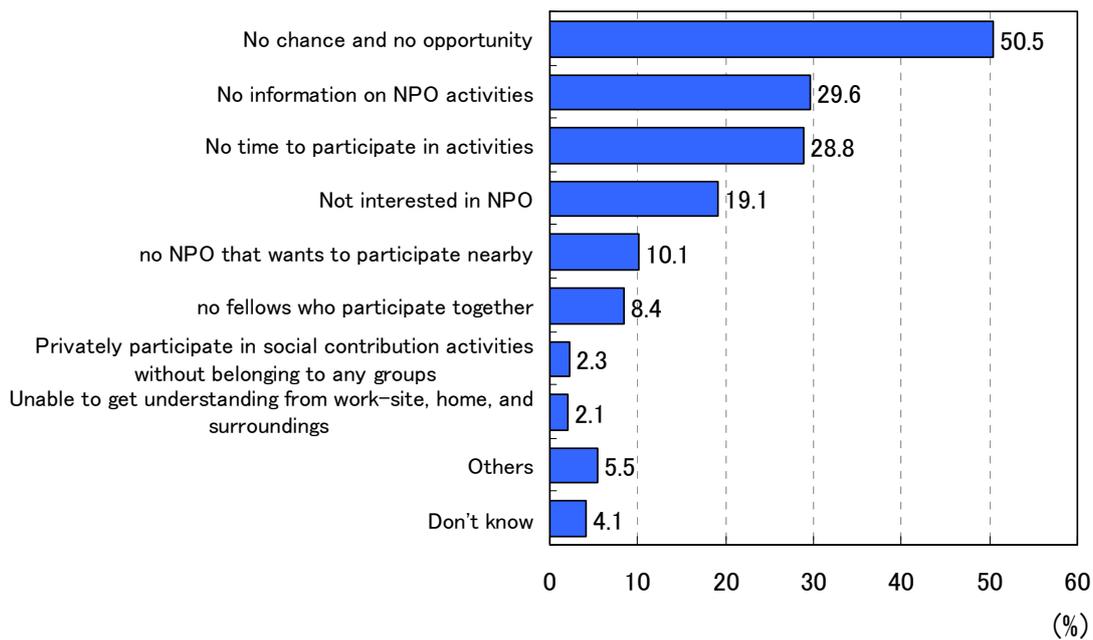


Source: Cabinet Office, "Survey on Participation Attitude of the Elderly in Local Communities" in 2004

(Note): Survey Results for Males and Females aged 60 or older nationwide

- Looking at the reason for not participating in NPO activities, people saying "there is no chance or opportunity" is the most common answer. "There is no information on NPO activities" is another frequently given reason. (Figure 1-2-55)

Figure 1-2-55 Reasons for not participating in NPO activities



Source: Cabinet Office, "NPO (Public Opinion Survey concerning Private Nonprofit Organization)" in 2005