

The Eleventh Japanese National Fertility Survey in 1997

Attitudes toward Marriage and the Family among the Unmarried Japanese Youth

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I. Overview of the Survey

1. The Purpose and History of the Survey

The National Institute of Population and Social Security Research carried out the 11th Basic Survey on Birth Trends (a national survey on marriage and birth trends) in June 1997 (the 9th year of the Heisei era). The survey is intended to determine the actual situations and backgrounds, which cannot be found from other public statistics, of marriage and/or fertility of married couples, and to obtain the data necessary for any related measures and future population projections. The first (prewar) Basic Survey on Birth Trends was carried out in 1940 (the 15th year of the Showa era), followed by the second one (postwar) in 1952 (the 27th year of the Showa era). After that, it has been taken every five years, and was originally called the Survey on Fertility. At the 10th Survey (in 1992) the name was changed to the Basic Survey on Birth Trends, the name used today. Since the 8th Survey (in 1982), a survey on unmarried persons has been taken simultaneously with the survey on married couples. Therefore, this is the fourth survey on unmarried persons. This report covers the survey on unmarried persons that was taken along with the 11th Survey.

2. Survey Procedures and Collecting of Questionnaires

This is a sampling survey of unmarried persons aged 18 to 49 in Japan, as of June 1 of the 9th year of Emperor Heisei (1997). The surveyed regions were 500 districts selected by systematic sampling from among the 1,048 surveyed districts (stratified random sampling from the districts of the National Census in the 7th year of Emperor Heisei (1995)) of the Basic Survey on National Life in the 9th year of Emperor Heisei (carried out by the Statistics and Information Department of the Minister's Secretariat in the Ministry of Health and Welfare). Therefore, all unmarried persons residing in those districts aged 18 to 49 were the subjects of this survey.

This survey was carried out by distributing numbered forms, which were later sealed and collected. Of the 12,553 distributed questionnaires (the number of subjects surveyed), 10,652 questionnaires were collected, for a return rate of 84.9%. However, 1,245 collected questionnaires that were not properly filled-out were considered invalid and excluded from the total. Therefore, the number of valid questionnaires was 9,407, making the valid return rate 74.9%. This report presents the totals and analysis of the results from unmarried males and females aged 18 to 34 from among the valid returns.

Table I-2-1 The number of distributed questionnaires and the number/rate of valid collected questionnaires

	Number of questionnaires (collecting rate)
Number of subjects surveyed	12,553
Number of collected questionnaires	10,652 (collecting rate 84.9%)
Number of valid questionnaires	9,407 (valid collecting rate 74.9%)

Table I-2-2 The number of unmarried persons, classified by age/sex

Age	Number of unmarried persons		(Reference)The numbet of unmarried persons in the 10th Survey*	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
18-19	621 (15.6%)	606 (16.8%)	845 (20.0%)	878 (24.1%)
20-24	1,683 (42.3)	1,754 (48.6)	1,840 (43.7)	1,783 (48.9)
25-29	1,149 (28.9)	908 (25.1)	1,036 (24.6)	739 (20.3)
30-34	529 (13.3)	344 (9.5)	494 (11.7)	247 (6.8)
Total	3,982 (100.0%)	3,612 (100.0%)	4,215 (100.0%)	3,647 (100.0%)

* The number of districts in the National Census was 490.

II. Marriage, a Choice - Investigating the trend among the young to avoid marriage

1. The will to marry

1) The proportion of unmarried persons who intend to marry has fallen short of 90%.

It remains unchanged that most of the unmarried think they will marry someday, but the proportion of those intending to marry has tended to decrease slightly. This survey recorded percentages below 90 for both males and females for the first time. The decline among males is especially remarkable. Males intending to remain single all their lives have increased somewhat, though the proportion has not jumped from the usual 5% line. In fact, the gradual increase of persons whose attitudes were not stated affects the decrease of those intending to marry.

Table II-1-1 Trend in the intention of lifetime marriage for the unmarried

About lifetime marriage	Male				Female			
	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
Will marry someday	95.9 %	91.8	90.0	85.9	94.2 %	92.9	90.2	89.1
Will never someday	2.3	4.5	4.9	6.3	4.1	4.6	5.2	4.9
Not stated	1.8	3.7	5.1	7.8	1.7	2.5	4.6	6.0
Total (Numbet of samples)	100.0 % (2,732)	100.0 (3,299)	100.0 (4,215)	100.0 (3,982)	100.0 % (2,110)	100.0 (2,605)	100.0 (3,647)	100.0 (3,612)

Question "If you consider your whole life, which intention do you have about marriage?"

1. Will marry someday, 2. Will never marry

2) Those concerned about the age of marriage are decreasing, and those willing to wait for an ideal partner are increasing

Among the unmarried persons who have an intention of marrying, those wanting to marry by

a certain age have tended to decrease, while persons who intend to wait until they find their ideal partner are increasing. In the Survey ten years ago, the former exceeded the latter for both males and females, but these proportions were recently reversed. These tendencies show that unmarried persons today are gradually less aware of the concept of "marriageable age," and instead feel strongly about the quality of their marriage, and the importance of their partner.

Table II-1-2 Views on marriage of unmarried persons who intend to marry

Views on marriagee	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
Will marry by a certain age	60.4 %	52.8	48.6	54.1 %	49.2	42.9
Don't care about marrying unless I can find my ideal partner	37.5	45.5	50.1	44.5	49.6	56.1
Not stated	2.1	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.1
Total (Number of samples)	100.0 % (3,027)	100.0 (3,795)	100.0 (3,420)	100.0 % (2,420)	100.0 (3,291)	100.0 (3,218)

Question "If you consider your whole life, which thought do you have about marriage?"

1. Will marry by a certain age, 2. Don't care about marrying unless I can find my ideal partner

Note: Subjects are the unmarried who answered "Will marry someday."

3) Unmarried persons aged 25 and over who "have no intention of marrying yet" are tending to increase.

Among the unmarried persons who intend to marry someday, the number who are passive about marriage ("have no intention of marrying yet") naturally shrinks with increasing age,

Table II-1-3 The proportion of unmarried persons classified by age who "have no intention of marrying yet"

Age	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
18-19	86.5 %	85.7	80.6	73.5 %	76.4	76.8
20-24	71.6	72.1	67.4	52.7	55.7	53.9
25-29	31.5	37.5	42.7	16.6	19.7	26.9
30-34	14.5	12.8	21.5	13.2	14.0	18.4
Total (18-34)	57.3 %	59.3	56.5	49.5 %	50.7	47.7

Question "How about getting married within a year from now?"

1. Want to marry within a year

2. May marry if an ideal partner can be found

3. Have no intention of marrying yet

Note: Subjects are the unmarried who answered "Will marry someday."

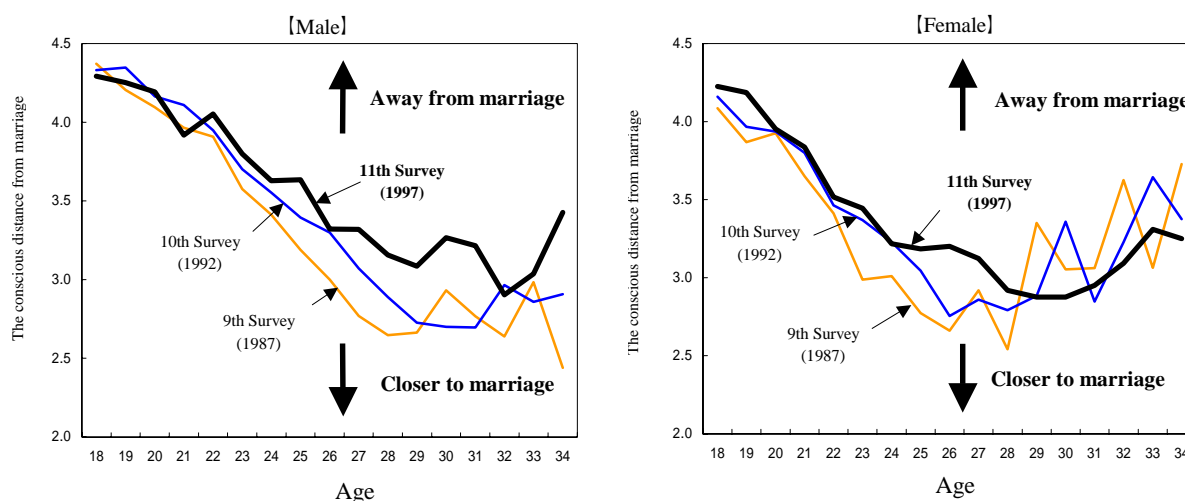
The total number of samples is the same as that of Table II-1-2.

though, in their late twenties, 42.7% of males and 26.9% of females are still passive. If we compare the proportions by age, recently they have become larger for the age group of 25 and up for both males and females. In other words, it seems that the intention to marry quickly is shrinking for this age group. The figure declines or levels off for ages under 25.

4) The conscious distance from marriage for unmarried persons is gradually increasing

When we combined the answers to questions concerning the will to marry, expressed them as numbers to show how consciously far off their marriage is perceived to be, and compared them, it is clear that the "conscious distance" from marriage for unmarried persons tends to be gradually increasing for this decade. This trend is much the same for both males and females and can be found in any age group. The group of females aged 30 and over, however, is closer to marriage than ever. Because of the recent trend towards later marriage, it seems that an increasing number of females wait until this age group to be married, even though they intend to marry.

Figure II-1-1 The change in conscious distance from marriage for unmarried persons, classified by age



Note: See the Glossary for a definition of the conscious distance from marriage.

2. The merits of marriage and of remaining single

1) The unmarried subjects who consider that marriage has no merits are tending to increase for ages 25 and over.

When the unmarried subjects were asked if marriage had any merits, the proportion of those who said yes was 64.6% for males and 69.9% for females (Table II-2-1). The male percentage is 4.5 points lower than a decade ago, which is a greater drop than that for the females, who had a 0.9 point decrease. Especially in the group aged 25 and over, numbers of both males and females who think marriage has no merits are increasing (Table II-2-2, Figure II-2-1). This pattern of age matches up with the decline in the will to marry (See Figure II-1-1). On the other hand, in this survey, those who felt that the single life has merits totaled 82.7% for males and 88.5% for

females, which are much higher percentages than for those who felt that marriage has merits. The results show that the subjects feel strongly that the single life is much more attractive than marriage.

