

NWEC

NEWSLETTER

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 (NWEC) was established in 1977 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 NWEC are divided into 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,

Table 1 Contents of Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Version)

I Thought, Theory, History and Movements (224) <i>women's liberation, feminism theory, women's studies, gender, women's theory, maternity theory, women's issues, women's movement, history, religion</i>
II Sex, Body and Heart (556) <i>rules for sex, sexual behaviour, sexual love, difference of sexes, role of sex, discrimination by sex, liberalization of sex, commercialization of sex, prostitution, sexual violence, abortion, reproduction technology, pregnancy, contraception, childbirth, physiology, sickness, heart, medical treatment, health, medical science, hygiene</i>
III Family and Home (664) <i>family system, family pattern, family relationship, family structure, relatives, family cycle, problems of aged, family problem, marriage, marital status, divorce, inheritance, home, home management, housewife, housework, household economy, childcare, households, life, residential life, residence, diet, foods, clothing habits</i>
IV Society and Welfare (1,032) <i>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, internationalized society, community, urban community, rural community, community activity, folk customs, folkways, welfare, nurture, pension</i>
V Labour, Economy and Industry (1,249) <i>labour, workers, labour force, employment, hiring, working pattern, personnel, educational training, retirement, working conditions, wage, maternity protection, vocational disease, trade union, job classification, economic growth, economic change, international economy, trade, production, products, distribution, commodity price, consumption, income, finance, tax, corporation, industry, science & technology, population</i>
VI Politics and Law (634) <i>politics, political thought, political system, political organization, political movement, politician, election, policy, administration, public finance, diplomacy, peace, war, international relations, human rights, ethnic group, race, discrimination, law, judgement</i>
VII Education and Research (874) <i>education, educational ideology, educational policy, lifelong education, learning, lifelong learning, personal development, developmental theory, developmental issues, family education, growth, childcare, discipline, learning family education, school education, subjects, curriculum education, teacher, education for girls, educational assessment, education problem, social education, administration for social education, youth education, adult education, women's education, scientific research</i>
VIII Culture, Arts and Sports (540) <i>culture, communication, arts, public entertainment, language, literature, fashion, sports, leisure</i>
IX Others (110) <i>consciousness, movement, solution, development, concept, improvement, value, relationship, recommendation, management, opportunity, function, obligation, benefits, cooperation, training, experience, career record, status quo, structure, binding, behaviour, nature, business, thought</i>

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

family and home; and 4) activities to support learning and research through collection and dissemination of information.

"Thesaurus on Women and the Family" has been developed as a research project by the Information Division. Its development began in 1984 and its first version was published in 1987, and the second, in 1990.

II. Need for Thesaurus on Women and the Family

Information Centre for Women's Education for NWEC was founded in 1979. As of March, 1990, it has in its possession some five thousand books and one thousand periodicals in Japanese and foreign languages. It is a library specialized in books, journals, newspapers, government publications, and grey literature on women, family, and home. It is one of the largest library 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 labour have been invested since 1984 to compile the 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 under specific subject. In order to meet this demand, it is indispensable that means for building database of relevant information are provided. Existing subject headings and numbers in Nippon Decimal Classification do not fully cover subcategories concerning women, family, and home.
2. Categories for women, family, and home are full of synonyms and words having similar meaning because of the less clear definition of terms as in the case of social, family, and school educations. Categories also include interdisciplinary fields such as women's issues, women's studies, feminist studies and feminist movements in which many new words, words of foreign origin, adopted words, synonyms and abbreviated words are found. Sometimes existing words are redefined 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 meaning, coined words, and new words. This is the advantage of search using descriptor of a thesaurus.
3. There was a perceived need to classify and organize 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

<1984>

The entire year was devoted to collecting words with descriptor potentials. Approximately 7,000 words were collected by scrutinizing tables of contents and indexes of technical encyclopedia, basic books and periodicals in the fields of women and the family. Titles of government publications, correlative index of Nippon Decimal Classification, and ERIC Thesaurus were also extensively incorporated.

<1985 — March, 1987>

The "Research and Study Group for the Thesaurus on Women and the Family" was inaugurated in 1985. This was composed of experts in the fields of women's studies, women labour, family studies, social education, and information science, as well as staff of NWEC. Between 1985 and March, 1987 the research and study group accomplished the following:

1. Approximately 1,000 words considered to be basic were selected out of 7,000 words mentioned above. They were categorized in eleven, each having a tree structure. (I. Thought and Movement, II. Education, III. Family, IV. Home and Life, V. Society, VI. Labour, VII. Politics and Law, VIII. Economy and Industry, IX. Welfare, X. Body and Health, XI. Culture).
2. Further research and discussion were carried out on three points: (1) whether the eleven established categories were appropriate, (2) whether the concept of using tree-structure was appropriate, and (3) whether 1,000 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 in 1. Furthermore, eleven categories were reduced to eight. New categories were: I. Thought, Theory, History, and Movements, II. Sex, III. Family and Home, IV. Society and Welfare, V. Labour, Economy, and Industry, VI. Politics and Law, VII. Education and Research, and VIII. 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 A 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 Research and Development Center of the Faculty of Education of the Gifu University. The First Version of the Thesaurus on Women and the Family was published in May, 1987. The First Version was originally intended as an interim report. Copies were distributed to women's centers, researchers on fields of women, family, and home; and experts having experience of compiling a thesaurus all over Japan to solicit their opinions on the book.

