

Women's Worlds 2005  
June 23, 2005  
Panel on "Gender Gap within Household and the Labor Market:  
Comparative Studies of Korea, China and Japan"

The Characteristics of Gender Structures in Japan from Comparative Study

Junko TAKEZAWA  
COE Research Fellow, Ochanomizu University  
e-mail: g0170315@edu.cc.ocha.ac.jp

The characteristics of the Japanese welfare state, in terms of gender perspective, had been a result of the male breadwinner model. This study explains the characteristics of gender structures in Japan, focusing on gender, labor division, money management, housewife status and life satisfaction. The multi-national micro data used is from the ISSP(International Social Survey Program): Changing Family and Gender Roles in 2002, which surveyed adult populations in thirty-five countries. For this study, I chose eight countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France, Spain and Japan.

By using comparative descriptive analysis, Japan was characterized as having a strict gender division of labor, money management predominantly by wife, elevated social status for housewife and greater life satisfaction.

From comparative multi-regression analyses about determinant factors of women's life satisfaction, the characteristic factor for determining women's life satisfaction in Japan was employment status. Only in Japan did Non-working women have greater life satisfaction than full-time or part-time working women.