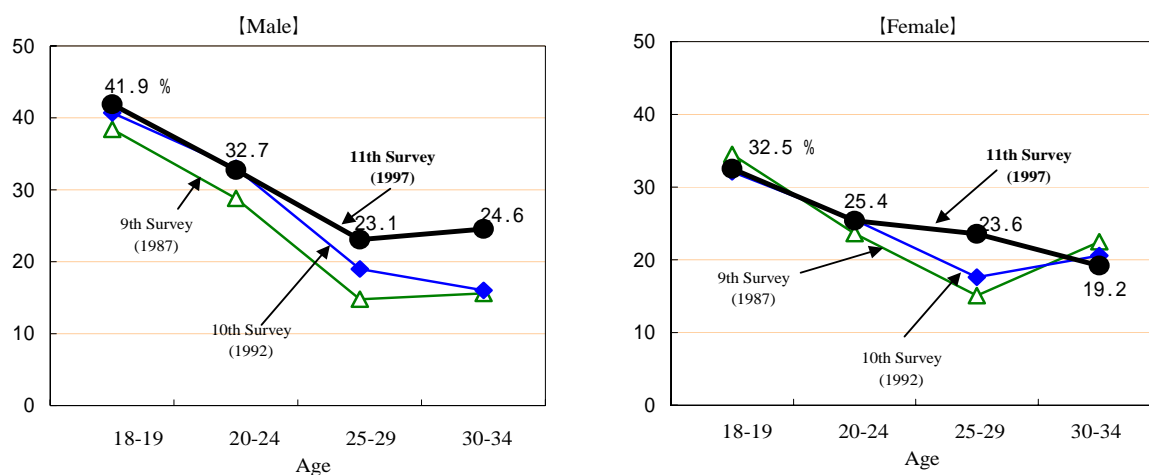
Table II-2-1 Views on the merits of marriage and of the single life for unmarried persons

		Male			Female		
		9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
At present do you think marriage has:	Any merits	69.1 %	66.7	64.6	70.8 %	71.4	69.9
	No merits	25.4	29.1	30.3	24.7	25.2	25.5
	Not stated	5.5	4.2	5.1	4.5	3.4	4.6
Total		100.0 %	100.0	100.0	100.0 %	100.0	100.0
At present do you think the single life has:	Any merits	83.0 %	83.6	82.7	89.7 %	89.0	88.5
	No merits	10.7	11.2	11.6	5.4	7.4	7.2
	Not stated	6.3	5.2	5.7	4.9	3.6	4.3
Total		100.0 %	100.0	100.0	100.0 %	100.0	100.0
(Number of samples)		(3,299)	(4,215)	(3,982)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)

Table II-2-2 Unmarried subjects classified by age who think marriage has no merits at the present time

Age	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
18-19	38.4 %	40.7	41.9	34.5 %	32.1	32.5
20-24	28.8	33.0	32.7	23.6	25.5	25.4
25-29	14.8	19.0	23.1	15.1	17.6	23.6
30-34	15.6	16.0	24.6	22.5	20.6	19.2
Total (18-34)	25.4 %	29.1	30.3	24.7 %	25.2	25.5

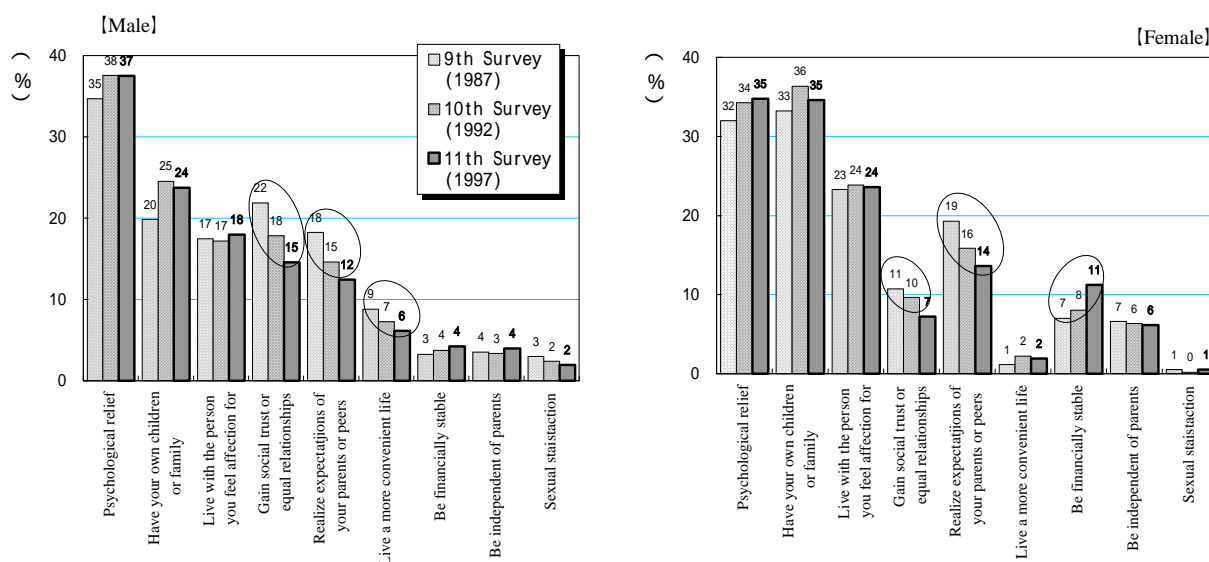
Figure II-2-1 Unmarried subjects by age who think marriage has no merits at the present time



2) The merits of marriage are mainly psychological, while "social trust," "realize expectations of parents" or "convenient life" are still decreasing.

When we ask the subjects to choose items concerning the concrete merits of marriage, the most often chosen was "psychological relief" by both male and female, followed by "have your own children or family" and "live with the person you feel affection for," so the psychological items are ranked in the top third. On the other hand, such social merits as "gain social trust or equal relationships," which was ranked second by males, or "realize expectations of your parents or peers," have dropped for both male and female in every survey. The male's "live a more convenient life" has also fallen. These days what unmarried persons are longing for in marriage are personal aspects, such as relief and affection, while those wanting the external benefits of marriage, such as social aspects, gaining social trust, or meeting the expectation of one's parents, have been rapidly decreasing. In this survey, however, the female's "financial stability" merit of marriage has increased slightly.

Figure II-2-2 The merits of marriage



Note: Shows what proportion of the unmarried subjects think each item (up to 2 items) are the main merits of marriage. This graph shows percentages.

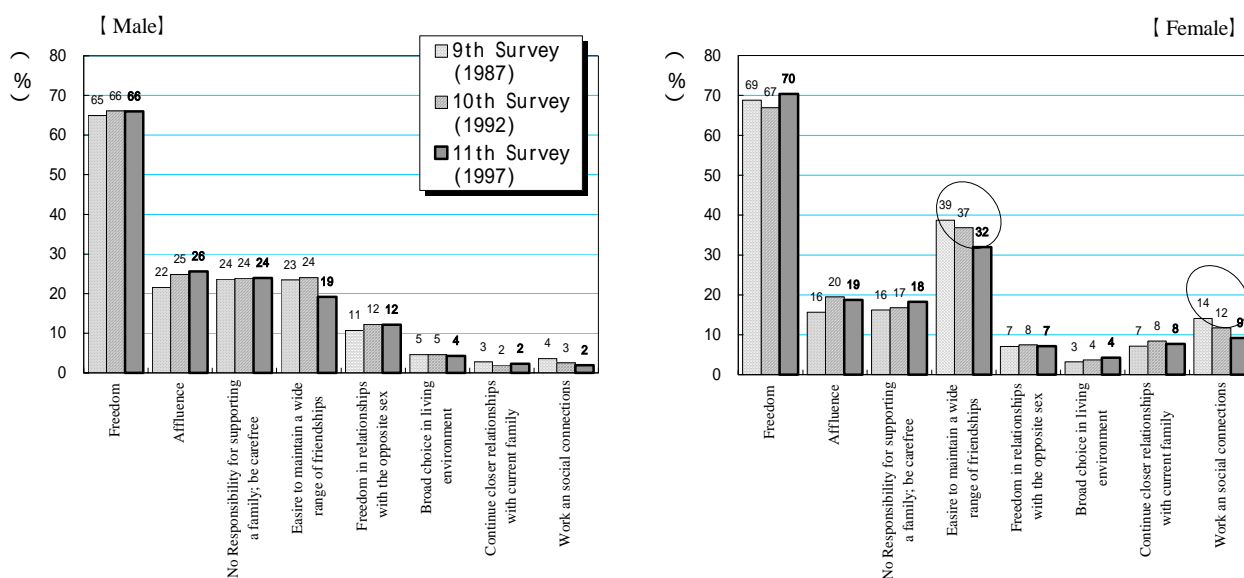
3) The most attractive part of the single life is "freedom."

When we ask the unmarried subjects to choose the merits of their current single life, those who chose "freedom" overwhelmed all others for both males and females. Among the others, "affluence," "no responsibility for supporting family; be carefree" or "easier to maintain a wide range of friendships" were often selected. This indicates that the unmarried subjects feel that marriage would restrict their actions, lives and friendships, and add the mental burden of supporting a family.

Although the mind-set on the merits of being single has had less chronological change,

females who chose as merits "wide range of friendships" and "work and social connections" have been gradually declining.

Figure II-2-3 The merits of the single life



Note: Shows what percentage of the unmarried subjects think each item (up to 2 items) are the main merits of the single life. This graph shows percentages.

3. Relationships with the opposite sex

1) Unmarried subjects who date are slightly decreasing.

According to the results of the questions on relationships with the opposite sex, those who answered "have a dating partner (as a fiance/fiancee, boyfriend/girlfriend, or friend)" decreased slightly (male 45.5% to 41.5%, female 55.0% to 51.3%). On the other hand, those who answered "have no dating partner" were 49.8% for the males, just about half, and 41.9% for the females. Both males and females gained 3 percentage points (Table II-3-1, Figure II-3-1). In the breakdown of dating partners, "have a fiance/fiancee" and "have a boyfriend/girlfriend" hasn't changed for five years, though dating as friends has remarkably declined. These changes, classified by age (Table II-3-2), show that the younger the age group, the larger the increase in those who "have no dating partner."

Table II-3-1 Relationships with the opposite sex, for the unmarried subjects

relationships with the opposite sex	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
Have a fiance/fiancee	2.9 %	3.2	2.9	4.6 %	3.9	3.8
Have a dating partner as a boyfriend/girlfriend	19.4	23.1	23.3	26.2	31.6	31.6
Have a dating partner as a friend	23.6	19.2	15.3	25.4	19.5	15.9
Have no dating partner	48.6	47.3	49.8	39.5	38.9	41.9
Not stated	5.5	7.2	8.7	4.3	6.3	6.8
Total	100.0 %	100.0	100.0	100.0 %	100.0	100.0
	(3,299)	(4,215)	(3,982)	(2,605)	(3,647)	(3,612)

Figure II-3-1 Relationships with the opposite sex, for the unmarried subjects

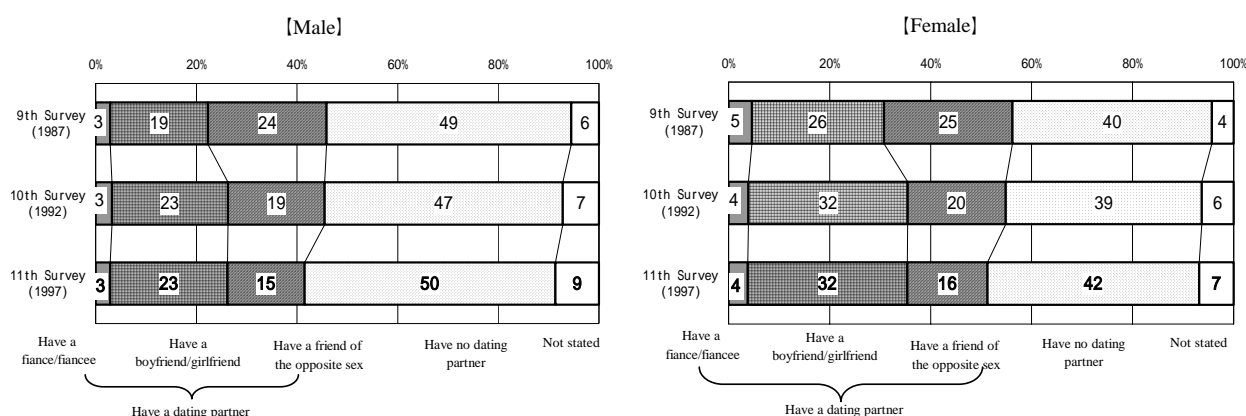


Table II-3-2 The proportion by age of the unmarried subjects who have no dating partner

Age	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
18-19	55.9 %	55.6	60.5	47.1 %	47.6	55.3
20-24	42.1	43.8	46.9	35.3	33.1	37.0
25-29	48.9	43.2	47.2	38.7	37.3	39.1
30-34	60.6	54.9	52.2	45.6	53.8	50.9
Total	48.6 %	47.3	49.8	39.5 %	38.9	41.9

Note: The total number of samples is the same as in Table II-3-1.

2) Mid-sixties percentiles want to marry their boyfriend/girlfriend.

We asked the unmarried subjects who have relationships with the opposite sex if they want to marry their partner. Among those who have been dating their boyfriend/girlfriend, 66.7% of males and 63.2% of females want to marry their partner. On the other hand, among those have been dating their friends, about 15% of both males and females want to marry their partner.

