Study of the Number of Children in the National Fertility Survey by Data Matching with the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions

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In this study, we matched the data in the National Fertility Survey (NFS) with the corresponding data in the Comprehensive Survey of Living Conditions (CSLC), and analyzed the relationship between the number of already-born, the number of intended and the ideal number of children in the NFS and the health related items in the CSLC (subjective symptoms, names of diseases of outpatients, effects on daily life, troubles and stresses and causes thereof, subjective health, and smoking status).

We found that there are various directions of relationship among them. Some health related items show the same directions for the already born, the intended and the ideal number of children, and others show different directions. People who have the subjective symptoms of irregular menstruation, those who receive outpatient treatments for sterility, pregnancy or puerperium and those who have troubles and stresses with regard to pregnancy or childbirth have high childbearing intentions with almost the same level of ideal children compared with others, although their numbers of children ever born are smaller. On the other hand, people who have troubles and stresses with regard to their diseases, nursing care or jobs and those who smoke everyday have low levels of intended and ideal numbers of children, as well as children ever born. Therefore, the types of policy would need to change in accordance with the level of childbearing intention.

We found that the people with a high level of children ever born have troubles and stresses with regard to child rearing, education or having little time for themselves, and have subjective symptoms of urinary incontinence. Solving problems for them is also considered important for building a society in which it is easier for people to rear their children.