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

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

<I> BT, NT, RT, and UF

- i. Standard on BT (Broader Term)-NT (Narrower Term)
 - a. Genus-species relations
 - b. Whole-part relations
- ii. Standard on RT (Related Term) relations
 - a. Cause-effect relations
 - b. Oppositional (symmetric) relations
 - c. Relations between an attribute and its own attribute
 - d. Complementary relations

iii. Standard on UF (Abbreviation for "Used for", meaning synonyms) relations

Sexist words are not adopted as descriptors but treated as synonyms. If, however, a sexist 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.

<2> *Synonyms, abbreviated words, non-abbreviated words, words in original language, and equivalent terms in translation.*

Among these, the one in wide use is adopted as a descriptor. Subjective judgement cannot be avoided in making such choice.

<3> *On SN (Scope Note)*

Following criteria are established for selecting descriptors to which a scope note (brief statement of the intended usage 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 the attention of a reader to the use of a descriptor as an index word

<4> *Addition of descriptors*

Since June, 1987, index words were assigned to "Database on Japanese periodical articles on women and family" and "Database on Books acquired by the Library of the NWEC", both compiled by the Information Centre, in line with the "Thesaurus on Women and the Family (First Version)". In other words, the "Thesaurus 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 lacking. New words have been coined with the progress of studies in fields of women, family, and home, and as new women movements developed, and new women issues have emerged. Consequently addition of descriptor 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
- c. A Women's Thesaurus (comp. by Mary Ellen S. Capek; New York, Harpers & Row, 1987) and Thesaurus on Women in Development (comp. by Melling Simanjuntak, et al; Centre for Scientific Documentation and Information, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, 1987)
- d. Key words provided by members of "Research and Study Group for the Thesaurus on Women and the Family"

<5> *On Identifiers*

It was difficult to decide whether names of treaties, policy measures, occupations, religions, languages, and peoples should be treated as descriptors or identifiers. Eventually it was decided to see them as identifiers in the Second Version. The reasons are as follows.

Names of persons, countries, places, periods, organizations, groups, treaties, laws and statutes, minutes of meetings, policy measures, projects, historical events, races, peoples, nations, religions, languages, diseases, foods, occupations, sports, literary and artistic works, animals, plants, and minerals are considered as identifiers. Words falling into these categories used generally and ordinarily and deemed important in the fields of women, family and home, however, are treated as descriptors. They are incorporated in the Thesau-

rus with assignment of UF, BT, NT, and RT. Identifiers treated as descriptors include, for instance, "United Nations Decade for Women", "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women", and names of occupations and diseases particularly related with women.

As given in <1> through <5> above, standards for revision were established and the revision of the "Thesaurus on Women and the Family (First Version)" was conducted for about three years. As a result the Second Version was published in March, 1990. For easier grasp of the contents of the Second Version, all categories and their sub-items are shown in Table 1. An example of hierarchy is given in Table 2.

Table 2 An Example of Hierarchy

Family form

<i>UF family patterns</i>	<i>NT conjugal family</i>
<i>UF family types</i>	<i>NT joint family</i>
<i>NT step family</i>	<i>NT polygamous family</i>
<i>NT extended family</i>	<i>RT family</i>
<i>NT nuclear family</i>	<i>RT number of family member</i>
<i>NT double income family</i>	<i>RT family relationship</i>
<i>NT aged family</i>	<i>RT family size</i>
<i>NT mixed family</i>	<i>RT family structure</i>
<i>NT single parent family</i>	<i>RT family system</i>
<i>NT stem family</i>	<i>RT family change</i>

IV. Characteristic Features of Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Version)

1. Establishment of Categories

The principal objective for compiling a thesaurus in women fields must be to clarify problems women face or women's position from past to present. This is to say that descriptors contained should explicate or make manifest problems faced by women. Categorization under conventional decimal classification does not serve the purpose. The first and foremost characteristic of "Thesaurus 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 reexamined from women's perspective.

Issues of women and sex as well as physical 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 feature of "Thesaurus on Women and the Family" is to have shed light on this field by making it an independent category.