Table II-3-3 The proportion who want to marry their dating partners

	Concerning the person you have been dating as your boyfriend/girlfriend				Concerning the person you have been dating as your friend			
	Total	Want to marry	Have no particular idea	Not stated	Total	Want to marry	Have no particular idea	Not stated
Male								
10th Survey(1992)	100 % (973)	65.3 %	33.4	1.3	100 % (809)	12.2 %	85.3	2.5
11th Survey(1997)	100 (926)	66.7	31.3	1.9	100 (610)	14.3	82.0	3.8
Female								
10th Survey(1992)	100 % (1,151)	65.9 %	33.0	1.1	100 % (710)	11.3 %	85.5	3.2
11th Survey(1997)	100 (1,142)	63.2	35.3	1.5	100 (574)	15.3	81.4	3.3

Note: Show the proportion of those who want to marry their dating partner, among those who have dating partners. The subjects are those who indicated that they have a dating partner (excluding , "have a fiancée/fiancée").

3) The chance to have a relationship in everyday life: in the workplace, at school or through friends.

The perceived chance to have a relationship has hardly changed since 1982 (the 8th Survey) and "at the workplace or through my job," "at school" and "through friends" account for slightly short of 70 percent.

Table II-3-4 Chances to meet a dating partner, classified by survey

[Male]

	Total	At The workplace or through my job	At school	Through friends or siblings	While downtown or during a trip	Through clubs or accomplishments	Through a part-time job	A Childhood friend or neighbor	Through an arranged introduction or a matrimonial agency	Other/not stated
8th Survey(1982)	100 % (1,604)	22.0 %	30.9	18.2	13.2	13.2	*	5.9	2.3	3.8
9th Survey(1987)	100 (1,514)	29.7	21.9	16.1	8.9	9.9	*	2.5	1.5	9.5
10th Survey(1992)	100 (1,918)	26.6	22.9	16.9	5.8	9.0	7.9	2.2	1.5	7.1
11th Survey(1997)	100 (1,651)	23.0	22.1	21.4	7.7	9.2	5.8	2.8	1.2	6.8

[Female]

	Total	At The workplace or through my job	At school	Through friends or siblings	While downtown or during a trip	Through clubs or accomplishments	Through a part-time job	A Childhood friend or neighbor	Through an arranged introduction or a matrimonial agency	Other/not stated
8th Survey(1982)	100 % (1,386)	32.5 %	29.1	16.8	9.3	12.7	*	5.7	2.7	4.2
9th Survey(1987)	100 (1,465)	30.7	21.3	19.8	6.9	9.1	*	2.2	2.3	7.7
10th Survey(1992)	100 (2,002)	29.6	19.6	18.9	5.0	8.4	8.4	2.4	1.5	6.1
11th Survey(1997)	100 (1,854)	28.6	21.0	20.2	6.5	7.8	7.3	1.9	1.3	5.3

Note: In the 8th and the 9th Surveys, "through a part-time job" was excluded from the choices. Additionally, since the 8th Survey permitted answers for multiple partners, the total might not be 100%. The subjects of each survey are those who answered that they have a dating partner.

[Reference table: Survey of married couples]

	Total	At The workplace or through my job	At school	Through friends or siblings	While downtown or during a trip	Through clubs or accomplishments	Through a part-time job	A Childhood friend or neighbor	Through an arranged introduction or a matrimonial agency	Other/not stated
11th Survey(1997)	100 % (1,296)	33.6 %	10.4	27.1	5.2	4.9	4.6	1.5	9.6	3.0

Note: Subjects are married couples who were married within the five years preceding the survey.

4) The proportion of unmarried subjects who have experienced cohabitation is less than 5%.

In order to understand the relationships with the opposite sex of the unmarried over a wide range, experiences of cohabitation and sexual behavior were also surveyed. Those who answered that they have experienced cohabitation, either currently or formerly, were 4.8% for males and 4.6% for females, both less than 5%. Compared with the results of the previous two surveys, the figures have tended to slightly increase. The proportion by age of those who experienced cohabitation shows that the ages of 25-29 for males (7.1%) and 30-34 for females (7.6%) have the highest percentages. In modern Western countries, where cohabitation is generalized among the youth, it is said that this practice affects the marriage trends greatly. This explanation doesn't seem to fit Japanese society.

Table II-3-5 The percenteges of unmarried subjects who experienced cohabition

Age	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
18-19	1.2 %	0.9	0.6	1.9 %	1.3	2.6
20-24	3.5	4.2	4.5	2.7	3.1	4.4
25-29	3.3	6.7	7.1	4.1	4.5	5.3
30-34	5.0	7.1	6.0	4.4	6.1	7.6
Total	3.2 % (3,299)	4.5 (4,215)	4.8 (3,982)	2.8 % (2,605)	3.1 (3,647)	4.6 (3,612)

Question: "Have you ever cohabited (lived with a partner without having your marriage legally registered)?"

1.No, 2.Yes, formerly, but not now, 3. Yes, I am now

Note: The figures in this table show the total percentages of those who chose 2. or 3.

5) The rate of experiencing sexual intercourse while unmarried is still increasing

Sixty percent (60.1%) of males and fifty percent (50.5%) of females answered that they have experienced sexual intercourse. Compared with the results of the previous two surveys, the proportion of those who have experienced sexual intercourse has been continually increasing. The figure for females has especially soared by 20.3 percentage points, as compared with ten years ago (7.1% increase for males). Age-specific proportions show that males aged 25 and over tend to reach a limit of about 70%, while percentages for females in all age groups are rising.

Table II-3-6 The percentege of unmarried subjects who have experienced sexual intercourse

Age	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
18-19	24.3 %	25.1	31.9	17.4 %	20.7	28.2
20-24	52.7	54.8	60.0	31.9	42.0	52.0
25-29	66.6	71.3	70.6	40.0	46.7	58.3
30-34	68.3	72.3	71.3	38.8	49.8	61.3
Total	53.0 % (3,299)	54.9 (4,215)	60.1 (3,982)	30.2 % (2,605)	38.3 (3,647)	50.5 (3,612)

Question: "Have you ever had sexual intercourse with the opposite sex?"

1.Yes, 2.No

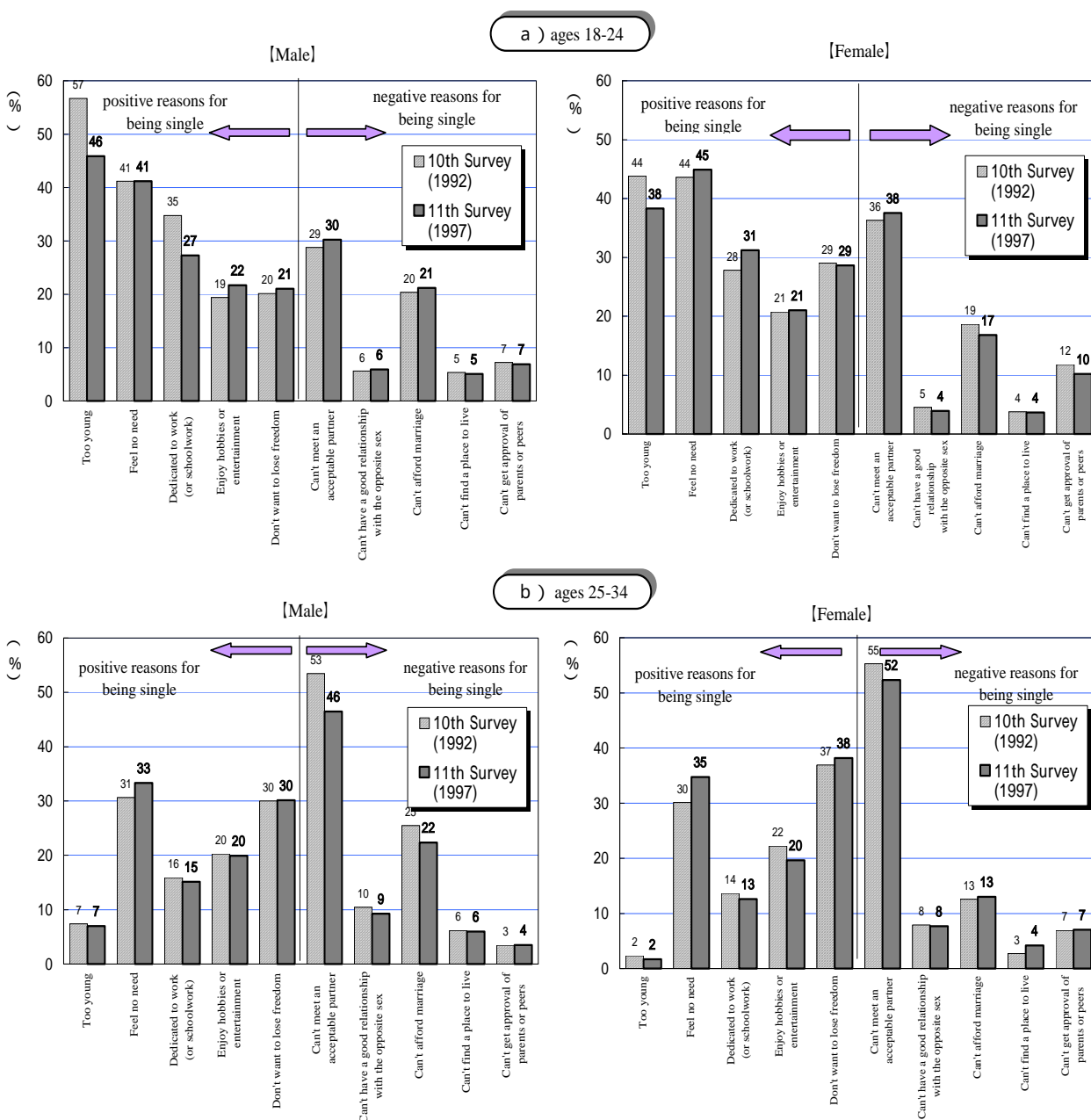
4. Why do they not marry?

A lack of positive reasons for marrying, or little chance of meeting an acceptable partner, put restrictions on marriage.

When the current reasons for remaining single were asked, a lack of necessity for marriage, such as "too young" or "feel no need," and a combination of factors such as "work (schoolwork)," "hobbies and entertainment" in addition to "don't want to lose freedom" were often selected by the younger age groups. These items generally indicate a lack of positive reasons to marry.

However, about half of the group aged 25 and over picked "can't meet an acceptable partner." Even in this age group, there were many who selected "feel no need" and "don't want to lose freedom," with the latter more often selected than in the younger age group. Compared with the previous survey, "too young" has fallen among the younger age group for both males and females, while "feel no need" has risen and "can't meet an acceptable partner" has fallen for ages 25 and over. These facts suggest that the reasons for remaining single in this age group have shifted slightly from negative reasons (can't marry) to positive reasons (don't want to marry).

Table II-4-1 Reasons for remaining single, classified by age group



Note: Shows what proportion of the unmarried subjects think each item (up to 3 items) are the main reasons for remaining single. This graph shows percentages.

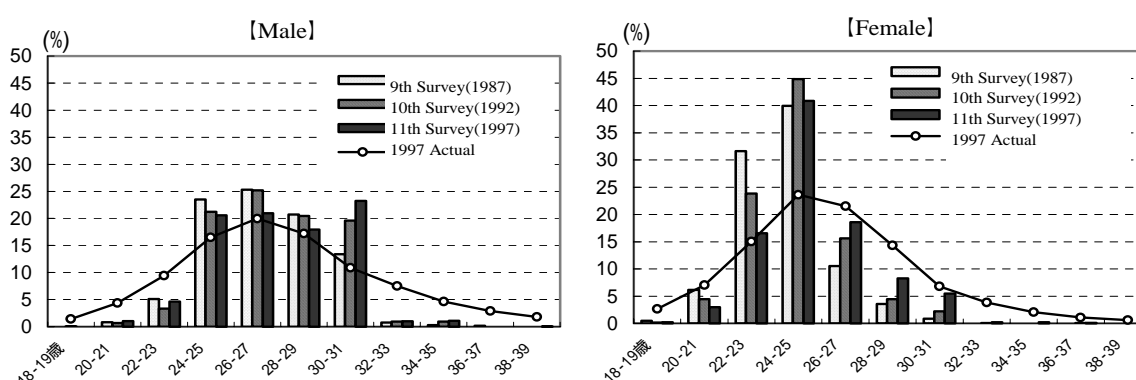
III. Desirable Marriage - What kind of marriages are people looking for?

