

Correlates of the Utilization of Childrearing Support Measures in East Asia

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This study presents the results of comparative analysis of correlates of utilization of childrearing support measures (leaves, facilities and services) by adults aged 20-49 and by those with children in Japan, South Korea and Singapore, applying the logit analysis to microdata from the 2009 Survey on Comparative Study of Family Policies in East Asia (South Korea, Singapore and Japan), which was conducted by the Section for Measures against Declining Birthrate, Director-General for Policies on Cohesive Society, Cabinet Office (Japanese Government). It aims at obtaining family policy implications for Japan.

The level of utilization of childrearing support measures in Japan is much lower than in Singapore, which may be due to the difficulty in the continuation of regular work by Japanese women and due to constraints faced by Japanese women in the actual utilization of those measures even though they are provided. In the three societies, women in regular employment, in public sector and with higher education are more likely to utilize the measures. Partnership experience, religion and region also have relatively large effects on the utilization. Further examination the effects of region may be necessary because it represents not only the policy and economic effects but also the effects of culture and values.