Isolation from Reproduction

The Life Course of Shop Workers

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In Edo era there were some kind of stores that had the original stores in Kyoto owning the branch stores in Edo or other big cities. Many of their founders came from Ise, Omi or Kyoto and the biggest of them were mercers. The store workers were hired in Kyoto-store, when they were around 11 or 12 years old boys whose homes were near areas of the founder's hometowns. They came down to the branch stores after long journey to Edo far from their hometowns or villages. In the stores, they worked as the sellers at kimonos or buyers for fabric and raw silk for 30～35 years. They were regulated on their daily lives, going out of stores and wearable kimonos. In the store there was not a woman. If a store worker would accomplish his career successfully, he should live in the closed store space for 30 years without his own family. The goal as the store worker was to become the general manager, and when he retired he would be able to marry, at last. I will give a presentation on the life course of them with the documents of NARAYA, Sawara, SIROKIYA, Edo and MITUIETIGOYA, Edo.