1. Desired age of marriage

1) Age 30 is increasing as the desirable age of marriage for males, while the age of 25 interests most females

When the unmarried subjects younger than the peak age period of marriage (18-25 male, 18-24 female) are asked at what age they want to marry, the proportion of those desiring age 30 (male) or 25 (female) is higher than those desiring other ages (Figure III-1-1). Compared with the results of the previous two surveys, those wanting to marry at a younger age has declined, and those wanting to marry at an older age has increased, for both males and females. This has revealed that the desire has shifted to "later marriages." Since mental walls seems to exist near the ages of 30 for males and 25 for females, the numbers of those wanting to marry later than these ages have dropped sharply. Compared with the actual ages of marriage (1997), this is clearer.

Figure III-1-1 The distribution of desired age of marriage



Note: Concerning the desired age of marriage, the subjects are unmarried persons, younger than the peak period of marriage (18-25 for males, 18-24 for females). The actual values for 1997 (line graph) are based on Vital Statistics from the Statistics and Information Department of the Ministry of Health and Welfare (Average age of first marriage is 28.5 for males and 26.6 for females).

2) Growing trend toward desired later marriage

When the average desired ages of marriage, classified by current age, are compared with the past two surveys, the desired age of marriage has been rising for all age groups, except 18-19 for males. This shows that the desire is for later marriages.

Table III-1-1 The distribution age of marriage by age group, classified by survey

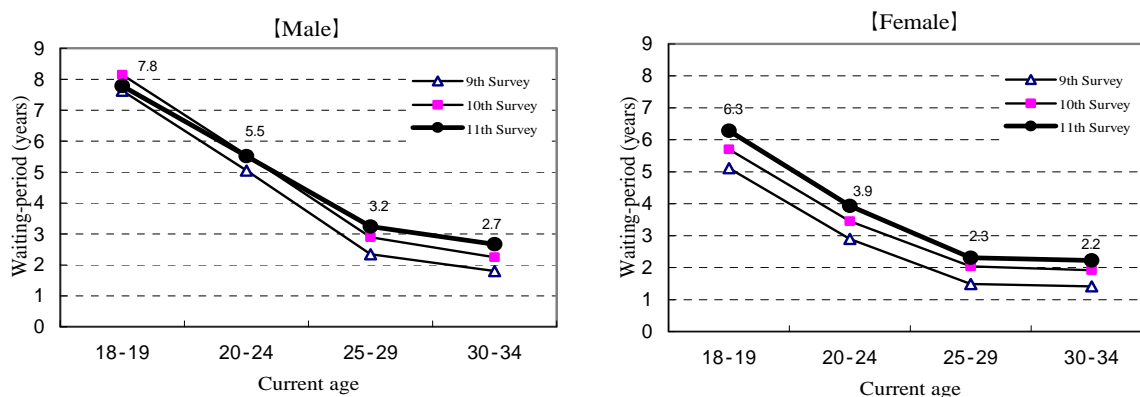
Age	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
18-19	26.2	26.7	26.3	23.6	24.2	24.8
20-24	26.9	27.3	27.5	24.7	25.2	25.8
25-29	29.0	29.6	29.9	27.8	28.5	28.7
30-34	33.5	33.7	34.2	32.6	33.3	33.5
Total	27.9	28.4	28.8	25.1	26.0	26.9

Note: The subjects are those who responded "will marry someday."

3) The waiting-period till the desired age of marriage has tended to rise for both males and females

The waiting-period till marriage, which is found by subtracting the current age from the desired age of marriage, gets shorter as the unmarried subject becomes older, but the 25-29 and over groups for both males and females show little change. Compared with the results of past surveys, the waiting-period till marriage becomes longer with every survey, except for the younger age groups for males. Here it is also observed that the conscious desire to avoid marriage gradually decreases.

Figure III-1-2 The waiting-period till the desired age of marriage

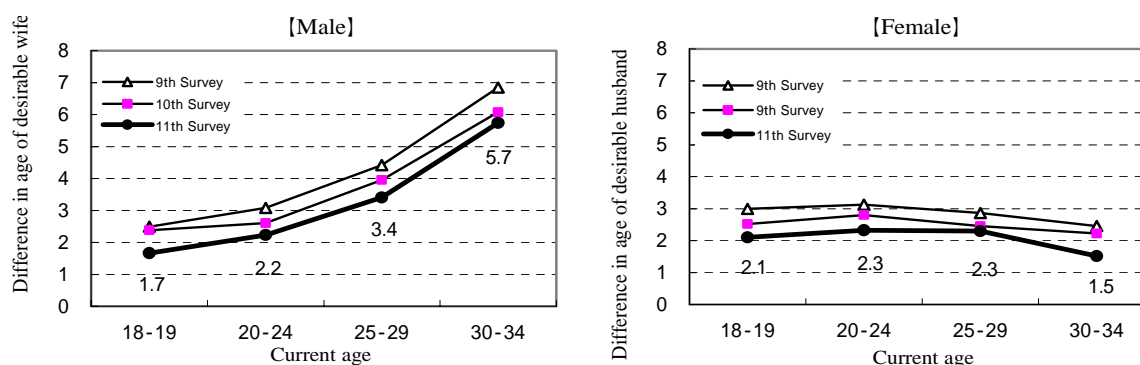


Note: The waiting-period till the desired age of marriage is found by subtracting the current age from the desired age of marriage. The reference numbers just above the lines in these graphs are the values from the 11th Survey.

4) Males wish for females of marriageable age and Females wish for their senior by two or three years.

The difference in age between the unmarried and their desirable marriage partners is getting bigger for males as they become older, because they want to marry females in a certain age group.

Figure III-1-3 Difference in age from the desirable marriage partner



Note: The difference in age of the desirable marriage partner is the difference between the age at which a subject wants to marry and the age of his/her desirable spouse. The reference values in these Figures are from the 11th Survey. The differences in age of married couples resulting from the surveys on married couples are 2.9 years in the 9th Survey (1987), 2.6 years in the 10th Survey (1992) and 2.3 years in the 11th Survey (1997) (based on married couples who got married during the five years previous to each survey).

On the other hand, the figures for age-specific females show little difference, and they wish for

their senior by two or three years, on average. Compared with the past surveys, the desirable difference in age has been shrinking for both males and females in every survey. It can be expected that both groups will tend, more and more, to want to marry partners whose ages are closer to their own. This agrees with the surveys of married couples, which show that the actual difference in ages of married couples has been shrinking.

2. Desirable forms of marriage

"Love marriage" -oriented youths have been increasing.

When we asked the unmarried if they want to "marry for love" or "marry by arrangement," those who answered "love marriage" accounted for 66.8% for males and 73.4% for females. Compared with the results of the previous two surveys, more and more males and females intend to marry for love. Each of surveys also shows that more females intend to marry for love than males in all age groups. On an age basis, the younger the married persons are, the more intention they have of marrying for love, and this tendency weakens rapidly as they become older. Recently, however, those intending to marry for love have been remarkably increasing in the older age groups. The actual proportion of love marriages shown in the survey on married couples is higher than the proportion of unmarried subjects desiring a love marriage. Considering the presence or absence of the opposite sex to date, it is natural that the proportion of those desiring a love marriage is higher if they have intimate dating partners (Figure III-2-1).

Table III-2-1 Unmarried persons who desire a love marriage, classified by age

Age	Male			Female		
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
18-19	68.0 %	77.8	75.3	72.0 %	80.4	83.8
20-24	62.7	72.0	73.0	67.4	74.2	77.7
25-29	45.0	57.1	62.6	46.6	60.5	66.8
30-34	28.3	36.3	44.9	34.7	39.1	49.8
Total	55.1 %	65.3	66.8	63.3 %	70.7	73.4

Question: "What kind of marriage do you want?"

1.Want to marry for love, 2.Want an arranged marriage, 3.Either will do

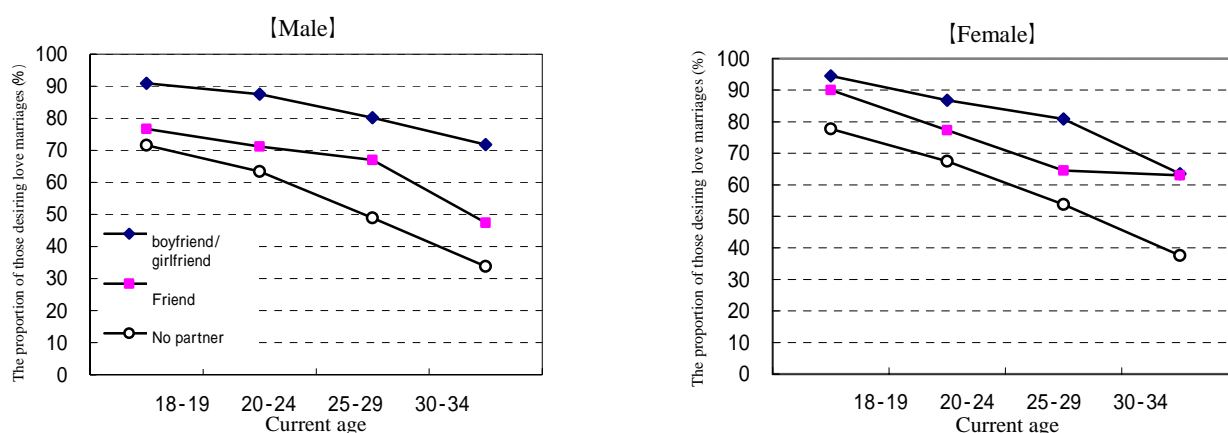
Note: The subjects are those who responded "Will marry someday." In the 11th Survey, the proportions of those who answered "Want an arranged marriage" and "Either will do" are 0.6% and 31% for males and 0.5% and 25.1% for females.

[Table for reference: Survey of married couples]

	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
Proportion wanting a love marriage	74.1%	82.8	87.3

Note: The married couples surveyed are those who got married during the five years preceding each survey.

Figure III-2-1 The proportion of those desiring love marriages on the basis of the presence or absence of the opposite sex to date



3. The attributes of the desired marriage partner

"Character" was ranked first by both males and females. The item ranked second was "economic stability" for females and "looks" for males.

Among the seven items listed in Table III-3-1 as being "regarded seriously" or "considered" when choosing a marriage partner, the highest ranked item was "character" by both males and females, followed by "looks" for males and "economic stability" for females. Those who answered that they regard seriously or consider the "school background" of their partner made up the smallest proportion of both males and females. If we compare males with females, females place more emphasis on all other items except "looks." There were no dramatic changes for

Table III-3-1 Attributes of the desired marriage partner: the proportion of unmarried persons considering or regarding each item seriously

Attributes of a marriage partner	[Male]						[Female]							
	11th Survey (1997)						10th Survey							
	Total	(Subtotal) Regarded seriously + considered	Regarded seriously	Considered	Less important	Not stated	(Subtotal) Regarded seriously + considered	Total	(Subtotal) Regarded seriously + considered	Regarded seriously	Considered	Less important	Not stated	(Subtotal) Regarded seriously + considered
School background	100%	23.5%	2.2	21.3	74.3	2.2	29.8%	100%	49.7%	7.7	42.0	49.2	1.1	54.6%
Occupation	100	35.8	3.0	32.8	61.8	2.4	39.5	100	77.9	21.8	56.1	20.9	1.3	78.0
Economic stability	100	30.8	2.8	28.0	66.8	2.5	26.7	100	90.9	33.5	57.4	8.0	1.1	88.7
Character	100	95.2	82.9	12.3	2.6	2.2	94.1	100	97.8	92.2	5.6	1.0	1.1	97.3
Looks	100	73.9	19.6	54.3	23.3	2.7	79.6	100	67.3	12.8	54.5	31.4	1.3	67.7
Common hobby	100	70.5	22.0	48.5	27.3	2.3	-	100	78.9	30.4	48.5	19.9	1.2	-
Living with parents	100	58.9	15.5	43.4	38.8	2.3	-	100	78.9	34.0	44.9	19.8	1.4	-