Incidentally there are at present two more thesauri on women in the world: A Women's Thesaurus and Thesaurus on Women in Development. The former was compiled by feminists in the United States, and the latter, by researchers on women's issues, administrators in charge of women's issues, and women librarians in ASEAN countries. Both represent a great deal of investment and laborious work. Needless to say, categories in those two thesauri were considered from the viewpoint of American feminists or those examining women's issues within the framework of ASEAN countries. Words in those thesauri were selected accordingly. Categories in those two thesauri are shown in Table 3, in comparison with "Thesaurus on Women and the Family". It can be inferred from the tables that categories in all three thesauri were established from perspectives not found in conventional decimal 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 system 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 retriever agree with those of an indexer. It is effective to have compilers of the thesaurus present their 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 Version)" does not contain such a hierarchical list. Therefore, both indexer and retriever have no choice but look into BT-NT relations in a word order list to systematize concepts. In contrast, however, both A Women's Thesaurus and Thesaurus on Women in Development contain hierarchical list. In this respect, these two may be said to be superior to the "Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Version)."

3. Polyhierarchical Relationship

Some descriptors in the "Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Version)" have more than one BTs. This relationship is called polyhierarchical relationship. For instance, in the Thesaurus, a descriptor of "incest" is given two descriptors as BT: "family pathology" and "sexual violence". Single problem pertaining to women is often regarded as a problem in multiple fields. Therefore, polyhierarchical relationship, which allows more than one BTs, 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 Version)", synonyms occupy a high percentage of 26% of entire descriptors. The reason 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 it is and that an equivalent term for the adopted word in Japanese is also used concurrently. A thesaurus

must make adjustment 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 resolved by judging which is used more generally.

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

5. On Identifiers

In the end of the section 4. on treatment of synonyms, we have suggested an alternative to stipulate one representative word signifying an emerging concept not yet firmly established as a descriptor and treat others as synonyms of that descriptor. Another alternative to treatment of those 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 can adopt the method of ERIC Thesaurus for new words, words used only by limited group of people. Fad words may be treated as identifiers for the time being.

The scope of identifiers for "Thesaurus on Women and the Family (Second Version)" is noted in III. B. <5>. There is room for further review with regard to how identifiers are treated.

V. Summary

Representative thesauri 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 is 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

Table 3 Comparison of Three Thesauri

Thesaurus Category	A Women's Thesaurus	Thesaurus on Women in Development	Thesaurus on Women and the Family
I	Communications	Generalities	Thought, Theory, History and Movements
II	Economics and Employment	Religion and Philosophy	Sex, Body and Heart
III	Education	Women in Social Development	Family and Home
IV	History and Social	Women in Political Change	Society and Welfare Development
V	International Women	Women in Economic Development	Labour, Economy and Industry
VI	Language, Literature, Religion and Philosophy	Legal Status, Laws, etc. etc.	Politics and Law
VII	Law, Government and Public Policy	International Relations	Education and Research
VIII	Natural Sciences and Health	Population and Demography	Culture, Arts and Sports
IX	Science and Technology	Education of Women	Others(words which are not in categories I-VIII, or used in common in categories I-VIII)
X	Social Sciences and Culture	Biological Condition of Women	
XI	Visual and Performing Arts	Psychology	
XII		Literature and Arts	
XIII		Science and Technology	
XIV		History	

makes thesaurus on women more than an information retrieval system; a means for streamlining concepts relevant to women.

It is very much hoped that the three thesauri on women will serve their unique purposes for which they were compiled through

sharing views and experiences on categorization, examination of descriptors and identifiers and consideration of scope notes.

(Wakako Nishibori, Information Specialist, NWEC)

NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women's Issues

At the Nairobi World Conference held in the last year of "UN 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 system 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 proved to be 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 personal 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 1989.

The second year's course was held for nine weeks from July 17 to September 17. Four countries, namely, Fiji, Indonesia, Nepal and Thailand participated in last year's course. This year, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam took part in the course. The plan is to invite four persons 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 parts: lectures, training in computer operation and producing a report. Lectures were given by university professors and experts in the field on "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), spread sheet (LOTUS 1-2-3) and database (dBASEIV) in a period of four weeks. The preparation of report was aimed at developing skills to apply and integrate 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 spent their day surveyed 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 programmes, study tours to institutes 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 data available. 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 chosen. 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 persons spend their day. These types of survey bring to light status of women not clearly visible in other types of survey. How many hours 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 their reports. 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.

JAPANESE WOMEN TODAY

WOMEN'S GROUPS IN JAPAN

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DAY NURSERY TEACHERS

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

What they share in common is the wish for "True 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 above through appropriate research, studies, and discussions."

The characteristic of the Association is, first of all, that day nursery teachers are organized through a strong sense of soli-

arity as "day nursery teachers", regardless of thought or creed.

