A Biannual Publication of the National Women's Education Centre of Japan

THESAURUS ON WOMEN AND THE FAMILY (SECOND VERSION)

I. Introduction
The National Women's Education Centre (NWEJ) was established in 1972 by the Japanese government as part of the policy measures for women during the "United Nations Decade for Women." It is the only national institution dedicated to social education and training of adult women. Activities of NWEJ are divided into the following four categories: (1) activities promoting study by providing women a place for their learning activities; (2) activities promoting exchange by providing opportunities for exchange among women; (3) research and study on women, and (4) dissemination of research and study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1 Contents of Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Version)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Thought, Theory, History and Movements (266)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>women's liberation, revolution, politics, women's liberation, women's theories, women's issues, women's movement, history, religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Sex, Body and Health (566)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reproduction, sexual behavior, sexual abuse, difference of sex, role of sex, discrimination by sex, libidinalization of sex, prostitution, sexual violence, abortion, reproduction technology, reproduction, contraception, childbirth, physiology, sexuality, birth, medical treatment, health, medical science, hygiene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Family and Home (664)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>family system, family pattern, family relationships, family structure, relative, family cycle, problems of age, family problems, marriage, marital status, divorce, household, home, home management, housing, homework, household economy, children, household life, residential life, leisure, diet, foods, clothing habits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Society and Welfare (1,002)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>society, social change, social thought, social system, generation, class, social group, social activity, women's organization, social movement, social problem, environmental problem, social pathology, aging society, information society, international society, community, urban community, rural community, community activity, 5th estate, poverty, welfare, marriage, pension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Labour, Economy and Industry (1,249)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>labour, worker, labour force, employment, labor, working pattern, personnel, educational training, education, working conditions, wage, economic stability, working class, trade union, job classification, economic growth, economic change, industrial economy, trade, production, product, distribution, community service, employment, income, wages, tax, corporation, industry, science &amp; technology, population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Politics and Law (634)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>politics, political thought, political system, political organization, political movement, politician, policy, administration, public finance, diplomacy, peace, war, international relations, human rights, group, race, discrimination, law, judgement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Education and Research (615)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>education, educational ideology, educational policy, lifelong education, learning, lifelong learning, personal development, development theory, developmental stages, family education, growth, childhood, discipline, learning family education, school education, subjects, curriculum education, teacher, education for girls, educational achievement, educational purpose, social education, administration, social education, youth education, adult education, women's education, scientific research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Culture, Arts and Sports (540)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>culture, communication, arts, public entertainment, language, literature, fiction, sport, leisure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX. Others (118)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>economy, consumption, movement, solution, development, concept, improvement, value, relationship, recommendation, management, opportunity, function, obligation, benefit, government, technology, experience, career record, status quo, structure, thinking, behavior, nature, business, thought</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Words may be found in more than one category. Figures in parentheses show the number of words contained in the category.)

Vol.7, No.2 November 1990
family and home; and 4) activities to support learning and research through collection and dissemination of information.

"The Seawomen and the Family" has been developed by a research project by the Information Division. Its development began in 1984 and its first version was published in 1987, and the second version in 1989.

8. Need for Thesaurus on Women and the Family

Information Centre for Women's Education for NWEC was founded in 1979. By March, 1990, it has its own one thousand books and one thousand periodicals in Japanese and foreign languages. It is a library specialized in books, journals, newspapers, government publications, and gory literatures on women, family, and home. It is one of the largest libraries dedicated to this field in Japan.

The "Thesaurus on Women and the Family" was compiled as a list of controlled indexing language providing easy access to books and materials in the collection of the Information Centre for Women's Education.

Large amount of money and labor have been invested since 1984 to compile this Thesaurus because it was believed that:

1. Women, family, and home have become increasingly specialized and subdivided field of study and learning. Consequently there is a growing need for ways and means to search books or periodical articles or other specific subject. In order to meet this demand, it is indispensable that the building database of relevant information is provided. Existing subject headings and alphanumeric Nihon Decimal Classification do not fully cover subcategories concerning women, family, and home.

2. Categorization of women, family, and home are full of synonyms and words being similar meaning because of the less clarifying definition as in the case of social, family, and school education. Categories also include interdisciplinary fields such as women's issues, women's studies, feminist studies and feminist movement in which many new words, words of foreign origin, adopted words, synonyms, and abbreviated words are found. Sometimes existing words are reduplicated and used from women's perspective and viewpoint. In searching for books or articles under specific heading under the circumstances, it is much more convenient to search by using key words which are in turn adjusted for synonyms, words with similar creating, equalized words, and new words. This is the adventiveness and reasoning of the seacra.

3. There is a recognized need to classify and designate concepts in the fields of women's issues and studies from the perspective of NWEC.

