Figure 16.21
Group E: Nara.
(*Source*: Kiyonobu Kaido.)

Conclusion

This chapter has examined the relationship that the high urban density of the compact city has with some aspects of quality of life, and levels of accessibility to local facilities. It can be concluded that high density does and does not mean increased accessibility. The case study has shown that on the whole, higher population densities do tend to offer higher accessibility to services in urban areas of large populations (over 700,000 inhabitants). However, it is more difficult to determine consistent levels of accessibility with any certainty in the medium-sized cities (those with populations of 200,000–500,000 inhabitants). There are other variables that affect the ssspaccessibility to services, such as climate.

It is also concluded that the urban density as an indicator of good accessibility is not sufficient for all types of local facility, which are dependent on local government's planning policies. It is therefore important for local and central government to undertake efficient planning policies to make an effort to improve local facility accessibility, which has shown to be variable in different city categories. However, it can be concluded that higher densities can feasibly and easily support high levels of accessibility to services and facilities in Japanese urban areas.

Notes

1. DID: Densely Inhabited District. This is defined as an urban area in the Japanese census. Normally, the minimum density is 4000 people per km^2 (which is equal to over 40 people per hectare) and the minimum scale of population is 5000. It was first introduced into the census in 1960, when rapid urbanization began.
2. Walkable distance: 500 m was decided as a 'walkable distance' after a review of literature that included Shokokusya: the Next American Metropolis – Ecology, Community and American Dream by Calthorpe (1994).

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