Second, the Association conducts its researches 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 adopted a membership system hiring full-time staff, 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 practice. 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 of Childcare for Day Nursery Schools, production of video programmes featuring "How to promote child development", and to help young mothers cope with problems of childcare.

For further inquiries, please contact:
Zenkoku Hobokai (National Association of Day Nursery Teachers)
c/o *Zenkoku Shakai Fukushi Kyogikai, Shinkasumigaseki Bldg., 3-2, Kasumigaseki 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100*
Tel: 03-581-6503
Fax: 03-581-6509



Day nursery teacher teaching children how to peel a carrot at day nursery school.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF BUSINESS 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 busi-

ness 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

Presently National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of JAPAN has approximately 800 members representing 26 clubs. Major domestic activities are as follows:

(1) Each club holds monthly meetings and engages in myriads of activities. Common theme is set and block meetings are held once a year. The activities of block meetings include: a) promotion of Equal Employment Opportunity Act, b) organization of symposiums and forums in the first year of the enactment

of 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 1990 is "Women 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 present women's issues to policy makers. It has produced the first woman ambassador and legislators in national and local assemblies from among its membership.
- (4) In 1985, the Federation established the "Best Men" Award which is awarded to males who understand and cooperate in improving women's status.
- (5) The Federation publishes books, magazines and audio visual tapes, including a) bulletin, b) BPW News, c)



The recipients of 1990 Best Men Award

Jobs of Sophisticated Women, d) Women's Work in the New Age, e) Thirty-Year Magazine, f) club publications, g) "Home Education of Children of Working Mothers", VTR production subsidized by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture under the Programme for the Promotion of Social Education.

National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of JAPAN cooperates with International Federation of

Business and Professional Women (membership of 270,000 from 67 countries) in the following activities.

- (1) Participation in each IFBPW World Congress in great number. The 1993 World Congress will be held in Nagoya, Japan.
- (2) One of our members, Hatsue Andoh was elected as Asia-Pacific Coordinator.

- (3) The Federation contributed to the endowment of Project Five-O for construction of Mexico Nurse School.

For further inquiries, please contact:
National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs of Japan
#405 Tokan Shinjuku No.2 Castel,
3-5-12 Nishi-Shinjuku,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160
Tel: (03)348-7644

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 function is undergoing major change* due in part to the lightening of domestic chores. In other words, the role of the family is being redefined. These are some of the findings of the "Survey on view of family", recently published by the Economic Planning Agency. The survey revealed people diversifying their lifestyle according to changes in the environment surrounding family, including the increase in the number of nuclear families and of housewives working outside their homes.

The survey was conducted in February 1990 on 2500 men and women who were 20 years or older and who live in the metropolitan area. The response rate was 77.2%.

On most important function expected of family, 63% of the people polled expected *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-bearing and rearing functions, and 5 % care of the elderly.

Topping the list, 31 % of the respondents pointed out that *"family's role of caring for the elderly" suffered the greatest decline.* 39% found "shortage of persons who are able to take care of the elderly," 19 % complained of "smallness of houses," another 19 % replied "increasing number of parents do not want to become burden to children," and 17% admitted "weaker spirit of filial piety."

On couples who both work and choose not to have children, the so-called DINKS (Double Income No Kids), 58 % of the pollees supported the idea. They felt *"it was a question of individual choice. It is only natural that there are different kinds of couples."* Supporters of DINKS exceeded

those who disapproved it. That is to say 36 % of the pollees thought that "maturity comes with parenthood." Declining birth rate was analyzed. 51 % of respondents admitted *they chose to have smaller family for economic reasons.* "The economic burden is too heavy." 31 % said it was more important to "pursue their own lifestyle." Others pointed out the "insufficiency of housing environment," (26%). It was confirmed that problems of economy and housing were the main obstacles to raising children.

Pollees were asked how they reacted to wider acceptance of DINKS lifestyle in view of the changing role of family in child rearing, caring for elderly and providing domestic services. More than half (52 %) thought the change "an inevitable tendency of the times." 22 % were "positively supportive of the changes." All in all three out of four people (74 %) showed receptive attitude toward the new view of family.

CHANGING FERTILITY IN JAPAN

Fumie Kumagai
Professor,
Kyorin University

1. Trends

"Demographic statistics of 1989" published by the Ministry of Health and Welfare on June 9, 1990 have generated much discussion, 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.