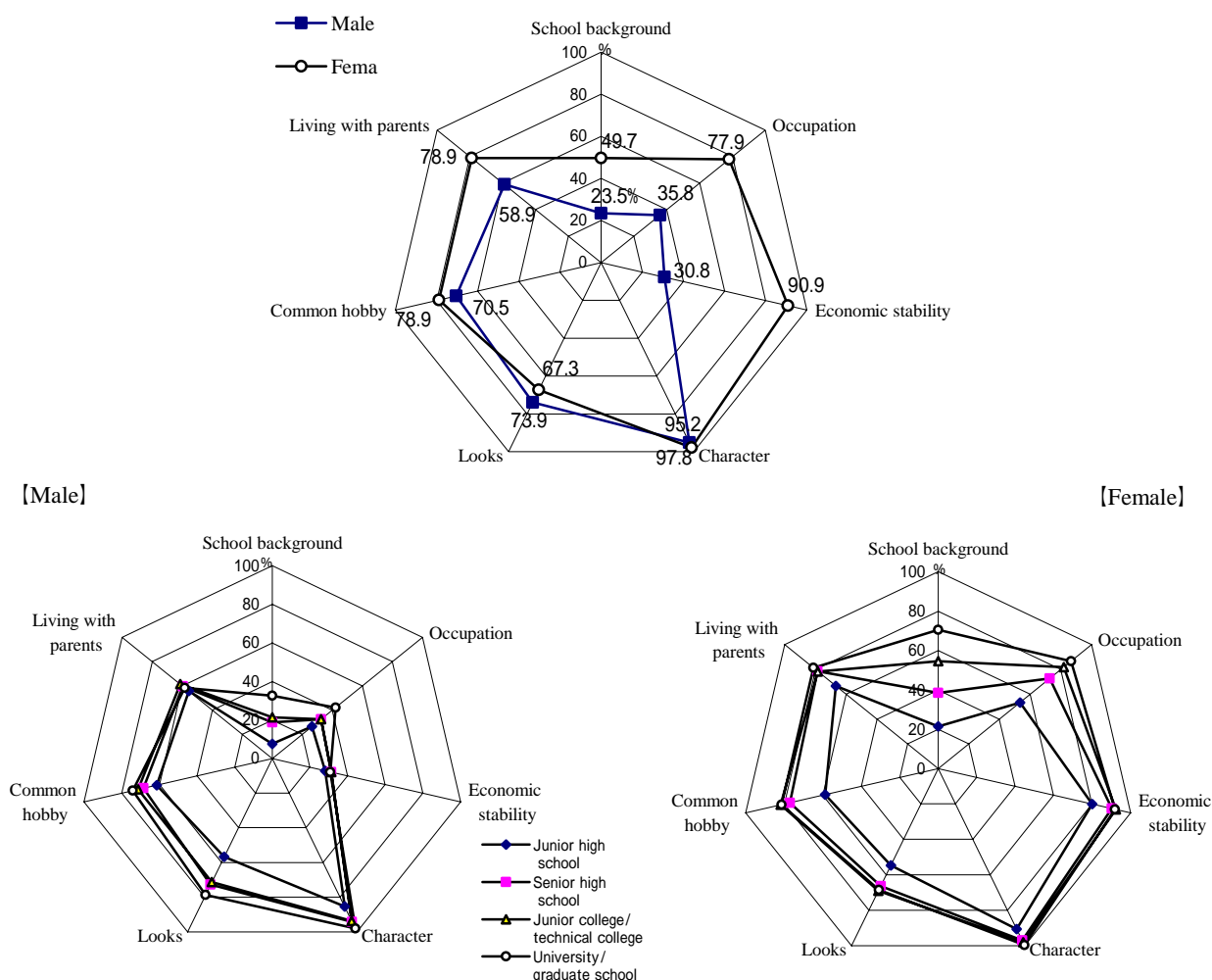
Question: "When deciding on a marriage partner, to what degree do you put emphasis on the following?."

1.Regard seriously, 2.Consider, 3.Less important

"Living with parents" means living with the male's parents.

Note: The subjects were unmarried, between the age of 18-34, who responded "Will marry someday." The total number of subjects was 3,420 males and 3,218 females.

Figure III-3-1 Attributes of the marriage partner: the proportion considering or regarding each item seriously



school background, occupation, economic stability, character and looks, when compared with the results from the previous survey, except that the proportion regarding seriously or considering the school background has declined for both males and females. Looking at just "school background," the proportion regarding seriously or considering this item increases for both males and females as they receive higher education (Figure III-3-1).

4. Desirable life course

1) From the wish to be a housewife to the compatibility of working and housekeeping - dramatic changes in ideal life courses for unmarried women.

The life course which unmarried females think ideal is one in which they marry and have children, and was selected by more than 80 percent, whereas those who chose "Unmarried worker" or "DINKS" (marry but have no children) as the ideal life course were in the minority, with less than 10 percent. As for combining work with child rearing after marriage, the proportion choosing "Return to work" after raising children, the top ranked choice, was 34.4%, followed by

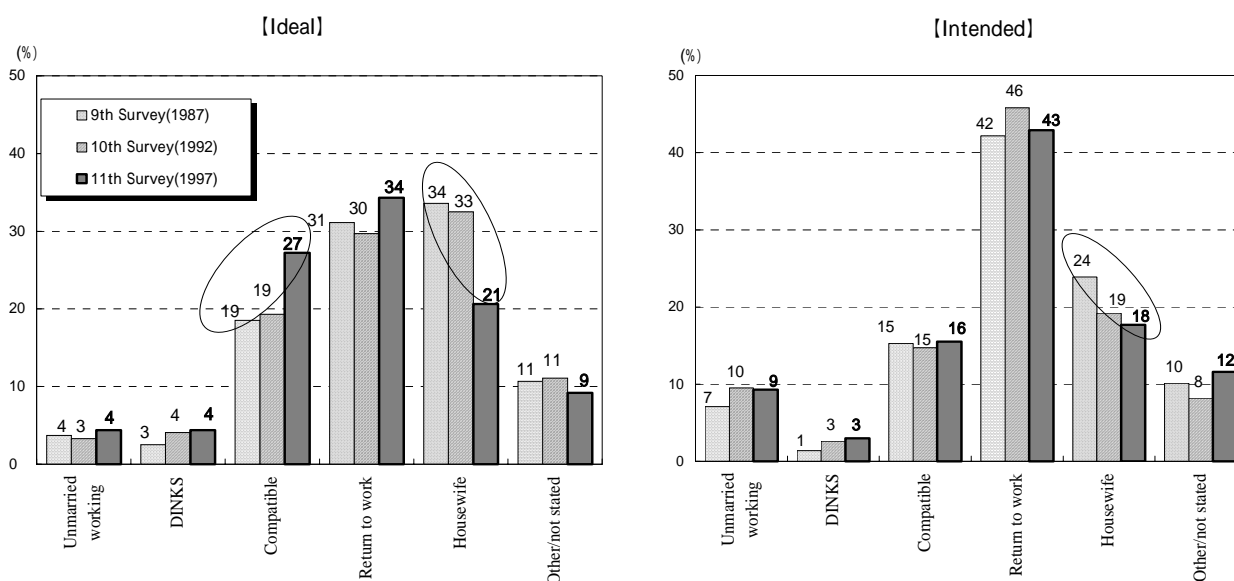
"Compatible" (working and child rearing) (27.7%), and "Housewife" (who stops working completely) (20.6%). Compared with the past surveys, those regarding "Housewife" as ideal have declined sharply this time, while the "Compatible" course has extensively increased and "Return to work" has risen a little. Obviously, more and more unmarried females intend to work after marriage. When the possible intended life course was surveyed, however, the "Compatible" course was much less popular than the ideal course, and instead there are more who desire an "Unmarried working" course or a "Return to work" course. This result shows that though the unmarried women regard the compatibility of working and housekeeping/child rearing as ideal, in reality they feel that they will have to select one or the other. Looking at the actual life courses of married women who finished their child bearing/child rearing (from the survey of married couples), there are many more who followed the "Housewife" course than those who followed any of the ideal or intended courses desired by the unmarried.

Table III-4-1 Ideal or intended life courses of unmarried women

	Ideal life course			Intended life course			(Reference) married women's
	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	Survey (1997)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)	11th Survey (1997)
Unmarried working	3.7 %	3.3	4.4	7.1 %	9.5	9.3	-
DINKS	2.5	4.1	4.4	1.4	2.6	3.0	2.3
Compatible	18.5	19.3	27.2	15.3	14.7	15.5	21.9
Return to work	31.1	29.7	34.3	42.2	45.8	42.9	38.8
Housewife	33.6	32.5	20.6	23.9	19.2	17.7	27.7
Other/not stated	10.7	11.1	9.2	10.1	8.2	11.6	9.2
Total (number of samples)	100.0 % (2,605)	100.0 (3,647)	100.0 (3,612)	100.0 % (2,605)	100.0 (3,647)	100.0 (3,612)	100.0 (7,354)

Note: The life courses of married women results are from the 11th Survey on Birth Trends (survey of married couples) and the wives whose duration of marriage was 15-19 years. See the glossary for more information on each life course.

Figure III-4-1 Ideal and intended life courses of unmarried women, classified by survey



2) "Compatible" and "Housewife" ideals are not expected to be achieved.

When we surveyed views on "to what degree your ideal life course could actually be realized," the highest agreement rate was for the "Return to work" course, with a rate of only 45.9%, less than half. Among those who regard the "Compatible" or "Housewife" course as ideal, the proportions who felt their choice could be realized were only 27.1% and 20.2%, respectively. In both, half of them think they will actually end up taking the "Return to work" course. It seems that the "Return to work" course is considered feasible, which can be seen as a compromise between those laying emphasis on working and those putting it on housekeeping/child rearing.

Table III-4-2 Differences between ideal and predicted life courses for females

Ideal life	Total	Predicted life course					
		Unmarried	DINKS	Compatible	Return to work	Housewife	Others/not stated
Unmarried working	100 %	36.1 %	15.2	12.0	19.0	12.7	5.1
DINKS	100	22.6	15.1	17.0	25.8	12.6	6.9
Compatible	100	8.7	2.6	27.1	46.1	10.7	4.8
Return to work	100	8.2	2.1	12.2	45.9	26.9	4.8
Housewife	100	5.5	0.4	11.2	58.7	20.2	4.0

Note: The highlighted figures are those for which the ideal life course agrees with the predicted life course. The bold, underlined figures show the predicted life course which has the highest proportion among each ideal life course.

3) Unmarried men expecting a traditional "housewife" have sharply decreased.

Among the life course which unmarried males expect of females, "Return to work" is ranked first, followed by "Housewife" and "Compatible." There are few who desire "Unmarried working," or "DINKS" where the couple has no children. Compared with the past surveys, the number desiring a "Housewife" has decreased dramatically, and the proportions wanting "Compatible" and "Return to work" have increased over the past ten years. But it is clear there is a wide gap between these expectations of males and the ideal life courses desired by females. In particular, about 30 percent of females consider "Compatible" their ideal, compared to only 17.0% for males. Contrary to this, 34.4% of females regard "Return to work" as their ideal, compared to 43.4% of males, about a 9-point differential. On the other hand, compared with female intentions and male expectations, those proportions are almost in accord, except for "Unmarried working" (Figure III-4-3). This shows that the images the unmarried males and females have are close together, regarding realistic expectations of life course for females.

