

## Family Consciousness of Japanese Wives in the 1990s: Changes and Differences by Age

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This paper aims to show the changes and differences by age of the family consciousness of Japanese wives in the 1990s. The family consciousness analyzed here is constituted of three parts: (1) attitude toward family norms and (2) family recognition. They are cross-sectionally analyzed by the age group of wives, which is divided by 10 years old between 20s and 70s. The data used here is derived from *the 1st(1993) and the 2nd(1998) National Survey on Family in Japan* conducted by National Institute of Population and Social Security Research. The main results are as follows.

(1) Attitude toward family norms: Japanese wives' attitude toward the typical family norms considered to have directed the family life of Japan long time is not so changed on the whole in five years between the two surveys. For example, toward the norm that a husband should work outside the house and a wife should engage in housekeeping, half of wives are affirmative in both surveys. However, there is a clear difference by the age group of Wives. In both surveys, wives in 20s to 40s are negative toward the norm and affirmative in 50s to 70 s.

A clear change is verified in the attitude toward the norm on the relation with old parents. The percentage of the wives who are opposed to living together of old parents and son husband and wife is 51.3 in the 2nd survey. It is 10.7 lower than the 1st survey, which is the biggest change of all the family norms. The change among the younger age group is more drastic. In the 1st survey, the majority of wives in 20s to 40s was affirmative to the norm, and turned negative in the 2nd survey.

(2) Family recognition: in both surveys, a list of relatives is set in the questionnaire to be measured for whether each relative can be recognized as a family's member, regardless of living together or apart. It is unable, however, to compare the two surveys for the change of wording. Only the 2nd survey is analyzed here. First, it is verified that wives' family recognition is high in "unmarried child of 20 or more years old", "wife's parents", and "husband's parents", and low in "wife's brother ", "husband's brother ", and "husband's grandparents". Second, wives' family recognition is quite different by the age group. In "unmarried child of 20 or more years old", "married son", "son's wife", and "son's child", the difference by the age group is relatively small, and quite large in "wife's brother ", "husband's brother ", and "husband's grandparents".