Influence of Childcare Resources on the Employment Continuity of Married Women: Focusing on Occupation and Birth Cohort

Yukiko Senda

This study examines the continuity rate of married women as a regular employee between their first pregnancy and one year after the first childbirth, focusing on occupation and childcare resources, in consideration of differences between birth cohorts. Data was drawn from "the Eleventh Japanese National Fetility Survey". Women who were in clerical or sales/service occupation at their first pregnancy show lower continuity rate than those who were professional or manual occupation. The difference in the rate in cohabitation with their husband's parents can give a partial explanation to the difference in continuity rate for the pre-1958 birth cohort, but no explanation for the post-1959 birth cohort. Women in manual occupation, who had held an advantage in utilizing their husband's parents in the pre-1958 birth cohort, have lost the advantage in the younger cohort. Women in professional occupation or in the government sector had gained and held the advantage in taking parenta! leave, while clerical and sales/service women in the private sector remained disadvantageous in utilizing public childcare resources.