For these reasons, NWEC embarked on the compilation of the "Thesaurus on Women and the Family".

III. Process of Compilation

A. Towards the publication of the first version of the Thesaurus on Women and the Family

1986:

The Seawomen's year was devoted to collecting words with descriptive potentials. Approximately 7,000 words were collected by specializing titles of content and indexes of technical encyclopedia, basic books and periodicals in the fields of women and the family. These government publications, cumulative indexes of Nihon Decimal Classification, and NWEC Thesaurus were also extensively incorporated.

1987 — March, 1989:

The "Research and Study Group for the Thesaurus on Women and the Family" was incorporated in 1987. This was composed of experts in the fields of women's studies, women labor, family studies, social education, and information science, as well as staff of NWEC. Between March 1987 and March 1989, the research and study group accomplished the following:

1. Approximately 1,500 words considered to be basic were selected out of 7,000 words mentioned above. They were categorized in eleven, each having a tree structure: 1) Thought and Movement, 2) Education, 3) Family, 4) House and Life, 5) Society, 6) Labor, 7) Politics and Law, 8) Economy and Industry, 9) Welfare, 10) Body and Health, 11) Culture.

2. Further research and discussion were carried out on three points: (i) whether the eleven established categories were appropriate, (ii) whether the concept of using tree structure was appropriate, and (iii) whether 1,500 was the appropriate number of basic words. As a result of more than ten meetings, basic revision was made to the hierarchical tree structure established earlier. Furthermore, eleven categories were reduced to eight. New categories were: 1) Thought, 2) Theory, 3) History, 4) Monuments, 5) Sea, 6) Family and Home, 7) Society and Welfare, 8) Labor, 9) Economy and Industry, 10) Politics and Law, 11) Education and Research, and 12) Culture, Arts, and Sports. At the same time, the number of descriptors increased to 3,842. During the course of this work, reference was made to the Test Version of 6 Women's Thesaurus (National Council for Research on Women, New York, 1986).

3. Computer processing of information for Thesaurus compilation was done by using "Educational Document Management and Retrieval System" developed by the Curriculum and Development Center of the Faculty of Education at the Gifu University. The First Version of the Thesaurus on Women and the Family was published in May, 1987. The First Version was originally introduced as an interim report. Copies were distributed to women's center researchers in fields of women, family, and home, and experiential experience of compiling a thesaurus all over Japan to solicit their opinions on the book.

B. Process of leading to the publication of the Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Version)

The First Version published as a positioning edition had inadequacies including hierarchical and associative relationships among descriptors. The format of the book itself required more work. With a view to improving the above two standards for revision was established and three years were spent working on it.

1. NWEC, RT, and BD

a. Standardized BT (Broader Term) NT (Narrower Term)

b. General-term relations

c. Whole-part relations

2. Standard on HT (Hierarchical Term) relations

a. Cause-effect relations

b. Oppositional symmetric relations

c. Relations between its attribute and its own attribute

d. Complementary relations
II. Standard on UP. (Abbreviation for "Unificat", meaning synonymized relations) i. Standard see also "Unificat" of first edition, meaning synonymized relations. ii. Standard words are not adopted as descriptors but treated as synonyms. If, however, a main word has acquired an historical meaning which can be or has already been subject of study, the word is treated as a descriptor with a scope note added.

28. Synonyms, abbreviated words, non-abbreviated words, words in original language, and equivalent terms in translation.

Among these, those in white are adopted as descriptors. Subjective judgment cannot be avoided in making such choice.

3. On UP scope note

Following criteria are established for selecting descriptors to which a scope note (belief statement of the intended range of a descriptor) is added:

a. When necessary to clarify the concept of a descriptor
b. When necessary to define the scope of a descriptor
c. When necessary to call attention of a reader to the use of a descriptor as an index word

4. Addition of descriptors

Since June, 1991, index words were assigned in "Database on Japanese periodical articles on women and family" and "Database on Books acquired by the Library of the NWEU" both compiled by the Information Center, in line with the "Theoramas on Women and the Family (First Version)". In other words, the "Theoramas on Women and the Family (First Version)" was used as source material for determining index words in databases immediately following its publication. During the indexing process, it was found that some essential descriptors were missing. New words have been added with the progress of studies in fields of women, family, and home, as well as new women movements developed, and new sources of information have emerged. Consequently the addition of descriptors became necessary. Approximately 1,000 descriptors were eventually added. Following sources of information were referred to in adding descriptors:

a. Newly published technical books and recent treatises in journals.

