Adult Daughters' Intergenerational Relationships: A Comparison of Support Patterns for Parents between Married and Divorced Daughters

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This paper aimed to examine the determinants of intergenerational relationships among adult daughters, specifically their daily support (practical, emotional, and financial) for and frequency of conversations with their parents using data from the 2013, 2018, and 2022 National Survey on Family in Japan, with a focus on a comparison of support patterns between married and divorced adult daughters. The results indicated that regardless of marital status, adult daughters who received some kind of support from a parent in the past year were more likely to provide support to that parent. In addition, adult daughters tended to provide the same type of support they had received. The findings also showed that compared with married daughters, divorced daughters are not necessarily less supportive of their parents. Support patterns varied by the gender of the parent, the type of support, and the living arrangements of the daughters and parents. In addition, compared with married daughters, divorced daughters tended to provide more practical support to and have more contact with their parents when they did not live together. By contrast, married daughters provided more practical support when they coreside with their parents. Finally, married daughters tended to provide more financial support than divorced daughters, except when they coreside with their mother. These results imply that divorced adult daughters' support patterns for their parents are largely consistent with the approach that states that adult child-parent relations are characterized by support exchange.

Keywords: intergenerational relationships, divorced daughters, support patterns