
ABSTRACT

Psychological factors that supported elderly prominent leaders in various fields

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In this study the lives and accomplishments of seven elderly prominent leaders in Japan's industry, art/sports, and academia sectors, were traced using interviews and information gathered from pre-published autobiographies. The interviews focused on the influence of their parents and upbringing, the hardships they had experienced at the end of WWII, their relationship with their spouse, formative encounters with other people, and key events that had supported their exceptional careers. The psychological factors that had supported these individuals proved to be as follows: the "internal resources and desire" that they had built as a result of their parents' nurture and care, and through encounters with other people; and the vision and foresight for "sociocultural demand" they had gained during their young adulthood that had shaped their principles and interests as "concern" and "commitment" and also their "belief" in later life, and which had remained in the course of these individuals' active careers as their own unique pattern of "actions and behaviors". Finally, the characteristic relationship among these factors was discussed through modelling their psychosocial process.

Key Words: life span development, identity, intimacy, generativity
