

Geographical Distance between Parents and Adult Children: Examining the Impact of Parental Housing Assistance, Support Needs, and Patrilineal Norm

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This study seeks to understand the determinants of geographical distance between married women and their parents, parents-in-law, and adult children using the 2008, 2013, and 2018 National Survey on Family in Japan. In particular, the focus is placed on the effects of past parental housing assistance, parents' and adult children's support needs, and patrilineal norm. Past research on intergenerational support treated intergenerational distance as a determinant of support exchanged between parents and adult children. However, intergenerational distance may be considered as an outcome of the receipt of past assistance, current support needs, as well as the expectation of receiving assistance in the future. The results indicate that adult children who received housing assistance from parents in the past are more likely to live in close proximity to the parents regardless of the gender of adult children. Married women are strongly affected by patrilineal norm in terms of coresidence with husband's parents. However, most adult children do not coreside with their parents and the impact of patrilineal norm is observed only for their tendency to live in close proximity to their husband's parents if the adult children are the eldest son. The child care needs of married women were met by coresidence with husbands' parents or by living in close proximity to their mothers. In contrast, child care needs of adult children were met by residing in close proximity to their mothers regardless of the gender of adult children. Working married women tend to coreside with or to live in close proximity to their parents or parents-in-law. For adult children, only working married daughters are significantly more likely to live in close proximity to their mothers. Intergenerational relationship in Japan is still affected by patrilineal norm but it was found that the receipt of past assistance as well as current support needs influence the geographical distance between parents and adult children.

Keywords: intergenerational distance, coresidence and proximity, support