

A Survey of Spread of Birth
Control

Tatsuo Honda

June 1953

THE INSTITUTE OF POPULATION PROBLEMS
WELFARE MINISTRY

TOKYO, JAPAN.

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Preface

The Institute of Population Problems Welfare Ministry conducted a survey of birth control in July 1, 1952, jointly with a sampling survey of fertility. The first-mentioned survey was made for the purpose of collecting statistic data and our office had no intention of promoting or preventing birth control in connection with the survey. This Institute is the reserch organ engaged in the investigation and study of the population problems, but it has no function of making policies in respect to various questions pertaining to the population problems, including the birth control.

The results of the survey have been described in this article by Mr Tatsuo Honda, my colleague and the chief of the Investigation Division of our office.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I wish to express my gratitude for a valuable assistance extended by the Rockefeller Foundation for our work. A part of the expenses for the survey of birth control has been defrayed out of the donation by the Foundation and it has enabled us to publish the results of the survey in English.

Ayanori Okasaki

Director of the Institute of Population Problems
Welfare Ministry.

Tokyo, June 10, 1953

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I. Introduction

This survey was made concurrently in conjunction with "Survey of Fertility" conducted on July 1, 1952. Although researches have been made several times in respect to the spread of birth control after the war's end and the Population Problem Research Institute, the Ministry of Welfare, has taken the lead, since immediately after the war's end, in making investigations every year concerning local conditions in certain districts in the above respect, but the surveying of the extent of nationwide popularization of birth control by use of complete samples extracted from communities all over the country has remained as an unsolved question. Therefore, when the fertility survey was conducted by a sampling method, a survey of the spread of birth control was made jointly in order to obtain basic data contributable to the analysis of the post-war trend of Japanese population.

In the survey of fertility, the objects of survey were samples extracted from married couples of the whole country, representing a 1200th of the total approximately, but for the survey of birth control, one-third was extracted from the above samples and the actual survey was made only as to couples whose female partners were under the age of 50. Accordingly, it may be said that the samples extracted for the above purpose represents a 3500th of the total married couples whose female partners were under the age of 50.

At the time of survey, a questionnaire was sent to each married couple coming under the above category and they were requested to return it directly to the Population Problem Research Institute by post after filling in same. The direct answer to our office was arranged, because it was our policy to keep secret the information given in view of its nature. No questionee was, of course, required to give his name. The questionnaires collected and used for tabulation represented 60.3% of those distributed in the urban district and 67.5% in the rural district, the national average being 64.5%. The proportion of those who failed to answer the inquiry amounted to more than 30%

and it has to be admitted that in many cases non-answerers are different from other members of community in quality simply because they are non-answerers. Therefore, it is considered certain that the tabulating of answerers alone without taking into account non-answerers would result in a deviation, in many cases, from the figures anticipated at first of the community. If the deviation is to be eliminated, it is necessary to conduct an investigation as to non-answerers by sampling and to make a correction on the basis of results of the investigation. In our survey, however, no information has been available in respect to the non-answers. Accordingly, in the analyzation of results of the survey hereunder, no conclusion can be drawn on the matter of non-answerers in all items except 1) where answerers are considered same as answerers in quality and 2) where non-answerers are regarded as nil.

It is regrettable that our survey has almost resulted in the loss of meaning of sampling survey by lack of particulars about non-answerers.

Under the above circumstances, it is extremely difficult to work out the sampling error, and though questionnaires were distributed throughout the country, there are many clauses in this article where it is not certain how far the results of tabulation clarify the actual national condition. However, as it is considered that the results of our survey are valuable, together with results of local investigations conducted in the past, as data showing the spread of birth control, an outline of what has been found by the survey will be given hereunder.

The demographic composition of objects of investigation which we came to know in our survey will be given in Table 1 below ;

Table 1: Demographic composition of objects of survey

(a) Whole country (b) Urban district (c) Rural district

A. Number of married couples

Actual number	2,514	994	1,520
Percentage	100.0	39.5	60.5

B. By wife's age			
15-19	0.5	0.5	0.5
20-24	11.6	11.3	11.8
25-29	21.8	20.7	22.5
30-34	18.6	19.4	18.1
35-39	18.7	19.1	18.5
40-44	15.8	16.6	15.3
45-49	12.9	12.4	13.2
Unknown	0.1	—	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