b. Technical encyclopedias in fields of women, family, and home

4. On UP Treatment


5. Theoramas on Women and the Family

5. Theoramas on Women and the Family

B. Inclusive Character of Theoramas on Women and the Family

The principal objective for compiling the "Theoramas on Women and the Family" was to clarify problems women face or women's position from past to present. This is to say that descriptors contained should elucidate or make manifest problems faced by women. Congregation under conventional lexical classification does not serve the purpose. The first and foremost characteristic of "Theoramas on Women and the Family" is that it fundamentally covers women, family, and home. The field of family and home has been closely associated with women from ancient times. It is indispensable that the issue of family and home is re-examined from women's perspective. Insurance policies and a woman's economic and mental health of women represent equally important field. This field has also been buried in categories under medical science in general or hygiene. An important function of "Theoramas on Women and the Family" is to shed light on this field by making it an independent category. Incidentally there are at present several theoramas on women in the world: A Woman's Theoramas and Theoramas on Women in Development. The former was compiled by feminists in the United States and the latter, by researchers on women's issues, administrators of the charge of women's issues, and women themselves in ASEAN countries. Both express a great deal of investment and labor. Such efforts to categorize those two theoramas considered from the viewpoint of American feminists or those examining women's issues within the framework of ASEAN countries. Words in those theoramas were selected accordingly. Categories in these two theoramas as shown in Table 3, in comparison with "Theoramas on Women and the Family", then be inferred from the failure that categories in all three theoramas were established from perspectives not found in conventional lexical classification.
2. Hierarchical List

An important role of a thesaurus is to build comprehension between compilers of the thesaurus and users by having them share conceptual systems of subject field proposed by the compiler. The conceptual system is usually shown in the form of a hierarchical list in a thesaurus.

A thesaurus on women contains fields which tend to have chaotic conceptual structure such as women’s studies, feminist studies, and new social movements by women such as women’s liberation. Especially with a thesaurus on women, it is effective to make concepts of a thesaurus agree with those of an index. It is effective to have compilers of the thesaurus present the conceptual system in the form of a hierarchical list, which can be seen at a glance.

Regrettably, the “Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Edition)" does not contain such a hierarchical list. Therefore, both indexer and researcher have no clue but look into IFNT relations in a word order list to spot outmining concepts. In contrast, however, both a Women’s Thesaurus and Thesaurus on Women in Development contain such a list. In the respect, these two may be used as superior titles of “Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Edition).”

3. Polyhierarchical Relationships

Some descriptions in the “Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Edition)" have more than one IFNT. This relationship is called polyhierarchical relationship. For instance, in the “Thesaurus, a descriptor of “human beings” refers to descriptors as IFNT “family pathology” and “sexual violence”. Stage problem putting women in the latter case as a problem in multiple fields. Therefore, polyhierarchical relationship, which allows more than one IFNT, is an effective and flexible way of systematizing words in a thesaurus on women.

4. On Synonyms

In the “Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Edition),” synonyms are a high percentage of 86% of entire descriptors. The names for this is that discriminatory words, abbreviated words and adopted foreign words are treated as synonyms. Especially it is often the case in Japan that a word of foreign origin is used as a title and that an equivalent term for the adopted word in Japanese is also used concurrently. A thesaurus would make arrangement as to whether such words of foreign origin should be used as they are or Japanese equivalents for those words should be used. This thesaurus treats words of foreign origin and their Japanese translation as synonyms. The question of whether word of foreign origin or the Japanese equivalent should be adopted as a descriptor is decided by judging which is used more generally.

In fields of women movements and feminist studies, lexicographers tend to consider words from their perspectives. It is highly probable that many words with similar concepts and usages are introduced after another. Some of them may die out before they are widely used. A thesaurus on women fields, therefore, can deal with words by stipulating an agreement of use as a descriptor and treating others as synonyms.

5. On Identifiers

In the end of the section on treatment of synonyms, we have suggested an alternative to stipulate one representative word signifying an emerging concept yet firmly established as a descriptor and treat others as synonymous of that descriptor. Another alternative to treatment of these words is to treat them as identifiers.

ERIC Thesaurus, a typical thesaurus on school education, treats concepts not yet established as identifiers. Words treated as identifiers are accumulated for a certain period, and then judgment is made whether or not to promote a particular identifier to a descriptor by a committee. A thesaurus on women fields adopt the method of ERIC Thesaurus for new words, wordsearched only by limited group of people. Few words may be treated as identifiers for the time being.

The scope of identifiers for “Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Edition)" is limited to III. 5.c. There is room for further research into how identifiers are treated.