Table III-4-3 Survey-specific life courses which males expect of females

Year of survey	Total	Unmarried working	DINKS	Compatible	Return to work	Housewife	Other/not stated
9th Survey(1987)	100 % (3,299)	0.8 %	0.7	10.5	38.3	37.9	11.9
10th Survey(1992)	100 (4,215)	0.6	0.9	10.8	44.2	30.4	13.0
11th Survey(1997)	100 (3,982)	1.0	1.5	17.0	43.4	20.7	16.4

Table III-4-2 The life courses expected by women
【Male】

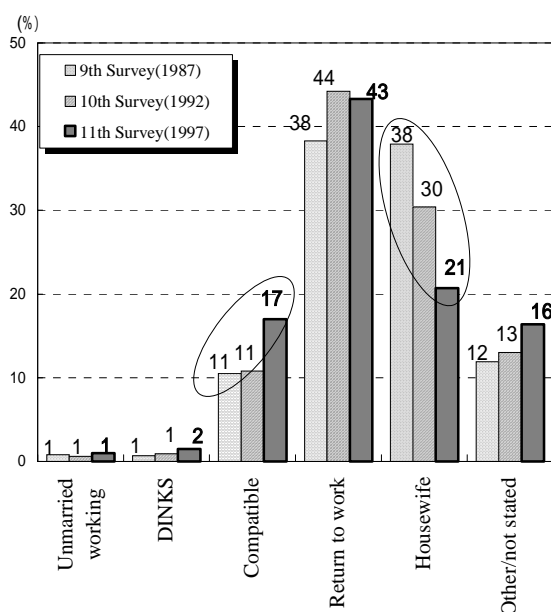
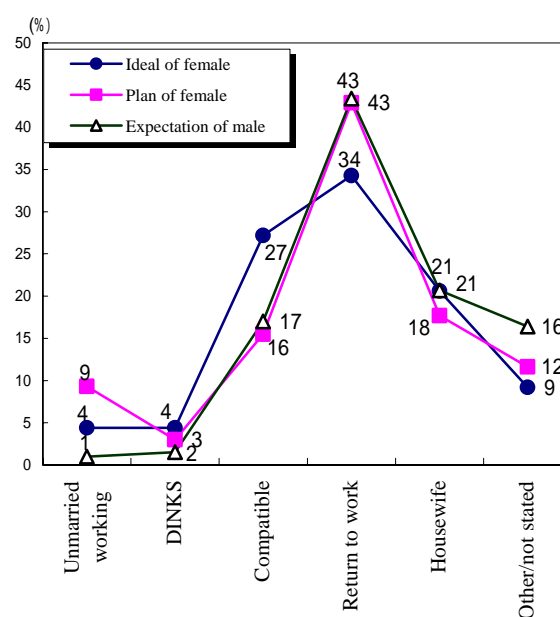


Table III-4-3 A comparison of ideal, intended and expected life courses
【Male and Female】



5. Desired number of children

1) The average desired number of children has fallen for both males and females

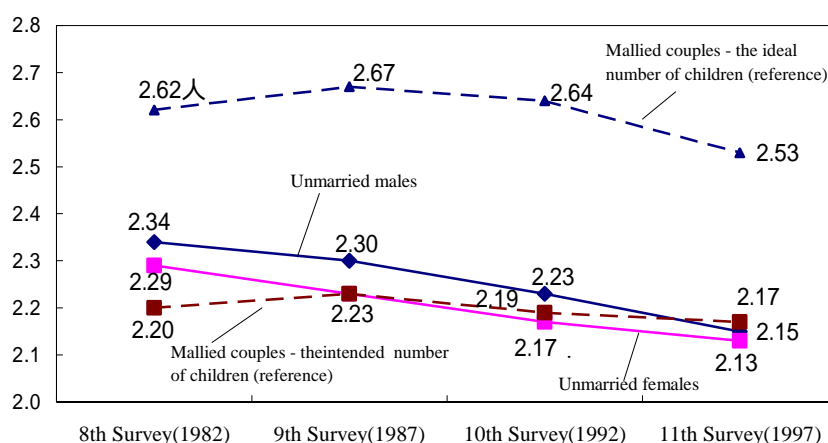
A distribution of the desired number of children for unmarried females shows that those wanting 2 children are ranked first at 57.0%, followed by 3 children at 24.0%. The average desired number of children is 2.13, which has been gradually dropping from 2.29 since the 8th Survey (1982). Compared with the ideal number of children/intended number of children from the survey of married couples, the desired number of children of the unmarried is on the same level with the intended number of children of the married (Figure III-5-1). The recent decrease of the desired number of children among the unmarried is in accord with the trend of the ideal/intended number of children of married persons.

Table III-5-1 Distribution of desired number of children and average desired number of children for females by age

Age	Total	Desired number of children							Average desired number of children			
		Want no childre	1	2	3	4	More than 5	Not stated	11th Survey (1997)	10th Survey (1992)	9th Survey (1987)	8th Survey (1987)
18-19	100 % (531)	3.4 %	4.3	56.5	28.2	2.4	0.8	4.3	2.25	2.20	2.29	2.35
20-24	100 (1,591)	4.6	7.0	57.4	24.5	1.8	1.1	3.6	2.16	2.22	2.26	2.34
25-29	100 (791)	5.4	7.0	57.0	24.7	1.5	0.8	3.7	2.13	2.10	2.18	2.18
30-34	100 (305)	9.8	16.7	55.4	11.8	0.7	0.3	5.2	1.76	1.90	1.83	1.90
Total	100 % (3,218)	5.1 %	7.5	57.0	24.0	1.7	0.9	3.9	2.13	2.17	2.23	2.29
(Males)												
Total	100 % (3,420)	3.2 %	5.4	62.1	20.7	1.2	1.1	6.3	2.15	2.23	2.30	2.34

Note: Those who intend to marry.

Figure III-5-1 The desired, ideal, or intended number of children on average, classified by survey



Note: Married couples - the ideal number of children/planned number of children are based on the 11th Survey on Birth Trends.

2) Older unmarried subjects want to have a baby as soon as possible after marriage

As for the desired childbirth periods for unmarried females, many younger ones think "Sometime later after marriage," though the proportion who "Want a child as soon as possible after marriage" is increasing as they grow older. In particular, that proportion exceeds 50 percent for ages 30 and over. Compared to the 10th survey made five years ago, those who plan to have children "Sometime later after marriage" haven't increased much.

Table III-5-2 Distribution of desired childbirth periods, by age, for females

Age	Total	Desired childbirth period				Reference: 10th Survey (1992)
		Want a child as soon as possible after marriage	Want a child sometime later after marriage	Have no idea	Not stated	Want a child sometime later after marriage
18-19	100 % (490)	27.6%	44.7	27.1	0.6	46.4%
20-24	100 (1,461)	24.0	49.9	25.4	0.8	46.7
25-29	100 (716)	38.9	39.2	21.1	0.7	41.9
30-34	100 (259)	51.0	22.4	24.7	1.9	22.3
Total	100 % (2,929)	30.6%	44.0	24.6	0.8	42.7%

Note: Those intending to marry and have children.

3) Female children preferred

The proportion (classified by the desired number of children) who want more girls has been increasing, especially in the case of 1 or 3 children plans (Table III-5-3). The proportion of boys to girls also suggest that both males and females increasingly tend to want girls (Figure III-5-2). Especially among unmarried females, girls exceeded boys for the first time in this survey. Married couples also tend to want girls (from the survey of married couples).

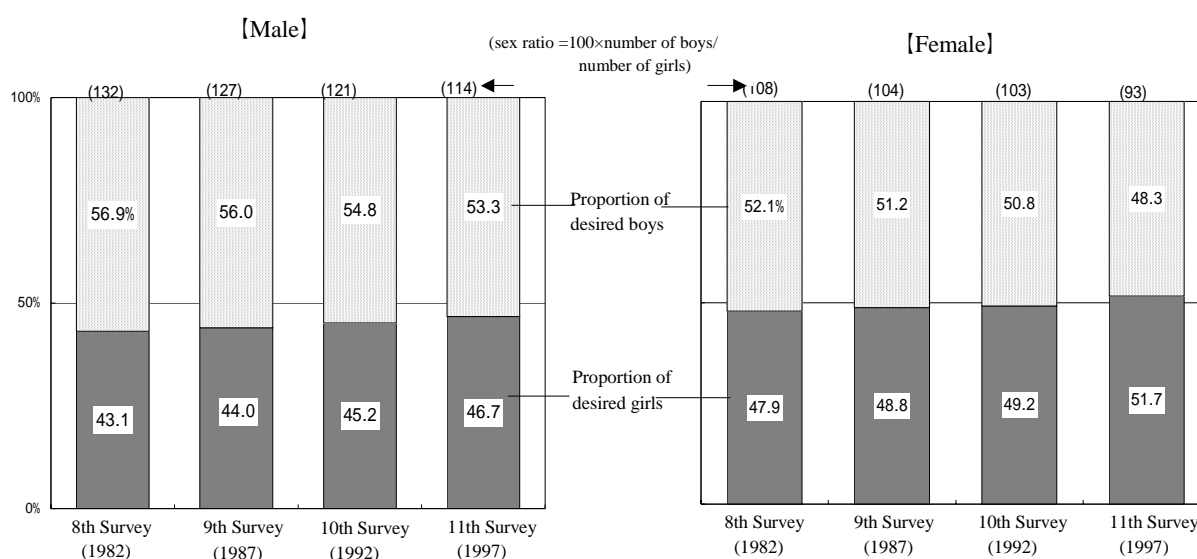
Table III-5-3 Desired children sex ratio, classified by desired number of children, and by sex

[Male]					
The desired number of children	Desired ratio of boy/girls	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
1 child	1 boy/no girls	80.0%	69.8	58.2	51.2
	no boys/1 girl	20.0	30.2	41.8	48.8
2 children	2 boys/no girls	7.9%	5.7	6.7	4.9
	1 boy/1 girl	91.0	92.9	91.2	92.1
	no boys/2 girls	1.1	1.4	2.0	3.0
	3 boys/no girls	2.4%	2.9	3.1	4.1
3 children	2 boys/1 girl	80.2	77.9	72.3	69.9
	1 boy/2 girls	16.8	18.6	23.2	24.9
	no boys/3 girls	0.6	0.6	1.3	1.1

[Female]					
The desired number of children	Desired ratio of boy/girls	8th Survey (1982)	9th Survey (1987)	10th Survey (1992)	11th Survey (1997)
1 child	1 boy/no girls	59.6%	51.8	40.5	36.4
	no boys/1 girl	40.4	48.2	59.5	63.6
2 children	2 boys/no girls	1.3%	2.9	3.9	1.9
	1 boy/1 girl	94.0	91.4	90.6	89.8
	no boys/2 girls	4.7	5.7	5.6	8.3
	3 boys/no girls	0.9%	0.7	0.7	1.7
3 children	2 boys/1 girl	67.0	62.0	62.2	50.5
	1 boy/2 girls	32.0	36.5	35.3	46.8
	no boys/3 girls	0.1	0.8	1.8	1.0

Note: The same as Table III-5-2. The proportion desiring five or more children was omitted.

Figure III-5-2 Sex ratios, based on the desired combinations of children



Note: Shows the proportion of boys/girls for desired combinations of children, for the unmarried who wish to have children after marriage. The figures in brackets in the above graph are the sex ratio for each survey (the number of boys in contrast to 100 girls). The sex ratios for the ideal combinations of boys and girls from the survey of married couples is: 8th Survey(105), 9th Survey(99), 10th Survey(91), 11th Survey(85).