C. By duration of marriage (years)			
0- 4	25.5	25.3	25.6
5- 9	21.3	21.0	21.4
10-14	16.0	17.2	15.1
15-19	14.4	14.6	14.3
20--	22.4	21.1	23.3
Unknown	0.4	0.8	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

D. By number of living children			
0	13.3	14.6	12.4
1	18.9	19.8	18.3
2	22.2	23.6	21.3
3	16.1	16.1	16.2
4	11.9	12.0	11.9
5	7.8	6.7	8.4
6	9.8	7.2	11.5
Unknown	—	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

E. By husband's occupation			
Salaried man	24.8	35.4	17.9
Commercial and industrial proprietors	15.6	21.9	11.4

Laborers	17.9	23.5	14.2
Farmer and Fisherman	32.5	6.8	49.2
Others	5.2	7.6	3.7
Unknown	4.0	4.8	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

F. By husband's educational background			
Elementary education	65.3	52.0	74.0
Secondary education	23.4	30.7	18.6
Higher education	9.7	15.2	6.1
Unknown	1.6	2.1	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

G. By wife's educational background			
Elementary education	70.2	59.3	77.4
Secondary education	25.8	35.1	19.7
Higher education	2.4	3.5	1.6
Unknown	1.6	2.1	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

In our survey, questions were asked about the following items;

1. General items;
 - a. Date of birth
 - b. Date of marriage
 - c. First marriage or remarriage
 - d. Occupation
 - e. Degree of education
2. Experience of childbirth to date
 - a. Number of living children
 - b. Number of dead children
 - c. Number of spontaneous still-births
 - d. Number of induced abortions
 - e. Whether the questionee has contraceptive experience

3. Contraceptive knowledge of non-contraceptor
4. Motive of practising contraception
 - a. Time of commencement of contraception
 - b. Numbers of births, spontaneous still-births and induced abortions up to the time of commencement
 - c. Contraceptive methods (past and present)
 - d. Forms of termination of pregnancies resulting from failure of contraception (childbirth, spontaneous still-birth or induced abortion)
5. Views, impressions, etc. of the questionee

II. Extent of general diffusion of contraceptive experience

When the extent of general diffusion of contraceptive experience is regarded as the proportion of the number of married couples with contraceptive experience to the total number of married couples who were objects of our survey, namely, married couples whose female partners were under 50, the diffusion will be such as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Number of married couples by contraceptive and non-contraceptor

	(1) Total Number of married couples	(2) Present contra- ceptor	(3) Past contra- ceptor	(4) (2)+(3)	(5) Non- contra- ceptor
A: Actual number					
a) Whole country	2,514	546	165	711	1,803
b) Urban district	994	279	88	367	627
c) Rural district	1,520	267	77	344	1,176
B: Percentage					
a) Whole country	100.0	21.7	6.6	28.3	71.7

b) Urban district	100.0	28.1	8.9	36.9	63.1
c) Rural district	100.0	17.6	5.1	22.6	77.4

It will be seen that the average national diffusion rate of contraceptive experience is nearly 30% and the rate of current contraceptive practice is over 20%. Although there is no results of past investigations available for precise comparison with the above figures, it may be said that the speed of diffusion in the last two or three years is quite noteworthy, as the estimated national rate of contraception then in practice worked out from the results of local investigations conducted between 1949 and 1950 were 15% approximately.

In order to present the post-war rapid diffusion of contraception hereunder will be given Table 3 in which are shown together the distribution of married couples with contraceptive experience by the time of commencement of contraception and the distribution of all such married couples by duration of marriage.

Table 3: Distribution of married couples with contraceptive experience by the time of commencement of contraception and distribution of all married couples by the year of marriage.

	(a) Distribution of married couples with contraceptive experience by the time of commencement of contraception	(b) Distribution of all couples by the time of marriage
Before 1939	8.2	43.6
1940-44	5.2	16.7
1945-49	33.3	28.4
After 1950	53.3	11.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Note: Under both a and b married couples lacking necessary particulars have been omitted.

As evident from the above table, 86.6% of married couples with contraceptive experience commenced contraception after the war's end, particularly 53.3% of them began it after 1950. On the other hand the distribution, by the time of marriage, of all married couples (including non-contraceptors) who served as objects of survey, shows that 60.3% of them married before the war's end. Any way, it can be seen that the popularization of contraceptive experience has been a spectacular thing after the war's end. However, the above table shows at the same time that contraceptive experience spread though slowly, even in and before the war years. Though it is theoretically not exact to speak of a general trend of the past merely from experience of existing couples, so estimated diffusion rate of contraceptive experience (or the number of couples who had already had contraceptive experience at any time of the past in percent of couples who had married at that time) was 5.3% at the end of 1939, 6.3% at the end of 1944 and 14.9% at the end of 1949. As seen above, it was 28.3% in the middle of 1952.