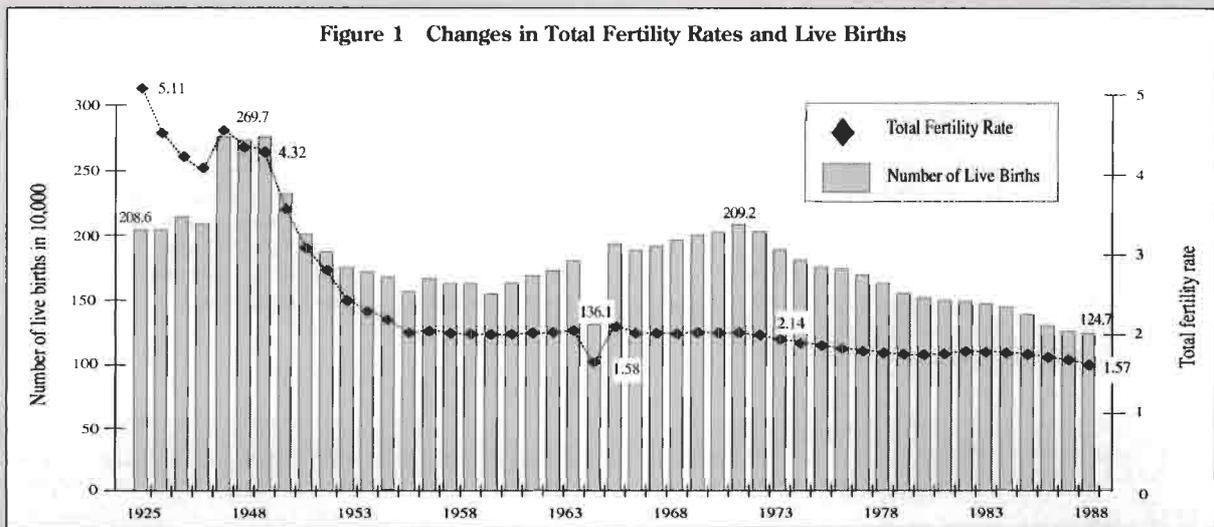
The declining trend of the total fertility rate of Japanese women, however, is not a new phenomenon. It started to decline dramatically in the post World War II years. The total fertility rate

which was 4.54 in 1947 declined to 2.00 in 1963, even below the reproduction level. The sharp decrease in the fertility rate in the 1950s is said to be a result of population policy carried out under the guidance of the allied occupation headquarters. Legalization of abortion under the Eugenic Law of 1947 established to manage the baby boom following World War II is also a cause of the decline in total fertility rate.

The total fertility rate hit the bottom in 1963 but continued to exceed the reproductive level until the second baby boom. 1966 is an exception.

Since the second baby boom in 1971-1974 the number of live births in Japan has been consistently declining. It declined from 2.092 millions in 1973 to as low as 1.247 millions in 1989. (See Figure 1). In fact, the number of newly born in 1989 was significantly less than in 1966 (1.361 millions), the year of hinoeuma. The hinoeuma, the year of horse in the lunar calendar, discourages Japanese women to give birth to baby girls due to superstition inherited from the Edo period.

Figure 1 Changes in Total Fertility Rates and Live Births



As a consequence of this persistent trend, the number of children (0-14) in Japan has declined considerably over the years: from 30.12 millions (33.44 % of the total population) in 1955 to 22.83 millions (18.5 % of the total population) as of April 1, 1990 (Statistical Bureau of the Management and Coordination Agency). In 1990, the dependency ratio of children for every 100 productive population (15-64) was 26.6, indicating that every child is supported by approximately 3.8 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, 1990).

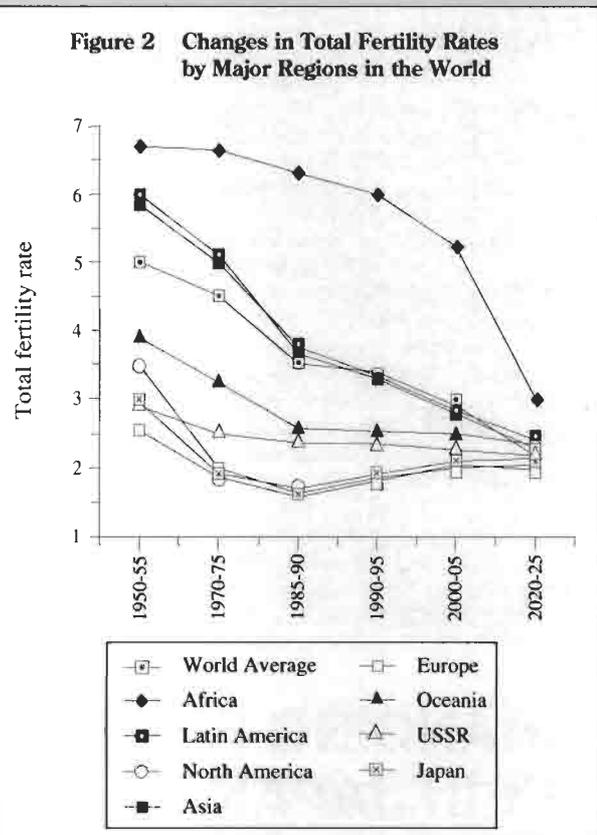
If this trend continues, i.e., an acceleration of the decline in child population and a rapid increase of the elderly, the proportion of the elderly population will exceed that of the child population by as early as the end of this century. The proportion of the elderly, i.e., 65 and above will increase to 16.3 % of the total population by the year 2000. (Institute of the Population Problems, 1990: "Estimates of the future population: 1985-2085.")

