

Kagoshima × Bremen Comparative Study on Immigrant Small Businesses and Local Integration

Faculty of Law, Economics and Humanities, Ryo Mukoyoshi

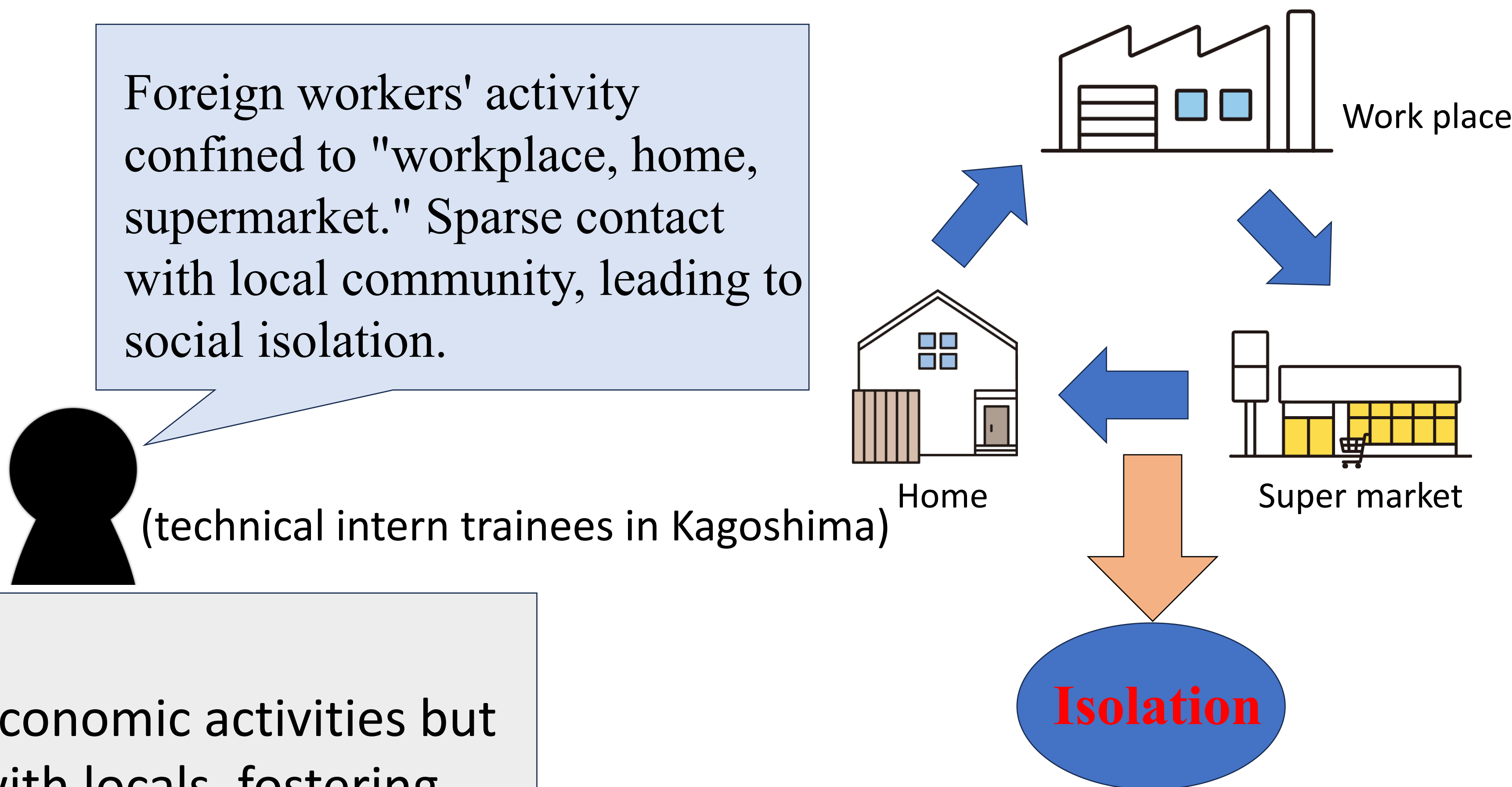
Background

Research Question:

Why do immigrants in Bremen integrate into the city, while those in Kagoshima remain isolated?

Hypothesis

Immigrant Small Businesses function not just as economic activities but as "**Community Hubs**" that generate interaction with locals, fostering attachment to the city and promoting social integration.



Methodology

Bremen: Participant Observation at shops to track community interactions.

Interviews in Bremen



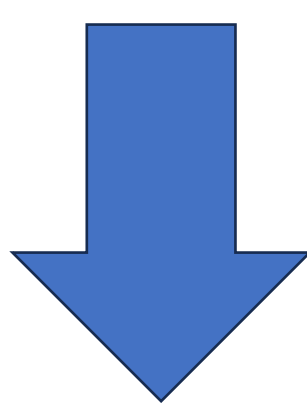
Case 1: Kebab Shop

Observation: Locals, tourists, and immigrants mix freely.
Insight: A space of "Inclusion" where mere presence is accepted.



Case 2: Small shop

"Locals tell me their health issues and worries. I am their listener."
Insight the shop provides informal care and connection for local.



Small businesses empower immigrants to become active local agents, serving as the key to the local economy, culture, and social integration."

To start a new business

Aspect	Kagoshima	Bremen
Language support	A few times a month	Language school by public institutions (Volkshochschule)
Visa	Strict foreign entrepreneur visa requirements (5 million JPY capital)	Job Seeker Visa: Degree holders can stay for 6 months for job/entrepreneurship activities
Entrepreneurship Support desk	No support desk for employment consultation.	Support desk. Comprehensive foreign qualification recognition.

Conclusion

A small business is not just a place to buy and sell; it also helps reduce **local loneliness**. Bremen provides the "**Institutional Ladder**" to climb over the wall of isolation.



- 1Language
- 2Visa
- 3Support desk

Proposal

Create a "Small Business Visa": Allow low-cost ventures (Food Trucks) to encourage independent activity.