In the meantime, when the present extent of diffusion of contraceptive experience is observed from the regional points of view, the urban and rural, the degree of diffusion is naturally high in the urban district and its numerical value is 1.6 times as high as that in the rural district.

III. Diffusion of contraceptive experience by duration of marriage

The extent of diffusion of contraceptive experience had already been explained, but the extent of diffusion by the duration of marriage will be such as shown in Table 4 given hereunder:

Table 4: Distribution of contraceptive experience by duration of marriage

Duration of marriage	(1) Total Number of married couples	(2) Present contra-ceptor	(3) Past contra-ceptor	(4) (2)+(3)	(5) Non-contra-ceptor
A. Actual number					
a) Whole country					
0- 4	640	155	34	189	451
5- 9	535	144	39	183	352
10-14	401	125	20	145	256
15-19	362	78	21	99	263
20--	564	44	50	94	470
Unknown	12	--	1	1	11
Total	2,514	546	165	711	1,803
b) Urban district					
0- 4	251	77	18	95	156
5- 9	209	68	22	90	119
10-14	171	69	13	82	89
15-19	145	42	7	49	96
20--	210	23	28	51	156
Unknown	8	--	--	--	8
Total	994	279	88	367	627
c) Rural district					
0- 4	389	78	16	94	295
5- 9	326	76	17	93	233
10-14	230	56	7	63	167
15-19	217	36	14	50	167
20--	354	21	22	43	311
Unknown	4	--	1	1	3
Total	1,520	267	77	344	1,176
B. Percentage					
a) Whole country					
0- 4	100.0	24.2	5.3	29.5	70.5
5- 9	100.0	26.9	7.3	34.2	65.8

10-14	100.0	31.2	5.0	36.2	63.8
15-19	100.0	21.5	5.8	27.4	72.6
20--	100.0	7.8	8.9	16.7	83.3
Unknown	--	--	--	--	--
Total	100.0	21.7	6.6	28.3	71.7
b) Urban district					
0- 4	100.0	20.7	7.2	37.8	62.2
5- 9	100.0	32.5	10.5	43.1	56.9
10-14	100.0	40.4	7.6	48.0	52.0
15-19	105.0	29.0	4.8	33.8	66.2
20--	100.0	11.0	13.3	24.3	75.7
Unknown	--	--	--	--	--
Total	100.0	28.1	8.9	36.9	63.1
c) Rural district					
0- 4	100.0	20.1	4.1	24.2	75.8
5- 9	100.0	23.3	5.2	28.5	71.5
10-14	100.0	24.3	3.0	27.4	72.6
15-19	100.0	16.6	6.5	23.0	77.0
20--	100.0	5.9	6.2	12.1	87.9
Unknown	--	--	--	--	--
Total	100.0	17.6	5.1	22.6	77.4

With regard to the proportion of those who now practise contraception, the rate of contraceptive practice rises with the increase of duration of marriage, a peak being reached in the marriage duration of 10-14 years, but it begins to decline again after 15 years duration and the decline is particularly evident after 20 years. This tendency is equally visible both in the urban and rural districts. It is also the same, on the other hand, in the rate of general diffusion of contraceptive experience including past contraceptors. Accordingly the fact that most of the married couples who have passed the middle age, do not practise contraception, cannot be taken that they need no contraception, but it may rather be interpreted that the majority of them are entirely without contraceptive experience. As

will be explained in detail later, about one half of these non-contraceptors have not even the knowledge of contraception. This fact shows that there exists an age demarcation line dividing those of marriage duration shorter than 15 years and those of duration longer than 15 years.

