

# Generational Differences in Transition to First Marriage: A Focus on Educational Standards and All-Girls Schools in Japan

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Research on marriage has focused on women's educational achievement and attainment. However, academic content and school environment have been ignored, although choices are influenced by women's preferences and their families' preferences and circumstances. In addition, schools function as places to find a spouse, so attending school is strongly related to marital behavior. Therefore, this study compared the probabilities of first marriage of those who graduated from educational institutions for girls/women to those who graduated from coeducational institutions. The term "educational institution for women" refers to high schools, junior colleges, and universities for female students. Coeducational high schools, vocational schools, and universities are defined as "coeducational institutions."

First, I reviewed the educational attainment of women in post-WWII Japan and identified the changes to the compositions of the schools from which women last graduated by birth cohort. Then, event history estimations (a discrete-time logit model) revealed that, for those whose terminal degree was high school, the probability of first marriage of a woman who graduated from a coeducational high school was higher than for those who graduated from an all-girls senior high school. Regarding graduation from higher educational institutions (including vocational schools), women who graduated from educational institutions for women had a higher probability of first marriage than women who graduated from coeducational institutions. Although the results could be confirmed for the 1960s through early 1970s female birth cohorts, findings could not be confirmed for earlier or later birth cohorts. Notably, in the 1980 birth cohort, first marriage among women who graduated from vocational school was more likely than among those who graduated from junior college (including technical college).