6. Summary

Representative thesaurus on fields concerning women currently in publication are: A Women’s Thesaurus, Thesaurus on Women in Development, and Thesaurus on Women and the Family. That thesaurus is compiled as part of an information retrieval system in fairly widely accepted view. Compilers of thesaurus on women, however, must have another perspective. This additional objective must be to focus women’s issues. This

<p>| Thesaurus |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>A Women’s Thesaurus</th>
<th>Thesaurus on Women in Development</th>
<th>Thesaurus on Women and the Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Generalities</td>
<td>Thought, Theory, History and Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Economics and Employment</td>
<td>Religion and Philosophy</td>
<td>Sex, Body and Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Women in Social Development</td>
<td>Family and Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>History and Social International Women</td>
<td>Women in Political Change</td>
<td>Society and Welfare Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Language, Literature, Religion and Philosophy</td>
<td>Women in Economic Development</td>
<td>Labour, Economic and Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Law, Government and Public Policy</td>
<td>Legal Status, Laws, etc.</td>
<td>Politics and Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Natural Sciences and Health</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Education and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td>Population and Demography</td>
<td>Culture, Arts and Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX</td>
<td>Social Sciences and Culture</td>
<td>Education of Women</td>
<td>Others which are not in categories I-VIII, or used in common in categories I-VIII</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women's Issues

At the Nairobi World Conference held in the last year of "U.N. Decade for Women", the need of building women’s information system was indicated. Since then, international organizations such as the United Nations, ESCAP have made efforts in drawing up guidelines for building women’s information network. At the same time, countries are faced with the urgency of streamlining domestic information systems on women issues. There is also a need to develop computer processing skills essential in classifying and enhancing the value of information. The lack of skilled computer operators, therefore, is giving rise to the bottleneck in this task.

In this regard, National Women’s Education Centre of Japan has held international seminars on building women’s information network for three years since 1985. It has since received enthusiastic requests from the seminar participants to run training courses for computer processing of women’s information. Accordingly, NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women’s Issues was designed to teach basic skills in computer operation. The training course, with particular emphasis on the use of office computers, has been offered to administrators and officers in charge of women’s issues and information in Asia and the Pacific. This ODA project was begun in 1985.

The second year’s course was held for nine weeks from July 17th to September 7th in four countries namely Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand. This year, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam took part in the course. The plan is to take the course from four countries each year. By the end of the fifth year there will be a total of twenty trainees from twenty countries.

The Course for This Year

**Summary**

The nine-week training was divided into three major lecture courses, training in computer operation and producing a report. Lectures were given by university professors and experts in the field of "Women and Statistics", "Introduction to Personal Computers", "Women in Development" and other topics related to women’s issues and information processing technology. In the computer training classes, trainees learned operation of OA package including word processing (WordPerfect), spreadsheet (LOTUS 1-2-3) and database (BASIN/SW) in a total of four weeks. The preparation of report was aimed at developing skills to apply and utilize knowledge and skills acquired in the training course. The trainees were given theme and data, and were required to produce a report in two weeks. This year they were given statistical data on how people spend their daily money and compiled by Statistics Bureau of the Management and Coordination Agency of Japan. Presentation of report was made on the last day which was followed by discussions.

In addition to these programme study tours to institutions dedicated to women’s issues were included in the training course.

**Characteristics**

The characteristics of this year’s course was represented in its objective of developing skills to apply computer knowledge in solving women’s issues. In the computer training classes, for example, trainees learned how to operate OA packages, not limited to skills necessary for the operation, but also skills necessary to analyze and interpret women’s issues from statistical findings. The objective was further pursued in preparing reports. Trainees were given only the theme and data, and were expected to decide on the method of analysis, select computer operation suitable for method of analysis etc. They were expected to produce a report which was logical and persuasive. Lectures during the training course were designed to assist participants in producing their reports.

**Data used**

The theme of the report for this year was "How Japanese men and women spend their day". Data made available to the participants was 1986 version of "The Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities" conducted by Statistics Bureau of the Management and Coordination Agency.

The survey is a statistical analysis by sex, age and income, of how people spend their day. Three types of surveys bring right figures of women not clearly visible in other types of survey. How many do women spend on housekeeping and childcare? Working hours of women engaged in farming, for example, are usually not taken into consideration when compiling data on productive activities.

Trainees learned to recompile these statistics using LOTUS 1-2-3 programme. Data then were translated into charts and incorporated in wordprocessed report. Computer skills mastered were fully used as trainees worked on the report. Trainees also deepened understanding of women’s issues by comparing and exchanging data with others.

Lecture at NWEC

The objective of the training course was fully met as fine reports have been produced. These reports will be compiled into a formal report which will then be sent to national focal points for the advancement of women in Asia and the Pacific.

November 1990

5
JAPANESE WOMEN TODAY

WOMEN'S GROUPS IN JAPAN

The Women's Group Section is written by representatives of the group itself.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAY NURSERY TEACHERS

Day nursery teachers' associations can be characterized as professional groups. Each association has an organized association, each with a different history and form.