Now, let us observe couples of marriage duration less than 15 years in the gross, and we will find that the average national rate of current contraceptive practice is 26.9%, the regional rates being 33.9% in the urban district and 22.2% in the rural district. It is reasonable to conclude that in the above group of couples the rate of contraceptive practice gradually rises with the increase of marriage duration. In the meantime, the marked rises of percentage of past contraceptors in the marriage duration of 5-9 years, undoubtedly indicate the planned birth intended in certain couples, but it looks like more realistic to consider that the rise reflects the considerable increase of cases of loss, about 5 years after marriage, of will to contracept which couples had immediately after their marriage. However, about the time when the marriage duration passes 10 years, that is, after couples have had a number of children, they are compelled to use contraceptive devices again. Anyway, this tendency can be seen both in the urban and rural districts.

IV. Diffusion of contraceptive experience by wife's age

The above-mentioned tendencies, as a matter of course, can be seen also in the difference of rates of contraception diffusion by the wife's age. This will be shown in the following Table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of contraceptive experience by wife's age

Wife's age	(1) Total Number of married couples	(2) Present contra- ceptor	(3) Past contra- ceptor	(4) (2)+(3)	(5) Non- contra- ceptor
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A. Actual number

(2) Whole country

15-19	12	1	1	2	10
20-24	292	84	13	97	195
25-29	548	133	45	178	370
30-34	468	158	18	176	292
35-39	471	107	29	136	335
40-44	397	48	32	80	317
45-49	324	14	26	40	284
Unknown	2	1	1	2	—
Total	2,514	546	165	711	1,803

b) Urban district

15-14	5	—	1	1	4
20-24	112	42	3	45	67
25-29	206	62	31	93	113
30-34	193	81	7	88	105
35-39	190	60	14	74	116
40-44	165	26	17	43	122
45-49	123	8	15	23	100
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	994	279	88	367	627

c) Rural district

15-19	7	1	—	1	6
20-24	180	42	10	52	128
25-29	342	71	14	85	257
30-34	275	77	11	88	187
35-39	281	47	15	62	219
40-44	232	22	15	37	195
45-49	201	6	11	71	184
Unknown	2	1	1	2	—
Total	1,520	267	77	344	1,176

B. Percentage

a) Whole country

15-19	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	100.0	28.8	4.5	33.2	66.8
25-29	100.0	24.3	8.2	32.5	67.5
30-34	100.0	33.8	3.8	37.6	62.4
35-39	100.0	22.7	6.2	28.9	71.1
40-44	100.0	12.1	8.1	20.2	79.8
45-49	100.0	4.3	8.0	12.3	87.7
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	21.7	6.6	28.3	71.7

b) Urban district

15-19	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	100.0	37.5	2.7	40.2	59.8
25-29	100.0	30.1	15.0	45.1	54.9
30-34	100.0	42.0	3.6	45.6	54.4
35-39	100.0	31.6	7.4	38.9	61.1
40-44	100.0	15.8	10.3	26.1	73.9
45-49	100.0	6.5	12.2	18.7	81.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	28.1	8.9	36.9	63.1

c) Rural district

15-19	—	—	—	—	—
20-24	100.0	23.3	5.6	28.9	71.1
25-29	100.0	20.8	4.1	24.9	75.1
30-34	100.0	28.0	4.0	32.0	68.0
35-39	100.0	16.7	5.3	20.1	79.9
40-44	100.0	9.4	6.5	15.9	84.1
45-49	100.0	3.0	5.5	8.5	91.5
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	17.6	5.1	22.6	77.4

As seen from the above, the diffusion rate of contraception rises

with the advance of age and it comes to the highest in the group of married couples whose female partners are at ages of 30-34. It may be said that an age differentiation line runs somewhere about 35 and this agrees with the figure of marriage duration of 15 years.

In respect to the rate of current contraceptive practice of married couples whose female partners are under the age of 35, an observation reveals that an average national rate is 28.5%, the rate in the urban district is 35.8% and 33.8% in the rural district.

V. Diffusion of contraceptive experience by number of living children

Now, let us look at the distribution of contraceptive experience by the number of living children as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Distribution of contraceptive experience by the number of living children

Number of children	(1) Total Number of married couples	(2) Present contra- ceptor	(3) Past contra- ceptor	(4) (2)+(3)	(5) Non- contra- ceptor
A. Actual number					
a) Whole country					
0	334	26	11	37	297
1	475	120	28	148	327
2	559	153	41	194	365
3	406	113	31	144	362
4	300	82	29	111	189
5	195	29	17	46	149
6—	245	23	8	31	214
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2,514	546	165	711	1,803
b) Urban district					
0	145	13	6	19	126
1	197	62	17	79	118