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 world-wide 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 to that of the total mortality rate. (See Figure 3.) That is, after peaking in 1973 (19.4), the birth rate has consistently declined. In 1980, 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 10.2. Changes in the death rate have been small since 1966 when it was 6.8. It was 6.4 in 1989 per 1,000 population (see Figure 3).

According to the World Population Prospects: 1988 published by the United Nations, average Japanese birth and death rates between 1985 and 1990 are 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 (9.8 for advanced nations and 9.9 for developing nations). An extremely low level of birth rate and a relatively low degree of death rate contribute to the unprecedentedly rapid progress of aging society in Japan.

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 three 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 2.2 since 1972 (1940:4.27, 1957:3.60, 1962:2.83, 1972:2.20, 1977:2.19, 1982:2.23, 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 (1977:5.2%; 1982:4.9%; and 1987:3.7% of

married women).

In Japan, fertility of single women, i.e., the number of illegitimate births, is extremely small (0.9% and 1.0% of total live births in 1970 and 1988 respectively). These factors appear not to be major ones 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 as high as 5.65 millions in 1976, which declined to 3.84 millions in 1986. It was 3.98 millions in 1989. 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. Thereafter, 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 1971-1974 and 8.16 millions in total). Since then, however, the population of the most reproductive age-group has been on 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 1970s. They are changes in life cycle of Japanese families and changes in attitudes of Japanese women. In other words, late marriages and therefore extremely short reproductive period are characteristic features of the post-war 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 obstetrics, baby industry, and education among others. Second, the number of younger people in the labor force will start to decline from mid-1990's. Subsequently, Japanese labor force as a whole will age and diminish.

Third, the aging process in Japan will be accelerated, and the problem 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-2010's (135.823 millions in 2015) and start to decline thereafter. It is possible, however, that the population decline might begin earlier and the level of reduction might be higher than what has been projected.

Today, the lowering of fertility rates is a common phenomenon in industrialized nations, but 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 alone has established social policies for promoting fertility behavior. That is, in addition to child allowances French government stipulates policies concerning maternity leave and reentry into the labor market after child rearing. Impacts of these social policies, however, are questionable, and are not necessarily proved effective.

There is a dual nature in fertility behavior, the one is the macro aspect and the other, micro. The macro level feature 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.

Its micro level nature, on 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 propose micro level social policies for fertility behavior giving full regards to human rights as well as social trends for women's liberalization.

What is needed most today, 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 childrearing. If work environments for married women, such as those discussed here, are well-organized, 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, is what is needed most for the healthier development of fertility behavior in Japan.



SURVEY REPORT

The "Women's Education Study Group" was established by National Women's Education Centre in fiscal 1986. The Group selects basic data on women from various statistics and through its analysis, studies the change in the awareness 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 schooleducation* based on the above publication.

(a) The enrollment ratio

The advancement rate of female in the upper secondary schools reached 73.7% in 1967, 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 as that of male 25 years ago.

(b) Students by field of study

As for the distribution of female students in universities and junior colleges by field of study, an extremely small number majors 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