What they share in common is the wish for "Total happiness of children" and an effort to "Promote exchange among nursery teachers and work toward establishment of professionalism of nursery teachers."

The objective of the association, according to its bylaws, is "To promote development and improvement of childcare through nationwide liaison and coordination. It aims to encourage the advancement through appropriate research, studies, and discussion."

The characteristic of the Association is, first of all, that day nursery teachers are organized through a strong sense of solidarity as "day nursery teachers", regardless of thought or creed.

Second, the Association conducts its research and studies on nursery issues as a member of the National Council of Social Welfare, which is an organization composed of public and private social welfare facilities, institutions, groups, and individual volunteers.

Ever since its conception in July 1956, the Association has invited a membership system like that of the U.S., enabling day nursery teachers to engage in independent activities. Its activities have included research and efforts to improve life and working conditions of nursery teachers, and childcare conditions. Believing that "day nursery teachers have important role to play in providing care and education to infants in their formative age", it has been carrying out various studies, training, and conferences where members have benefited mutually from presentations on childcare practices. These have contributed to raising the quality of day nursery teachers.

The Association has also been engaged in a wide range of activities to meet the needs of the times. These include development of Guidelines for Childcare for Day Nursery Schools, production of video programmes featuring "How to promote child development", and help young mothers cope with problems of childcare.

For further inquiries, please contact: Yuko Kihabata (National Association of Day Nursery Teachers) c/o Kazutaka Shiozaki, Shinkawakai Bldg., 3-32, Kawaagi-machi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102		Tel: 03-586-6038 Fax: 03-586-6038

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS OF JAPAN

Purpose of establishment

National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Japan (NFBPW of Japan) was established to pursue objectives of International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW) of which it is an affiliate. Its objective is to promote interests of business and professional women, to deepen their understanding and bond with Japanese and international business and professional women, and to contribute to the world peace.

Activities

Pursuing National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Japan has approximately 600 members representing 26 clubs. Major domestic activities are as follows:

1. Each club holds monthly meetings and engages in myriad of activities. Common theme is set and key meetings are held once a year. The activities of the week include: a) promotion of Equal Employment Opportunity Act, b) organization of symposia and seminars on the first year of the enactment of the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, and c) a meeting with women from the European Community on the theme of "Partnership for Creating Better Society". The common theme for 1983 is "Women as the Spirit of Enterprise."

2. The Federation cooperates with women's organizations with nationwide membership.

3. The Federation cooperates with initiatives and participates in efforts to promote women's issues in policy makers. It has produced the first women's newsletter in national and local assemblies from among its membership.

4. In 1985, the Federation established the "Best Women" Award which is awarded to those who understand and cooperate with improving women's status.

5. The Federation publishes books, magazines and audio visual tapes, including a bulletin, "BPW News,"
Jobs of Sophisticated Women, 6) Women's Work in the New Age, 7) Thirty Year Magazine, 8) Club publica-
tions, 9) "Home Education of Children of Working Mothers," VTK produc-
tion subscribed by the Ministry of Edu-
cation, Science and Culture under the
Programme for the Promotion of So-
cial Education.
National Federation of Business and
Professional Women's Clubs of JAPAN cooper-
ates with International Federation of
Business and Professional Women (mem-
bership of 270,000 from 67 countries) in the
following activities. 

(1) Participation in each IFBFW World
Congress in great number. The 1983
World Congress with theme: "Global
Impact," Japan.

(2) One of our members, Hitome Asahara
was elected as Asia-Pacific Coordinat-
or.

SURVEY ON
VIEW OF
FAMILY

While many people say they expect
family to function as a spiritual anchor, 70
% or so also believe that the family's fun-
tions is undergoing major change due in part
to the tightening of domestic chores. In
other words, the role of the family is in
redefinition. These are some of the findings
of the "Survey on view of family," recently
published by the Economic Planning
Agency. The survey revealed people's
flexibility in their lifestyle according to
changes in the environment surrounding
family, including the increase in the num-
ber of nuclear families and of households
working outside their homes.

The survey was conducted in January
1990 with 1,050 men and women who were 20
years of age or older and who live in the me-
ropolitan area. The response rate was 77.2%.

On most important function expected
officially, 67% of the people pulled extended
family to provide "peace of mind," and
functions related to emotional stability. On
the other hand 18% expected family to
provide domestic chores, 11% child-han-
ing and rearing functions, and 5% care of
the elderly.

Topping the list, 31% of the respon-
dents pointed out that "family's role in pro-
fessing for the eldest" suffered the greatest
decline. 20% "found shortage of persons who
are able to take care of the elderly," 19% 
"complained of "smallness of houses, "moo-
ther 19% replied "increasing number of
parents do not want to become burden to
children," and 17% admitted "anger and grief
of child people.