2	235	80	27	107	128
3	160	59	14	73	87
4	119	41	16	57	62
5	67	13	4	17	50
6—	71	11	4	15	56
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	994	279	88	367	627
c) Rural district:					
0	189	13	5	18	171
1	278	58	11	69	209
2	324	73	14	87	237
3	246	54	17	71	175
4	181	41	13	54	127
5	128	16	13	29	99
6—	174	12	4	16	158
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1,520	267	77	344	1,175

B. Percentage

a) Whole country					
0	100.0	7.8	3.3	11.1	88.9
1	100.0	25.3	5.9	31.2	68.8
2	100.0	27.4	7.3	24.7	65.3
3	100.0	27.8	7.6	35.5	64.5
4	100.0	27.3	9.7	37.0	63.0
5	100.0	14.9	8.7	23.5	76.5
6—	100.0	9.4	3.3	12.7	87.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	21.7	6.6	28.3	71.7
b) Urban district					
0	100.0	9.0	4.1	13.1	86.9
1	100.0	31.5	8.6	40.1	59.9
2	100.0	34.0	11.5	45.5	54.5

3	100.0	36.9	8.8	45.6	54.5
4	100.0	34.5	13.4	47.9	52.1
5	100.0	19.4	6.0	25.4	74.6
6--	100.0	15.5	5.6	21.1	78.9
Unknown	--	--	--	--	--
Total	100.0	28.1	8.9	36.9	63.1
c) Rural district					
0	100.0	6.9	2.7	9.5	90.5
1	100.0	20.9	4.0	24.8	75.2
2	100.0	22.5	4.3	26.9	73.1
3	100.0	22.0	6.9	28.9	71.1
4	100.0	22.7	7.2	29.8	70.2
5	100.0	12.5	10.2	22.7	76.3
6--	100.0	6.9	2.3	9.2	90.8
Unknown	--	--	--	--	--
Total	100.0	17.6	5.1	22.6	77.4

We have now learned from the above, that the rates of current contraceptive practice by the number of living children are highest among married couples having 3 children in the urban district and 4 in the rural district, the average national number being 3, and this phenomenon consist with the said fact that the rate is highest among couples of marriage duration of 10-14 years and also among couples whose female partners are at the ages of 30-34. But, the difference of the contraceptive practice rates among married couples with 1-4 children is quite negligible both in the urban and rural district. It is, however, worthy of note that the contraceptive practice rate among childless couples is very low and that the rate among couples with numerous children exceeding 6 is very low at present and was low in the past. Most of married couples with numerous children may represent old times, but even among the couples representing the modern times there are only a few who start contraception immediately after marriage or before the birth of the first child. And here too we can see an aspect peculiar to the transitional period of popularization of contraception.

In the meantime a survey conducted about the same time as ours by the Mainichi Newspaper Publishing Co. in respect to public opinion on birth control and also to the actual situation of birth control has revealed that the married couples who consider two children most adequate, are largest in percentage. (See: Population Problem Series No.7. Public Opinion Survey on Birth Control in Japan, published in English by the Population Problems Research Council, the Mainichi Newspaper Publishing Co.) If two children are regarded as an ideal number, this bespeaks, it may be said, not only the deviation of conduct from will, but also the technical failure of contraception.

In our survey too question was asked to married couples with contraceptive experience about the number of children at the time of commencement of contraception. The tabulation of answers to the question shows, as given in Table 7, that those who commenced contraception after the birth of the second child form a largest percentage.

Table 7: Number of married couples by number of children at the commencement of contraception.

Number of children	(a)	(b)	(c)
	Whole country	Urban district	Rural district
A. Actual Number			
0	29	14	15
1	141	77	64
2	180	97	83
3	134	69	65
4	82	46	36
5	53	23	30
6	51	22	29
Unknown	41	19	22
Total	711	367	344

	B. Percentage		
0	4.1	3.8	4.4
1	19.8	21.0	18.6
2	25.3	26.4	24.1
3	18.8	18.8	18.9
4	11.5	12.5	10.5
5	7.5	6.3	8.7
6	7.2	6.0	8.4
Unknown	5.8	5.2	6.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

VI. Diffusion of contraceptive experience by husband's occupation

The degree of diffusion of contraceptive experience by the husband's occupation is such as shown in Table 8:

