

The Situation and Prospect of Elderly Care by Female Family Members in Japan

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The purpose of this study is 1) to describe the recent situation of family care, 2) to identify the factors that affect a family caregiver's decision-making to continue to work, and 3) to develop a qualitative index of the number of elder parents per married couple as potential recipients.

Data from the 4th National Survey on Family in Japan conducted by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research in 2008 were employed. Among 8,189 married women, including divorced and widowed, 1-2% of them had a parent ? their own or husband's ? who need care and living with them, and 2-8% of them had it who live in other household. In their 40s and 50s, many of them were taking care of their parents, especially about 10% of them were primary caregivers.

A logistic regression analysis identified "self-employed" and "caring for their own parent" as statistically significant determinants of female caregiver's decision-making to continue to work. In contrast, increasing age and taking care of their child prompted giving up their job.

Finally, as potential care recipients in the future, the number of elderly parents per married couple was estimated. It was suggested that decrease in the number of siblings and increase in the number of elderly parents would enlarge a burden on married women in a few decades.