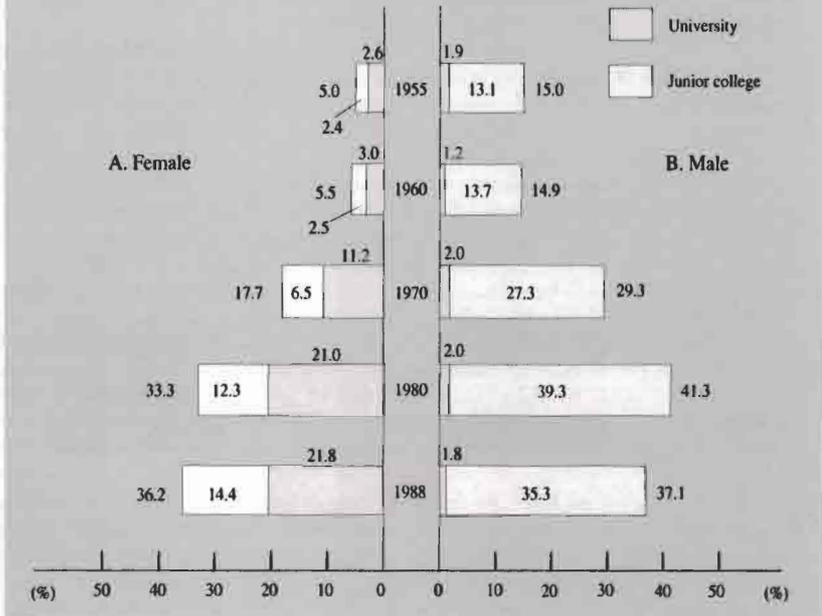
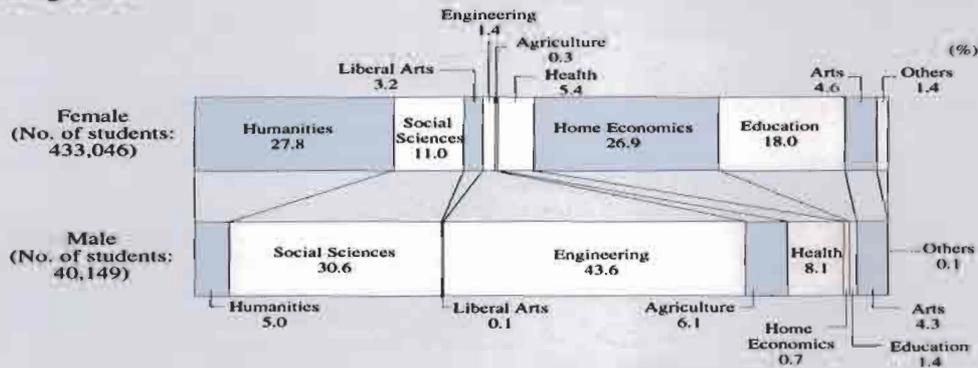
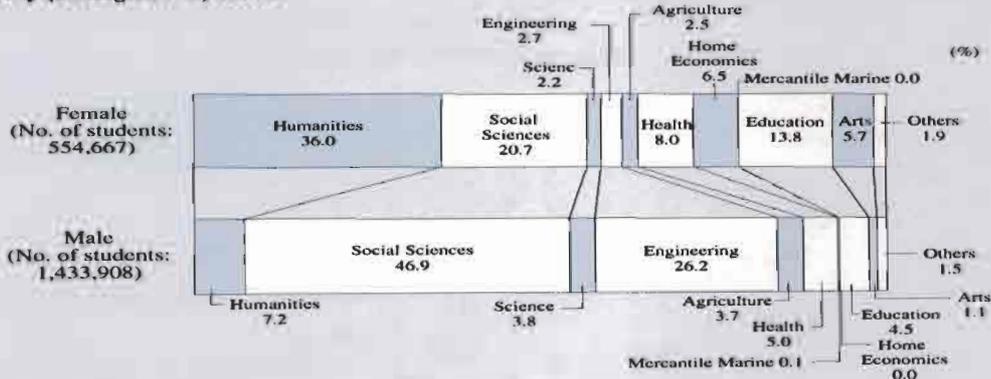


Table 2 Distribution of university and junior college students by field of study (FY 1990)

A. Junior college course



B. University (undergraduate) course



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

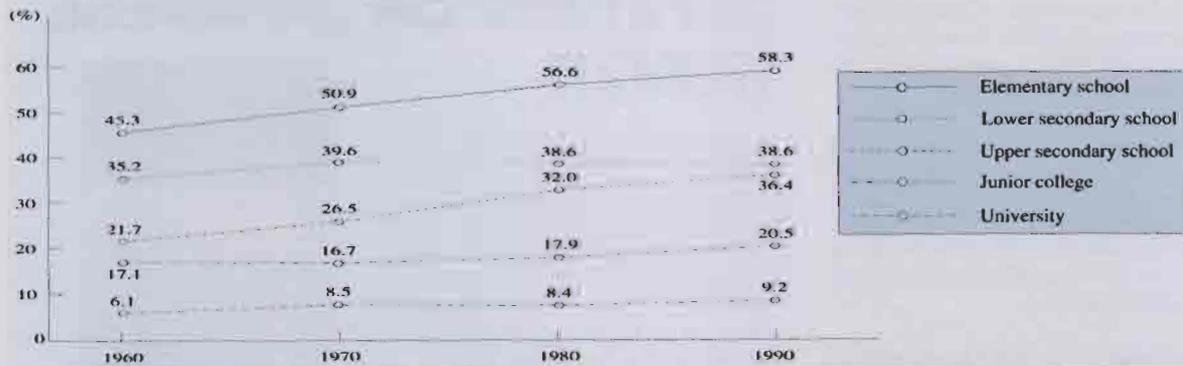


Table 4 Full-time teachers of universities and junior colleges by type of position (FY 1990)

		University			Junior College		
		Professor	Assistant Professor	Lecturer	Professor	Assistant Professor	Lecturer
Total	Total	44,037	28,739	16,299	7,652	5,666	4,728
	Female	2,208	2,311	1,917	1,930	2,148	2,187
	Male	41,829	26,428	14,382	5,722	3,518	2,541
	Proportion of Female (%)	5.0	8.0	11.8	25.2	37.9	46.3

