

Women's Worlds 2005  
June 22, 2005  
Panel on "Gender & Family : Results of National Surveys in Korea,  
Taiwan and Japan"

"Gender Preference for Children in Japan, Korea and Taiwan:  
A Comparative Analysis of JGSS, KNFS and TSCS"

Hiroshi KOJIMA, Ph.D.

National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Hibiya Kokusai Building  
e-mail: h-kojima@ipss.go.jp

The Japanese General Social Surveys (JGSS-2000/2001/2002) and the Korean National Fertility Survey (KNFS-2000) include a question, like the GSS in the U.S., "If you were to have only one child in your life, would you like to have a boy or a girl?" The latter also includes a question asking if the respondents want to have a son for the continuation of family line, which is also asked by the Taiwan Social Change Survey (TSCS-2001). It is of interest to demographers to analyze the determinants of gender preference for an only child because an increasing number of younger couples actually have only one child and because sex-selective abortion seems to be conducted in Korea and Taiwan according to the skewed sex ratio at birth particularly for higher-order births.

Similar logit models have been applied to the microdata from the three countries for married women aged 20-64 to analyze the determinants of son preference. A preliminary analysis of the JGSS-2000 reveals that ages 20-29, agricultural job and personal religion have positive effects on son preference and that service job has a negative effect. An analysis of the JGSS-2001 indicates that ages 50-59 and higher education have negative effects, while an analysis of the JGSS-2002 shows that agricultural job has a negative effect.

On the other hand, a preliminary analysis of the KNFS-2000 reveals that age, blue-collar jobs and Buddhism have positive effects on son preference and that the marital status of divorced/widowed, higher education, professional/managerial and clerical jobs, and the residence in urban communities, Seoul and Kyongido have negative effects. An analysis of the TSCS-2001 indicates that blue-collar jobs and the residence in the North Region have positive effects on son preference for family continuation and that ages 20-49, senior high-school and college education, sales and service jobs, and the residence in the two major cities and other cities have negative effects. An additional analysis of the TSCS-2001 for a similar question produces the similar results as mentioned above, but the negative effects of junior college education and Christianity appear while the effects of clerical and blue-collar jobs lose their significance.