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Low Fertility Effect on Educational Attainment in South Korea

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Both in South Korea and in Japan, total fertility rate has been dramatically decreased. Amid such a rapid change, low birth rate has been discussed and evaluated mainly from the perspective that focuses its effect on society. However, the decrease in the number of the children should affect parents' and children's life chances in various ways. Therefore, it is necessary to examine how low fertility gives impact on the lives of individuals.

In this study, I will analyze the effect of the number of siblings on educational attainment, because the decrease of the siblings could affect the quality and quantity of the social resources that are allocated within the family (e.g. education expenses, parents' involvement in children). I will use years of education as dependent variable. Independent variable is the number of siblings, and controlling variables are gender, social origin, cohort, whether eldest son or not, and so on. I will also examine the effect of gender composition of siblings on educational attainment. The relationship between gender composition and the number of siblings is also tested.

Korean data come from a panel data set conducted by "Frontiers of Gender Studies" Project, Ochanomizu University.