Table 5 Changes in the ratio of female among full-time teachers (an international comparison)

Elementary School (Public)

Country	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Japan	54.5	54.8	54.8	54.6	54.3	54.1	54.0	54.0	54.2
UK	78.2	78.4	78.4	78.4	78.3	78.8	79.5	79.2	-
France	67.2	67.1	66.9	67.6	67.2	67.1	67.0	67.6	-
West Germany	(63.7)	(63.8)	(63.9)	(63.9)	(64.0)	64.0	64.2	64.4	-
China	-	-	37.1	36.3	36.3	37.0	39.0	39.6	40.4

Secondary School (Public)

Country	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
Japan (total)	22.3	22.3	22.7	23.2	23.8	24.0	24.3	24.8	26.0
Junior highschool	(28.9)	(29.0)	(29.5)	(30.2)	(30.8)	(30.9)	(31.3)	(31.7)	(32.1)
UK	44.4	45.0	45.2	45.2	45.3	45.7	45.8	46.1	-
France	52.6	52.3	52.2	51.7	51.9	51.7	51.0	51.0	-
West Germany	(42.6)	(42.5)	(42.6)	(42.8)	(42.4)	41.4	41.3	41.2	-
China	-	-	24.8	25.3	26.2	25.9	27.5	27.9	28.2

Elementary and Secondary School (Public)

Country	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
USA	66.1	-	67.5	66.9	-	67.2	-
USSR	70.8	70.9	71.2	72	72	73.0	73.0

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 audio/visual materials.

Research of issues touching on women's and family education.

Apart from NWEC-sponsored programmes, our facilities are available to women's groups and individuals for study programmes and cultural exchange free of charge (excluding meals and accommodation).

To use our facilities, please complete and submit a NWEC application form at least 10 days in advance but not six months before intended use.

NWEC Newsletter

National Women's Education
Centre

728 Sugaya, Ramzan-machi,
Hiki-gun, Saitama 355-02
Japan

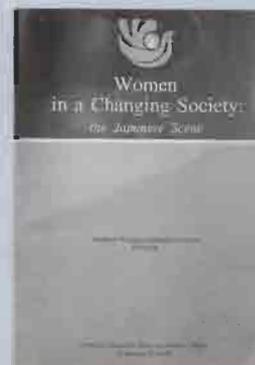
Tel : 0493-62-6711

Fax : 0493-62-6721

Cable : NWEC HIGASHI-
MATSUYAMA

PUBLICATION

FOREIGN-LANGUAGE OFFERING ON JAPANESE WOMEN



WOMEN IN A CHANGING SOCIETY: The JAPANESE SCENE (UNESCO Supported Series on Women's Studies in Asia and the Pacific. Edited by the National Women's Education Centre of Japan and published by UNESCO. 1990. 218p. Free of charge for institutions in Asia and the Pacific, and US\$7.00 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 967, Prakanong Post Office Bangkok 10110, 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 (RUSHSAP) and universities and research institutions in seven Asian-Pacific countries. Volumes on Thailand (1986), India (1987), Philippines (1989), and Turkey (1990) 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 tenth 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 20 papers classified into five areas are included.

1. *Status of Women*: Status of women/History of women's movement in modern Japan/Antiprostitution activities/Japanese sex industry

2. *Family*: Japanese family/The domestic labour debate/Older women in Japan
3. *Mass Media*: Information on women/The role of modern journalism/The image of women in/Japanese TV drama
4. *Labour*: The controversy over protection and equality/ Women in labour force/Career advancement of women/Technological change in rice cropping and women in rural society/Parental leave and day nursery system
5. *Education*: Boys education at home/Women's participation in higher education/Career patterns and occupational attitudes of female students/Working mothers/School education and the image of women

The appendix includes statistical data on the present condition of Japanese women, a bibliography of references on Japanese women published in Japan in non-Japanese language including English. Chronological table is also included. Unfortunately, the data is relatively old, as the volume is based on what was prepared in 1985, with a little updating done in 1987.

FOREIGN VISITORS TO NWEC

As of 30 September 1990, the NWEC has received 7,500 visitors from 117 countries. Followings are some of the recent visitors of the Centre.

17 July - 17 September: 4 trainees for the NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women's Issues; Ms. Nagris Akhter Yossouf from Bangladesh, Ms. Anisah bt Yusof from Malaysia, Ms. Dammika Arunakumari

Wannaku from Sri Lanka and Mr. Hoa Thi Tran from Viet Nam.

9-10 August: 66 visitors from Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, U.K. and USA who were assigned to work in local governments and boards of education, assisting in English language education and various international exchange activities.