Table 8: Distribution of contraceptive experience by
husband's occupation

Occupation of husband	(1) Total Number of married couples	(2) Present contra- ceptor	(3) Past contra- ceptor	(4) (2)+(3)	(5) Non- contra- ceptor
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A. Actual Number

a) Whole country

Salaried man	624	231	56	284	337
Commercial & industrial proprietors	391	79	33	112	279
Laborer	449	80	33	113	336
Farmer & fisherman	816	114	26	140	676
Others	132	28	9	37	95
Unknown	102	14	8	22	80
Total	2,514	546	165	711	1,803

b) Urban district

Salaried man	352	144	34	178	174
Commercial & industrial proprietors	217	49	20	69	148
Laborer	233	47	20	67	166
Farmer & fisherman	68	11	4	15	53
Others	76	19	6	25	51
Unknown	48	9	4	13	35
Total	994	279	88	367	627

c) Rural district

Salaried man	272	87	22	109	163
Commercial & industrial proprietors	174	30	13	43	131
Laborer	216	33	13	46	170
Farmer & fisherman	748	103	22	125	623
Others	56	9	3	12	44
Unknown	54	5	4	9	45
Total	1,520	267	77	344	1,176

B. Percentage

a) Whole country

Salaried man	100.0	37.0	9.0	46.0	54.0
Commercial & industrial proprietors	100.0	20.2	8.4	28.6	71.4
Laborer	100.0	17.8	7.3	25.2	74.8
Farmer & fisherman	100.0	14.0	3.2	17.2	82.8
Others	100.0	21.2	6.8	28.0	72.0
Unknown	100.0	13.7	7.8	21.6	78.4
Total	100.0	21.7	6.6	28.3	71.7

b) Urban district

Salaried man	100.0	40.9	9.7	50.6	49.4
Commercial & industrial proprietors	100.0	22.6	9.2	31.8	68.2
Laborer	100.0	20.2	8.6	28.8	71.2
Farmer & fisherman	100.0	16.2	5.9	22.1	77.9
Others	100.0	25.0	7.9	32.9	67.1
Unknown	100.0	18.8	8.3	27.1	72.9
Total	100.0	28.1	8.8	36.9	63.1

c) Rural district

Salaried man	100.0	32.0	8.1	40.1	59.9
Commercial & industrial proprietors	199.9	17.2	7.5	24.7	75.3
Laborer	100.0	15.3	6.0	21.3	78.7
Farmer & fisherman	100.0	13.8	2.9	16.7	83.3
Others	100.0	16.1	5.4	21.4	78.6
Unknown	100.0	9.3	7.4	16.7	83.3
Total	100.0	17.6	5.0	22.6	77.4

As evident from the above, the rate of diffusion of contraceptive experience among salaried men is highest surpassing other occupational groups markedly. Particularly, among the salaried men in the urban district, more than a half of them have contraceptive experience while over 40% of them are present contraceptors. After the salaried men come commercial and industrial proprietors and laborers in the order as mentioned, but the difference between the two groups is negligible. These groups, together with a group computed as "others" rank in the middle. The rate of diffusion among farmers is lowest and it does not reach even a half of the rate among the salaried men. It may be said that the occupational differentiation

in the popularization of contraception is quite obvious. When the difference of diffusion rates of contraceptive experience by urban and rural districts is observed, it is evident that the rate is high in the urban district in all occupations, but it is noteworthy that the occupation has an overwhelmingly stronger bearing on the diffusion of contraceptive experience than the locality.

VII. Diffusion of contraceptive experience by degree of education

In addition to occupational difference, educational difference has a great bearing on the diffusion of contraceptive experience. The following Table 9 will show the rates of diffusion of contraceptive experience by educational background of the husband or wife.

Table 9 (a) : Distribution of contraceptive experience by husband's education

Husband's education	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Total number of married couples	Present contra-ceptor	Past contra-ceptor	(2)+(3)	Non-contra-ceptor

A. Actual number

a) Whole country

Elementary	1,642	250	85	335	1,307
Secondary	588	188	47	235	353
Higher	244	103	30	133	111
Unknown	40	5	3	8	32
Total	2,514	546	165	711	1,803

b) Urban district

Elementary	517	102	39	141	376
Secondary	305	104	29	133	172

Higher	151	68	19	87	64
Unknown	21	5	1	6	15
Total	994	279	88	367	627

c) Rural district

Elementary	1,125	148	46	194	931
Secondary	283	84	18	102	181
Higher	93	35	11	46	47
Unknown	19	—	2	2	17
Total	1,520	267	77	344	1,176

