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The family Values of the member of Soka Gakkai

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In this presentation, I would like to present the results of a study on the awareness of family norms and gender equality among members of Soka Gakkai, a new but well-established religion in Japan. Based on an analysis of the results of a questionnaire survey that I conducted, I found that, as a general trend, men tended to have a more conservative sense of family values than women. However, for religious specific gender value, women tended to be more conservative than men. Specifically, there are certain views of gender that are strongly related to Soka Gakkai as a matter of custom, and women who are more active in the organization are more likely to hold conservative views.

My first hypothesis was that the more active a person is in the religion, the more conservative their sense of family would likely be. This was shown to be true only for women and only concerning Soka Gakkai-specific gender roles. Concerning family norms and a general sense of gender roles, the degree of activeness in SG did not appear to have a significant influence.

The second hypothesis, that women would have a more conservative sense of family values than men, likewise only applied to SG-specific gender roles. For awareness of family norms and general gender roles, men proved to be more conservative than women.

To summarize those results, concerning differences between men and women, depending on the nature of the variable used, there appear to be significant variations in the aspects of gender that influence awareness in men and women. Naturally, if positions of men and women in society differ, their ideas of gender would also differ. However; the current study has shown that conservative gender values specific to Soka Gakkai tended to be more internalized in women than men.

But, when one looks at the correlation factors, women tended to be more liberal than men the longer their terms of education, and this also included SG-specific gender values. Although it is hard to definitively say that there is a direct cause-effect

relationship in this case, it has been well established that higher education enhances a sense of liberation from traditional gender roles, especially in women.

On the other hand, the present analysis was not able to identify any significant variables that influenced the awareness of men. Also, I must say that from the low determination coefficient, the factors and conditions used in the present analysis were not sufficient as explanatory variables. In order to clarify the formation mechanism of gender awareness in religious groups, a deeper analysis, including predictor variables, is necessary. But, based on my results, I believe I was able to show tendencies that could be verified with a more in-depth analysis.