

Research-data

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An Observation on the difference
of actual formation of marriage
and its official registration
in Japan

by

Ayanori Okazaki D.Eco.

Institute of Population Problems,
Welfare Ministry
Tokyo, Japan.

A Study on Intermissions between Contraction and Registration of Marriage in Japan.

In a study of marriage, the object of the study is in most cases the so-called legal marriage which is contracted through legal procedure. Therefore, when we take up the question of marrying age, it means the age of legal marriage. There may be some people who register their marriage immediately after its contraction, but, according to the marriage custom in our country, it is usually the case that the date of registration is somewhat later than that of marriage contraction.

When a "Survey of Marriage Expenses of Those Who Marry for the First Time in Tokyo" was undertaken by the Institute of Population Problems in 1940, the date of wedding and the date of marriage registration were included in the items covered by the survey. By this investigation, the average interval between the dates of marriage contraction and registration will be made clear, though it may be in the nature of a specimen.

The object of survey was 673 couples, of whom both husbands and wives had married for the first time. The investigation regarding the interval between the date of wedding and that of marriage registration in the case of these couples showed that interval to be 9.86 months on the average. That is to say, they made marriage registration after 9.86 months on the average had elapsed since their wedding ceremony. Supposing that this is a general trend in Tokyo City, the average legal marrying age of women who marry for the first time, in Tokyo City, is younger by 9.86 months than that which appears from the registration, i.e., it is 24.669 years.

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The interval is 9.86 months on the average as a whole, but some people must have registered on the day of their wedding, and others after some period of time. The number of marriages classified by the interval between the date of wedding and that of marriage registration is given in the following table:

Number of Marriages Classified by Interval between Date of Wedding and Date of Registration.

Interval	month	less than 1 month	less than 2 month	less than 3 month
Actual Number	9	69	59	12
Percent- age	1.34	10.25	8.77	1.78

Interval	less than 4 month	less than 5 month	less than 6 month	less than 7 month
Actual Number	60	15	35	49
Percent- age	0.89	2.23	5.20	7.28

Interval	less than 8 month	less than 9 month	less than 10 month	less than 11 month
Actual Number	55	55	61	48
Percent- age	8.17	8.17	9.06	7.13

Interval	less than 12 month	less than 13 month	less than 14 month	less than 15 month
Actual Number	46	24	18	6
Percent- age	6.84	3.57	2.67	0.89

Interval	less than 16 month	less than 17 month	less than 18 month	less than 19 month
Actual Number	3	7	7	8
Percent- age	0.45	1.04	1.04	0.89

Interval	less than 20 month	less than 21 month	less than 22 month	less than 23 month
Actual Number	12	10	7	7
Percent- age	1.78	1.49	1.04	1.04

Interval	less than 24 month	less than 25 month	less than 26 month	less than 27 month
Actual Number	2	3	2	4
Percent- age	0.30	0.45	0.30	0.59

Interval	less than 28 month	less than 29 month	less than 30 month	less than 31 month
Actual Number	1	2	4	1
Percent- age	0.15	0.30	0.59	0.15

Interval	less than 32 month	less than 33 month	less than 34 month	less than 35 month
Actual Number	3	-	6	2
Percent- age	0.45	-	0.89	0.30

Interval	less than 36 month	less than 37 month	less than 38 month	less than 39 month
Actual Number	-	1	2	3
Percent- age	-	0.15	0.30	0.45

Interval	less than 40 month	less than 41 month	less than 42 month	less than 43 month
Actual Number	1	-	1	-
Percent- age	0.15	-	0.15	-

Interval	less than 44 month	less than 45 month	less than 46 month	less than 47 month
Actual Number	1	4	2	1
Percent- age	0.15	0.59	0.30	0.15

Interval	more than 47 month
Actual Number	1
Percent- age	0.15

The above table shows that there are very few people who make registration on the same day as their wedding: only 9 out of 673, or 1.3 % of the whole. The percentage of those who register less than a month after their wedding is the highest, amounting to a fraction more than 10 % of the whole. There are also pretty many people in whose case the interval is between one month and two months: a fraction less than 8.8 % of the whole.

However, in the categories where the interval is from two to five months, the number of marriages shows a noticeable decrease, whole, with an interval of more than five months, the number of marriages again indicates an increase. It cannot yet be readily determined whether the noticeable decrease

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shown by post-wedding-day registrations in the categories of from two to five months is a reflection of actual phenomena, or whether it is attributable to the possible numerical inadequacy of the cases covered by the survey.

Registrations made five to twelve months after the wedding are also pretty many, amounting to between 7 and 9 %. Those made within one year after wedding account for 77 % of the whole.

The number of people who register over one year after their wedding is very small, but there is even an instance where the registration is made 47 months (about four years) after the wedding. The percentage of people who registered between one year and two years after wedding is 17.2 % of the whole; between two years and three years, or fraction less than 4.2 %; and more than three years, a fraction more than 2.5 %.

The average interval between the date of wedding and that of registration, classified by the occupation of husbands, is shown in the following table:

Average

Average Interval between Date of
Wedding and Date of Regis-
tration, Classified by
Occupation of Husbands.

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Month</u>
Liberal professionals	9.10
Medium and small merchants and industri- alists	11.13
Salaried men	6.82
Factory workers	11.07
Transportation workers	9.39
Day laborers	14.07
Other workers	13.30