On couples who both work and choose
not to have children, the so-called DINKS
(Double Income No Kids), 56% of the
pollees supported the idea. They felt "stress
of individual choice. It is only natural
that these are different kind of families.
Supports of DINKS exceeded

CHANGING FERTIL-
ITY IN JAPAN

Fumie Kamogati
Professor, Kyowa University

1. Trends

"Demographic statistics of 1989" published by the Ministry of
Health and Welfare on June 19, 1989 have generated much discus-
sion, especially on the extremely low rate of fertility. The total
fertility rate, or the average number of children per woman in her
reproductive years (15-49), assuming she expects to give birth,
was reported to be as low as 1.57 in 1989.

The declining trend of the total fertility rate of Japanese
women, however, is not a new phenomenon. It began to decline
dramatically in the post World War II period. The total fertility rate
which was 4.56 in 1947 decreased to 2.10 in 1965, even below the
reproduction level. The sharp decrease in the fertility rate in the
1950's is said to be a result of rapid social changes, including
the guidance of the Women's occupation headquarters, Legislation
of abortion under the State Law of 1948, established to manage
the baby born following World War II is also a cause of the
decline in total fertility rate.

The total fertility rate hit the bottom in 1984 but has continued
to descend since 1984 and remained at 1.57 in 1989.

Since the second baby boom in 1971-1974 the number of live
births in Japan has been continuously declining. It had reached
2,907,000 in 1973 to as low as 1,747,000 in 1989. (See Figure 1). In fact, the number of newly born in 1989 was signif-
ically less than in 1965 (3,951,000). The year of hightness:
the hightness, the year of birth is the base calendar, decreased
Japanese women to give birth to as low as 2.4
interception reduced from the 1970's.

November 1990
As a consequence of this persistent trend, the number of children (0-14) in Japan has declined considerably over the years, from 30.12 million (33.4% of the total population) in 1965 to 25.85 million (19.6% of the total population) as of April 1, 1999 (Statistical Bureau of the Management and Coordination Agency, 1999). In 1990, the dependency ratio of children for every 100 productive population (15-64) was 35.6, indicating that every child is supported by approximately 3.6 productive persons. At the same time, the elderly in 1990 was reported to constitute 12.0% of the total population (Statistical Bureau of the Management and Coordination Agency, 1999).

If this trend continues, i.e., an acceleration of the decline in child population and a rapid increase of the elderly, the proportion of the elderly population will exceed that of the child population by as early as the end of this century. The proportion of the elderly, i.e., 65 and above will increase to 16.3% of the total population by the year 2000. (Institute of the Population Problems, 1990, "Estimates of the future population: 1989-2000.")

Comparison of Japanese total fertility rate with major regions of the world revealed that it resembles Europe closely more than any other (see Figure 2). This trend appears to continue into the next century as well: in general, a declining fertility is a worldwide phenomenon. Today significant differences exist between advanced and developing nations. These gaps, however, would narrow to a significant degree in the next century.

A changing pattern of the birth rate per 1,000 population also reveals similar trend in that of the total mortality rate. (See Figure 3) That is, after peaking in 1972 (18.4), the birth rate has consistently declined. In 1990, it was as low as 13.6, even below the previous lowest record in the history of Japanese birth rates in 1966 (13.7). In 1989, it was 10.5. Changes in the death rate have been small since 1966 when it was 8.4. It went to 6.9 in 1990 per 1,000 population (see Figure 3).

According to the World Population Prospects: 1999 published by the United Nations, average Japanese birth and death rates between 1990 and 1995 were 11.4 and 7.0 per 1,000 population respectively. The world average for these statistics in the same period, however, are 27.1 for the birth rate (14.6 for advanced nations and 30.9 for developing nations) and 9.9 for death rate (9.0 for advanced nations and 9.8 for developing nations). An extremely low level of birth rate and a relatively low degree of death rate contribute to the unprecedentedly rapid process of aging society in Japan.

Figure 1 Changes in Total Fertility Rates and Live Births

Figure 2 Changes in Total Fertility Rates by Major Regions in the World

2. Causes for the Decline in Fertility Rates

Among many possible reasons for changes in fertility behavior there may be considered to have direct impact. They are the proportion of married women in the reproductive age-group, fertility behavior of married women, and fertility behavior of single women.

Notwithstanding drastic changes in fertility after World War II, the average number of children per married women who have completed their reproductive years has been approximately 2.5 since 1972 (1940.1-27, 1973.0, 1982.2-83, 1973.2-20, 1972.2-19, 1982.2-25, and 1987.2-17). A steady trend appears to be emerging over the last 20 years in Japan. Half of all married couples had 2 children while approximately one out of four had 3 children. The number of couples who have had 4 children, however, has been declining considerably (1973.2%=1962.4=% and 1967.3% of...
In Japan, fertility of single women, i.e., the number of legitimate births, is extremely small (0.9% and 1.0% of total live births in 1970 and 1980, respectively). These figures appear not to be major causes contributing to decline of total fertility rate, therefore, of the three major reasons for changes in fertility behavior, the first and the second appear to explain recent situation in Japan.