IV. The life-style and desires of unmarried persons - Current youth profile -

1. The life-style of the unmarried

1) Males put emphasis on work and hobbies, while females are interested in travel, belongings, and friendships

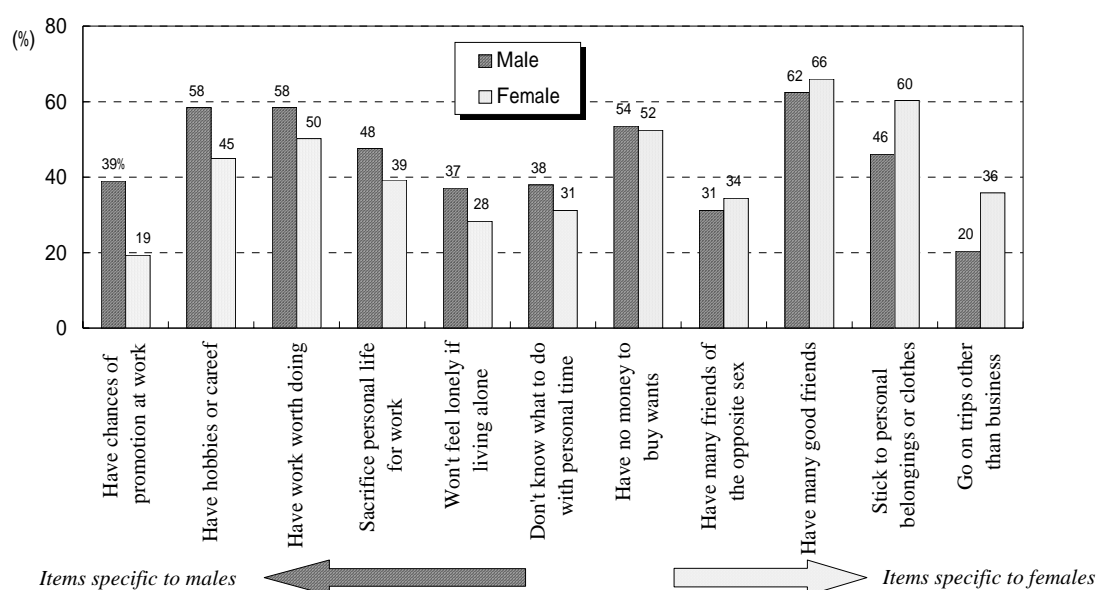
In order to investigate the life-style of the unmarried, this survey asked them to mark items a - k shown in Table IV-1-1 as Appropriate or Inappropriate, when considering their life-style. Males exceed females with regard to work and hobbies ("j. Have good chances of promotion at

Table IV-1-1 The life-style of unmarried males/females

Life-style	Male			Female		
	Appropriated	Inappropriate	Not stated	Appropriated	Inappropriate	Not stated
a Often go on domestic or overseas tours (other than business trips)	20.4%	73.9	5.7	35.8%	60.0	4.2
b Tend to stick to personal belongings or clothes	46.0	48.9	5.2	60.3	35.6	4.2
c Have less money to buy wants or to use for likes	53.5	40.9	5.5	52.4	43.3	4.4
d Have many good friends	62.4	32.4	5.2	66.0	29.9	4.1
e Tend to have many freinds of the opposite sex	31.2	63.2	5.7	34.4	61.2	4.4
f Have hobbies or worthwhile career	58.4	35.9	5.8	44.9	50.5	4.6
g Don't know what to do with holidays or free time	38.0	56.7	5.3	31.2	64.5	4.3
h Won't feel lonely if I continue to live alone	37.1	56.8	6.1	28.3	67.0	4.8
i Have work worth doing	58.4	32.3	9.3	50.2	41.7	8.1
j Have good chances of promotion at current job or success in business	39.0	50.2	10.8	19.3	71.7	9.0
k Often sacrifice personal life for work	47.6	42.5	9.9	39.2	52.5	8.3

Note: The subjects for items a-h were the unmarried between the ages of 18-34, 3982 males and 3,612 females. Questions I, j, k were only for those who were working, 2,885 males and 2,600 females. "Appropriate" in this table is the proportion of the total of "Appropriate" and If anything, appropriate." "Inappropriate" is similar.

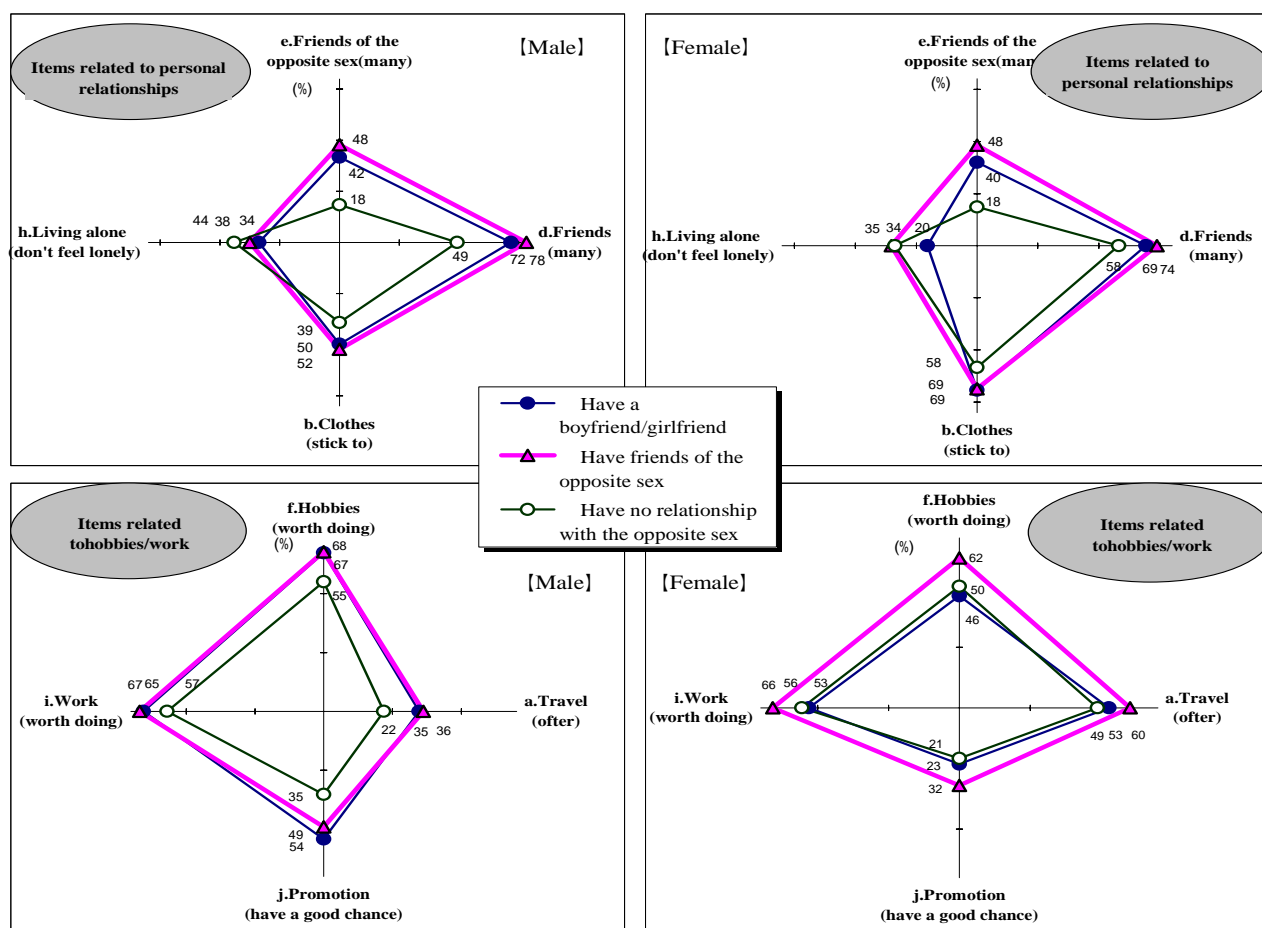
Figure IV-1-1 Sex-specific life-style (the proportion of those who answered "Appropriate")



current job or success in business," male 39% and female 19%, "f. Have worthwhile hobbies or career," male 58% and female 45%), whereas females put emphasis on travel or personal belongings ("a. Often go on domestic or overseas tours (other than business trips)," male 20% and female 36%, "b. Tend to stick to personal belongings or clothes," male 46% and female 60%). As to friendship (d, e), females had a slightly higher percentage. As regards other items, there were more males who selected "g. Don't know what to do with holidays or free time," while more females feel lonely when "h. Continuing to live alone."

2) Male's relationships with the opposite sex are compatible with work/hobbies, while females who have "Friends of the opposite sex" are more active than those who have a boyfriend

Figure IV-1-2 Life-style (the proportion of those who answered "Appropriate"), classified by the situation of their relationships



Note: The subjects are unmarried, between the ages of 25-34, 1,678 males and 1,252 females (for items i and j, 1,546 males and 1,111 females). The details of their relationships are: "Have a boyfriend/girlfriend" (have a dating partner as a boyfriend/girlfriend or fiancé/fiancée) 26.3% for males and 35.0% for females, "Have friends of the opposite sex" (have a dating partner as a friend) 15.9% for males and 15.3% for females, "Have no relationship with the opposite sex" (have no dating partner) 48.7% for males and 42.3% for females.

Items related to personal relationships
 e. Tend to have many friends of the opposite sex
 d. Have many good friends
 b. Tend to stick to personal belongings or clothes
 h. Won't feel lonely if I continue to live alone

Items related to hobbies/work
 f. Have worthwhile hobbies or career
 a. Often go on domestic or overseas tours (other than business trips)
 j. Have good chances of promotion at current job or success in business
 i. Have work worth doing

How is life-style related to relationships with the opposite sex? We studied the life-style specific to 1 those having a boyfriend/girlfriend or fiance/fiancee, 2 those having a dating partner as a friend, 3 those having no relationship with the opposite sex, among the unmarried between the ages of 25-34. The values in Figure IV-1-2 show the proportions of those who answered "Appropriate" for each question. As to the items related to personal relations (b,d,e,h), those having a dating partner, particularly those having a friend of the opposite sex, seem to be more positive about friendships (d,e) or clothes/ belongings (b). Among females who have a boyfriend, there are a few more who would feel lonely living alone (h). Among the items related to hobbies/work, there was a big difference between male and female. For males, those having a dating partner, regardless of whether she is considered a girlfriend or a friend, are more positive about hobbies or work, whereas females who have a dating partner as a friend have a more positive life-style than those having a boyfriend.

2. Views related to marriage and family

1) Negative feelings toward the traditional views of marriage are increasing, while the gap is still wide between men and women

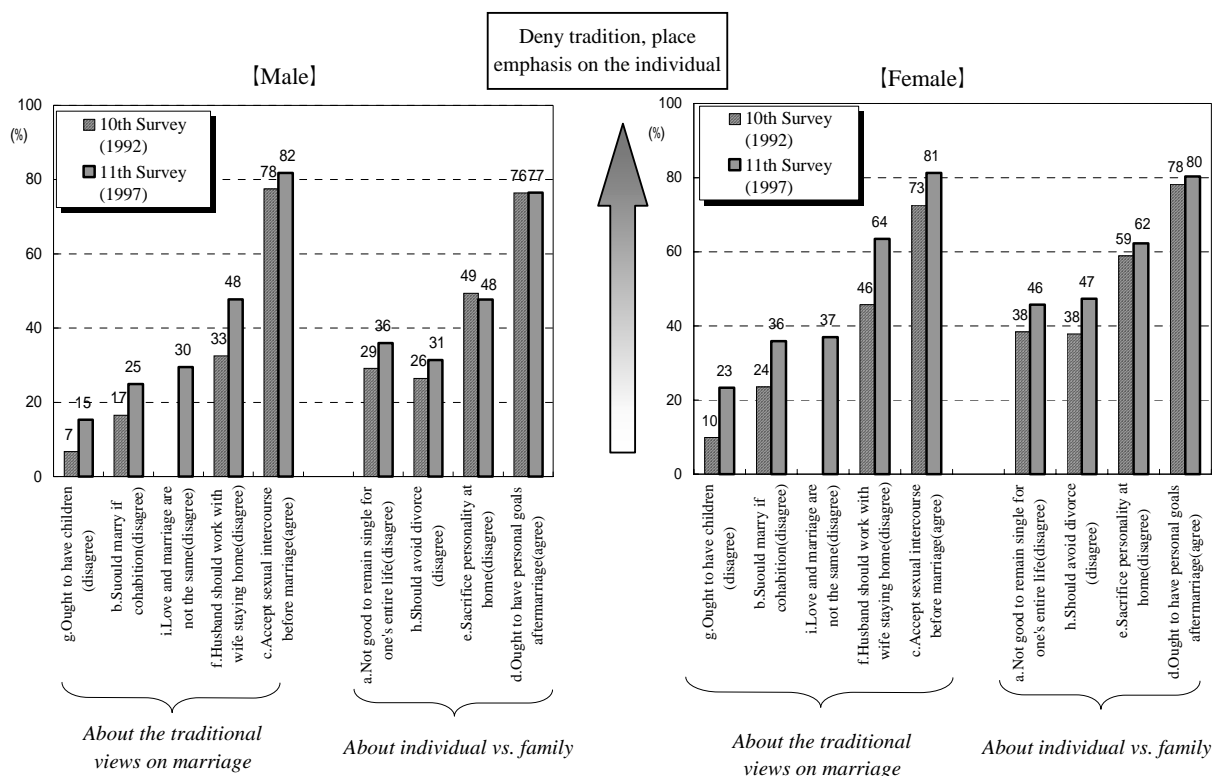
When we asked unmarried males and females if they agree or disagree with each of the views on relationships with the opposite sex, marriage, family, etc. (items a - i) shown in Table IV-2-1, more than 70% of the unmarried (males 78%, females 72%) agreed with "g. One ought to have children if one gets married," and more than 60% (males 69%, females 59%) agree with "b. Men and Women should marry if they live together," which means they support the usual

Table IV-1-2 Views on marriage and family, of the unmarried

Views on marriage and family	Male			Female		
	Agree	Disagree	Not stated	Agree	Disagree	Not stated
a. It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life	57.7%	36.0	6.2	49.1%	45.7	5.2
b. Men and Women should marry if they live together	69.0	24.9	6.0	59.3	35.9	4.8
c. Unmarried men and women may have sexula intercourse if they love each other	81.8	11.7	6.6	81.3	13.2	5.5
d. One ought to have personal goals other than just getting married and raising a family, even if one gets married	76.5	16.7	6.8	80.3	14.2	5.5
e. It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or life-style for the family	45.9	47.7	6.4	32.6	62.3	5.1
f. Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage	45.8	47.8	6.4	31.5	63.5	5.0
g. One ought to have children if one gets married	77.9	15.3	6.8	71.5	23.3	5.2
h. No one should get divorced for a small reason such as incompatible temperaments	62.0	31.4	6.7	47.3	47.3	5.3
i. Love and marriage are not the same	63.9	29.5	6.6	57.9	37.0	5.2

Note: The subjects are the unmarried, age 18-34, 3,982 males and 3,612 females. "Agree" in this table is the proportion of the total answers of "Agree totally" and "If anything, agree." "Disagree" is similar.