The most reproductive age group of Japanese women is 25-29, and they are responsible for nearly half of all live births. Thus, changes in the size of female population in this age group have direct impact on fertility. The total female population in the 25-29 age group was 4.96 millions in 1970, which declined to 3.84 millions in 1986. It was 3.86 millions in 1988. It has been projected that in 1998, when the second baby boom generation reaches this age group, the total number of Japanese women in this age bracket would increase to approximately 4.8 millions.

Therefore, it is expected to decline again, dropping below 4.0 millions around year 2008 (Ministry of Health & Welfare, 1990).

In the early part of the 1970's the first baby boom generation in Japan those who were born in 1947-49 and 8.06 millions in total reached the 25-29 age bracket. They in turn produced the second baby boom generation (those born in 1955-57) and 8.16 millions in total. Since then, the population of the most reproductive age group has been in continuous decline due to the sharp decrease in live births after the first baby boom. (See Figure 1.). As a consequence, there has been a decline in fertility among married women in Japan today.

The phenomena described above can also be analyzed from post-war changes, particularly those after 1970. They reappear in life cycle of Japanese families and changes in attitudes of Japanese women.

In other words, late marriages and the extremely short reproductive periods are characteristic for the postwar Japanese family. Marked decline in fertility is also a result of increasing number of women choosing to remain single.

3. Social Impact and Countermeasures

Social impacts of the lowering of fertility rates are evident especially in three areas. First, there will be a change in consumption pattern of the Japanese people, affecting demands in everything, baby industry, and education among others. Second, the number of younger people in the labor force will start to decline from mid-1990s. Subsequently, Japanese labor force as a whole will age and diminish.

Third, the aging process in Japan will be accelerated, and the problems of aging will become more serious than what has been anticipated. It has been estimated that the Japanese population would continue to increase to mid-2000's (135.22 millions in 2030) and start to decline thereafter. It is possible, however, that the population decline might begin earlier and the level of decline might be higher than what has been projected.

Today, the lowering of fertility rates is a common phenomenon in industrialized nations. the changing pattern varies from one country to another. Total fertility rates in Italy, for example, have been declining sharply in recent years, and the rate was lowest in the world in 1987 (1.28). Both the United Kingdom and France have been holding the level at about 1.8 for some time. Whereas in Sweden, the upward trend in total fertility rates has been observed in recent years.

Of these Western industrial nations where fertility rates have been declining, France has established social policies for promoting fertility rates. Though, in addition to the birth rates, French government stipulates policies concerning matrimony leave and maternity leave and child rearing. Impact of these social policies, however, are questionable, and are not necessarily proved effective.

There is a dual nature in fertility behavior, the one is in the macro aspect and the other, micro. The macro level factors of fertility behavior, on one hand, deals with the issue from the national and societal levels. Neither an extreme degree of aging is desirable for the healthy development of national economy nor the drastic decline in population is preferable for labor force activities.

In micro level nature, the contrary, taps on the individual attitude and behavior toward reproduction, not necessarily in accord with the national welfare. Furthermore, marriage and fertility are private and sensitive matters in the realm of human rights. And, therefore, it is extremely difficult to impose micro level social policies for fertility behavior giving full regards to human rights as well as social trends for women's liberation.

What is needed most today, it is perhaps not social policies but programmes and facilities such as maternity leave programmes and nurseries, to enable working women feel more willing to take part in childbearing and childraising. If work environments for married women, such as discussed here, are wellorganized, Japanese women would become more willing to marry and to reproduce.

At the same time, it goes without saying that not only women but also men must alter their attitudes toward reproduction. They should be more understanding and willing to share household chores and childrearing activities. Friendly coexistence between men and women, in essence, in what is needed most for the healthier development of fertility behavior in Japan.

November 1990
SURVEY REPORT

The "Women's Education Study Group" was established by National Women's Education Center in fiscal 1986. The group selects basic data on women from various statistics and through its analysis, studies the change in the status and social conditions of women in Japan. It also publishes "Status of women as seen in Statistics" every few years.

This report introduces statistical survey on school education based on the above publication.

(a) The enrollment ratio

The advancement rate of female in the upper secondary school reached 73.7% in 1987, surpassing that of male for the first time. Female have since been in the lead. The ratio of female continuing to college has also increased every year, gradually reducing the gap between male and female. Despite a large number of female to junior college, the ratio of female entering university has remained at about the same level in that of male 25 years ago.

(b) Students by field of study

As far the distribution of female students in universities and junior colleges by field of study, an extremely small number enrolls in science or engineering. Most major in humanities, education or home economics.

---

Table 1: Changes in the advancement rate of female to universities and junior colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>University</th>
<th>Junior College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>63.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>62.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Table 2: Distribution of university and junior college students by field of study (FY 1990)

A. Junior college course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>Male (No. of students: 433,606)</th>
<th>Female (No. of students: 401,489)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>30.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Economics</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. University (undergraduate) course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>Male (No. of students: 1,433,906)</th>
<th>Female (No. of students: 554,667)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>30.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Economics</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(c) Full-time teachers

The ratio of female among full-time teachers is increasing. While the proportion of women among principals, vice principals, professors and assistant professors is still smaller than that of male, there has been a marked increase of female in these positions over the last few years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Female (5)</th>
<th>Male (6)</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>99.50%</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>99.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
<td>99.30%</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
<td>99.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
<td>99.20%</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
<td>99.20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Changes in the ratio of female among full-time teachers

---

Table 4: Full-time teachers of universities and junior colleges by type of position (FY 1990)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Junior College</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Assistant Professor</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Assistant Professor</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>46,000</td>
<td>28,729</td>
<td>16,299</td>
<td>7,652</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>2,168</td>
<td>2,167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2,200</td>
<td>1,311</td>
<td>1,187</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>43,800</td>
<td>25,418</td>
<td>15,112</td>
<td>7,152</td>
<td>4,700</td>
<td>2,963</td>
<td>2,963</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Changes in the ratio of female among full-time teachers

---

Table 6: Changes in the ratio of female among full-time teachers (in international comparison)

---

**Elementary School (Public)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan (total)</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>23.7</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>40.3</td>
<td>40.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>52.0</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>53.2</td>
<td>53.7</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>53.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Germany</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>40.6</td>
<td>40.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
<td>23.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Secondary School (Public)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>67.2</td>
<td>67.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elementary and Secondary School (Public)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>63.9</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>67.2</td>
<td>67.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USSR</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
<td>71.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCING NWEC

The National Women’s Education Centre was founded in 1977 by Japan’s Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The Centre’s activities include:

Training for women in the form of seminars, lectures, group discussions, individual study projects, and other educational programmes. The Centre’s comprehensive training facilities are available to any group whose subject matter relates to women’s education.

Exchange of information among women’s education leaders from Japan and overseas, as well as others who are interested in women’s issues.

Information gathered and disseminated by NWEC’s extensive libraries of printed and audiovisual materials.

Research of issues touching on women’s rights and family education.

Apart from NWEC-sponsored programmes, our facilities are available to women’s groups and individuals for study and research and a cultural exchange fees of charge (including meals and accommodation).

To use our facilities, please complete and submit a NWEC application form at least 30 days in advance but not six months before intended use.

PUBLICATIONS

FOREIGN LANGUAGE OFFERING ON JAPANESE WOMEN

WOMEN IN A CHANGING SOCIETY: The JAPANESE SCENE (UNESCO publication on Women’s Studies in Asia and the Pacific). Edited by the National Women’s Education Centre of Japan and published by UNESCO, 1989, 316p. Free of charge for institutions in Asia and the Pacific, and USD 30 plus postage for other institutions and individuals. Available at Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, P.O. Box 186, Phnom Penh Post Office (1230), Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Thailand).

This publication was originally prepared in 1985 as part of a joint project on women’s studies material by the UNESCO Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific (RUSASAP) and universities and research institutions in seven Asian Pacific countries. Volumes on Thailand (1986), Korea (1987), Philippines (1989), and Turkey (1989) have been issued.

The main text of this volume consists of two parts, and is supplemented by references which are helpful in understanding the present situation of women in Japan.

Part 1 is an overview of women’s studies in Japan, written by two specialists in the field, especially for this volume. It is less than one forth of the whole book in length, reflecting the emphasis placed on Part 2.

Part 2 is a selection of previously published works on the present situation of Japanese women. A total of 30 papers classified into five major sections are included:

1. Status of Women: Status of women/History of women’s movement in modern Japan/Articulation of women’s rights/Industry

FOREIGN VISITORS TO NWEC

As of September 1990, the NWEC has received 7,200 visitors from 117 countries. Following are some of the recent visitors of the Centre:

17 July - 17 July: 47 delegates for the NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women’s Issues; Ms. Nagita, PRINCE from Bangladesh, Ms. Aniki by Yunus from Malaysia, Ms. Nishizaki Arashimura

Vol.7 No.2 November 1990

Printed in Japan ISSN 0910-4623