Figure IV-2-1 The proportion of respondents who deny tradition and place emphasis on the individual (compared with the previous survey)



Note: Each item shows the proportion of those who agree or the proportion of those who disagree. The higher proportion (%) shows that traditional views on marriage tend to be denied more strongly. "i. Love and marriage are not the same" is only for the 11th Survey.

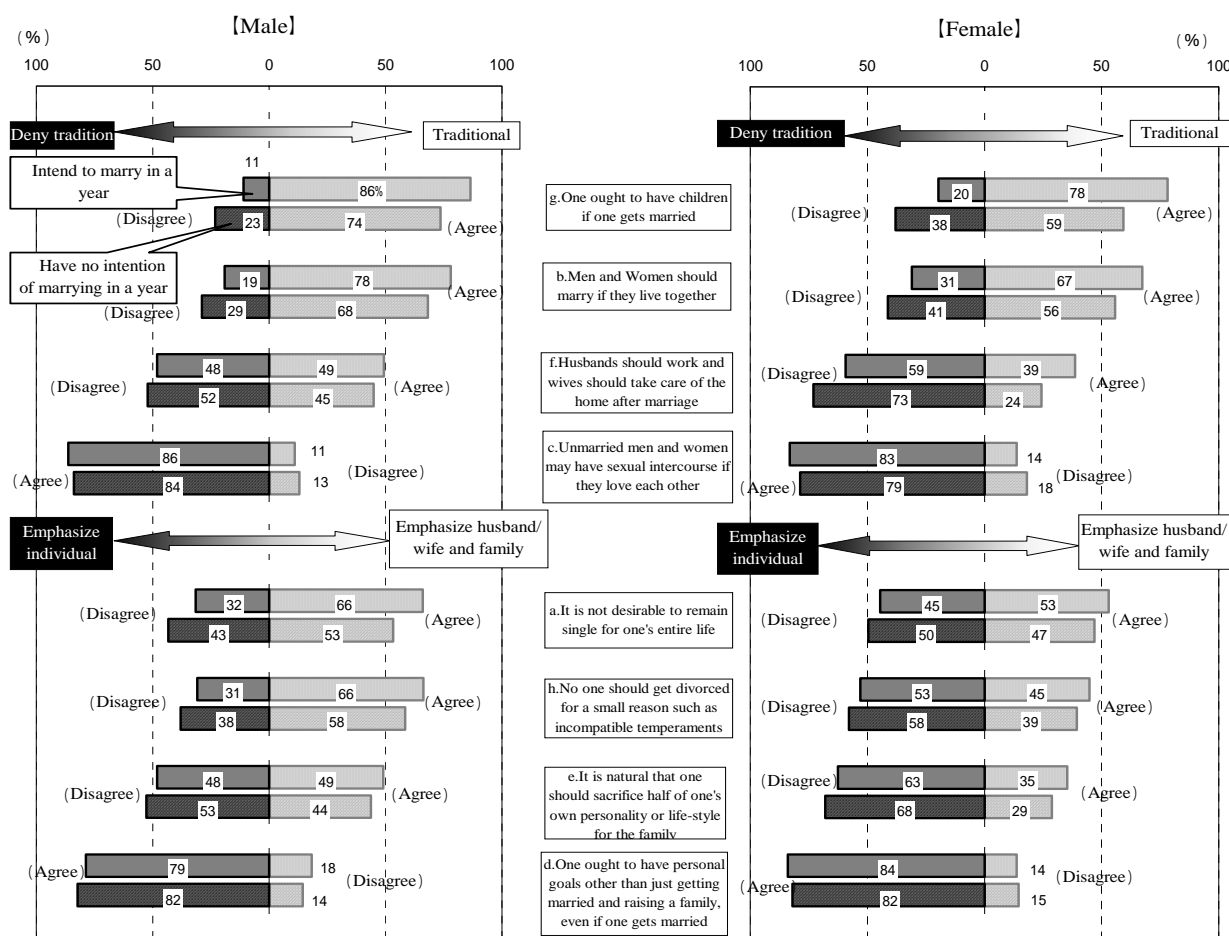
family structure. However, 49% of females think "a. It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life," under 50% for this survey, which shows a growing tendency to accept lifelong celibacy if need be. Compared with the previous survey taken five years ago, negative opinions against "b. Men and Women should marry if they live together" (avoidance of cohabitation) and "f. Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage" have increased (disagree with b: 8% increase for males, 12% increase for females, disagree with f: 15% increase for males, 18% increase for females). Also in general, those showing a negative attitude toward traditional views on marriage have increased, which suggests that the tendency towards accepting views that put more emphasis on individuals than on the role of husband and wife or family has been accelerated (Figure VI-2-1). The same tendency was also observed for wives, according to the survey of married couples. In addition, this tendency is remarkable among unmarried females, and the gap between men and women has widened as a result.

2) Those having more negative views on marriage tend to deny the traditional views on family, and put emphasis on the individual

How do views on marriage/family relate to the will to marry? We surveyed the differences in family views between those who intend to marry in a year, and those who have no intention of

marrying (including "will never marry"), among the unmarried subjects aged 25-34 (Figure IV-2-2). Except for "c. Accept sexual intercourse before marriage," those having no intention of marrying tend to deny the traditional views on family as well as emphasize the individual over the husband and wife or family. In particular, there are clear differences among females, in which those who think "g. Ought to have children if married" were 78% of those intending to marry, 59% of "no intention," and those who think "f. Husband should work with wife staying home" were 39% of those intending to marry, 24% of "no intention." Both males and females who "have no intention of marrying" also tend to accept cohabitation (b) more easily.

Figure IV-2-2 Tendency to deny tradition and to emphasize the individual (Above bar graphs are "Intend to marry," below are "Have no intention")



Note: The subjects are unmarried aged 25-34, 1,678 males and 1,252 females ("Intend to marry": male 52.9%, females 64.5%, "Agree" in this table is the proportion of the total of "Agree totally" and "If anything, agree." "Disagree" is similar. For more details about the intention to marry, see the Glossary(the steps of the will to marry).

Items related to traditional views on marriage

- g. One ought to have children if one gets married
- b. Men and Women should marry if they live together
- f. Husbands should work and wives should take care of the home after marriage
- c. Unmarried men and women may have sexual intercourse if they love each other

Items related to individuals vs. family

- a. It is not desirable to remain single for one's entire life
- h. No one should get divorced for a small reason such as incompatible temperaments
- e. It is natural that one should sacrifice half of one's own personality or life-style for the family
- d. One ought to have personal goals other than just getting married and raising a family, even if one gets married

Glossary

The conscious distance from marriage (the steps of the will to marry)

Based on multiple questions measuring the will to marry, the steps of the will to marry of unmarried persons can be classified into the 6 steps shown in the Reference Table. Each of these steps is given a value in ascending order of closeness to marriage, which in this survey is called the conscious distance from marriage (comparison of the desired ages of marriage between a group of those who attach importance to their age of marriage and a group who pursue an ideal partner shows that the former is closer to marriage). Comparing these averaged values classified by various groups will result in a comparison of the degree of will to marry among the groups. In Figure IV-2-2, "Intend to marry" are 1-3, "No intention" are 4-6.

Reference Table The proportion and average values classified by the steps of the will to marry of the unmarried, and by age [Male]

Age	Total (the number of samples)	"Want to marry in a year" (distance=1)							The conscious distance from marriage (Averaged values)	(Reference) The conscious distance from marriage (Averaged values)	
		"May marry (in a year) if the partner is ideal"					"Have no intention of marrying yet"			10th Survey	9th Survey
		Group of those who attach importance to the age of marriage(=2)	Group of those who pursue an ideal partner (=3)	Group of those who attach importance to their age of marriage (=4)		"Will never marry"					
				Group of those who pursue an ideal partner (=5)	(=6)	Not stated					
18-19	100% (621)	1.3 %	5.6	9.0	34.0	34.5	7.2	8.4	4.27	4.34	4.28
20-24	100 (1,683)	5.1	9.9	11.7	30.4	28.0	5.5	9.4	3.91	3.92	3.82
25-29	100 (1,149)	13.0	15.8	19.8	18.6	18.5	5.5	9.0	3.33	3.13	2.89
30-34	100 (529)	12.5	18.0	30.8	5.5	11.3	9.6	12.3	3.16	2.81	2.77
Total(18-34)	100% (3,982)	7.8 %	12.0	16.1	24.2	24.0	6.3	9.5	3.70	3.68	3.54

[Female]

Age	Total (the number of samples)	"Want to marry in a year" (distance=1)							The conscious distance from marriage (Averaged values)	(Reference) The conscious distance from marriage (Averaged values)	
		"May marry (in a year) if the partner is ideal"					"Have no intention of marrying yet"			10th Survey	9th Survey
		Group of those who attach importance to the age of marriage(=2)	Group of those who pursue an ideal partner (=3)	Group of those who attach importance to their age of marriage (=4)		"Will never marry"					
				Group of those who pursue an ideal partner (=5)	(=6)	Not stated					
18-19	100% (606)	1.8 %	7.3	10.1	30.5	36.6	6.1	7.6	4.20	4.06	3.97
20-24	100 (1,754)	8.0	14.2	18.7	22.8	25.8	4.1	6.4	3.60	3.59	3.44
25-29	100 (908)	14.2	16.4	31.4	8.8	14.5	5.4	9.3	3.10	2.88	2.78
30-34	100 (344)	14.2	11.0	44.8	3.5	12.5	5.5	8.4	3.06	3.26	3.29
Total(18-34)	100% (3,612)	9.1 %	13.3	22.9	18.7	23.5	4.9	7.5	3.53	3.54	3.45

Note: The "Group of those who attach importance to the age of marriage" and the "Group of those who pursue an ideal partner" are the groups who answered "Will marry by a certain age" and "Don't care about marrying unless I can find an ideal partner," respectively.

Life course of females

The life course of a female means the type of life a woman leads, especially the five main types which combine work, marriage and child rearing established as below. In this survey, the

unmarried females were asked their ideal/intended life course and the unmarried males were asked the desired life course they expect of females.

Unmarried working course: do not marry and continue to work

DINKS course: marry, but do not have children and continue to work

Compatible course: marry and have children, and continue to work

Return to work course: marry and have children, stop work for the child bearing/child rearing period, then go back to work.

Housewife course: Stop working forever on the occasion of marriage or child bearing.