B. Percentage

a) Whole country

Elementary	100.0	15.2	5.2	20.4	79.6
Secondary	100.0	32.0	8.0	40.0	60.0
Higher	100.0	42.2	12.3	54.5	45.5
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	21.7	6.6	28.3	71.7

b) Urban district

Elementary	100.0	19.7	7.5	27.3	72.7
Secondary	100.0	34.1	9.5	43.6	56.4
Higher	100.0	45.0	12.6	57.6	42.4
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	28.1	8.9	36.9	63.11

Note: The standards of elementary, secondary and higher education under the new educational system, differ from the standards under the old system, but the definition of educational standards in this survey is:

education of less than 9 years, elementary; 10-12 years, secondary; not less than 13 years, higher.

Table 9 (b): Distribution of contraceptive experience by wife's education

Wife's education	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Total number of married couples	Present contra-ceptor	Past contra-ceptor	(2)+(3)	Non-contra-ceptor
A. Actual number					
a) Whole country					
Elementary	1,765	285	87	372	1,393
Secondary	649	235	63	298	351
Higher	60	21	12	33	27
Unknown	40	5	3	8	32
Total	2,514	546	165	711	1,803
b) Urban district					
Elementary	589	129	37	166	423
Secondary	349	131	41	122	177
Higher	35	14	9	23	12
Unknown	21	5	1	6	15
Total	994	279	88	367	627
c) Rural district					
Elementary	1,176	156	50	206	970
Secondary	300	104	22	126	174
Higher	25	7	3	10	15
Unknown	19	—	2	2	17
Total	1,520	267	77	344	1,176

B. Percentage

a) Whole country

Elementary	100.0	16.1	4.9	21.1	78.9
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Secondary	100.0	36.2	9.7	45.9	54.1
Higher	100.0	35.0	20.0	55.0	45.0
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	21.7	6.6	28.3	71.7
b) Urban district					
Elementary	100.0	21.9	6.3	28.2	71.8
Secondary	100.0	37.5	12.0	49.3	50.7
Higher	100.0	40.0	25.7	65.7	34.3
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	28.1	8.9	36.9	63.1
c) Rural district					
Elementary	100.0	13.3	4.3	17.5	82.5
Secondary	100.0	34.7	7.3	42.0	58.0
Higher	100.0	28.0	12.0	40.0	60.0
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Total	100.0	17.6	5.1	22.6	77.4

Note: Same as what is footnoted to the previous table.

The average national rate of diffusion of contraceptive experience among the salaried men (46.0%) was 2.7 times as high as the rate among farmers and fishermen (17.2%), and the rate of diffusion among married couples whose male partners belong to the stratum of people of highest education (average national rate: 54.5%) is exactly 2.7 times as high as the rate among couples whose male partner belong to the stratum of people of lowest education (20.4%).

It is natural that the occupational differentiation in respect to diffusion of contraceptive experience squares with the educational differentiation in view of the fact that an occupation is a most reliable index of a stratum of society and the degree of education is strongly influenced by the difference of social strata.

When degrees of education of husbands and wives are observed separately, it appears that the degree of the former's education produces more or less decisive effects on the practising of contraception, but they are not so strong as to embody the traditional oriental idea of the wife's absolute obedience to the husband.

The figures of the difference by different combination of educational grades of husband and wife are here omitted because the combination cases in which wives have higher education are comparatively rare and reveal no regular tendency.

VIII. Spread of contraceptive knowledge among those without contraceptive experience

We have already learned about the existing situation of popularization of contraceptive experience. As to the contraceptive knowledge, 1803 married couples without contraceptive experience (71.7% of the total), were asked in our survey whether they had any such knowledge and answers have been tabulated as given in Table 10 which shows that those who have answered in the affirmative are roughly a half of the couples questioned (49.3%). As most of the couples who have given no answer, returning questionnaires with the space for the said purpose left blank (27.7%), may be regarded as having no knowledge, all the remaining half (50.7%) is considered to have no contraceptive knowledge, on top of their lack of contraceptive experience. However, as will be seen from the above Table, the differentiation by age, occupation and degree of education is considerably great.

In our survey married couples were questioned as pairs whether they had contraceptive knowledge, and as appears certain that wives have chiefly filed in questionnaires, there is the reason to think that in many cases husbands had knowledge though wives had none.

Table 10: Distribution of married couples without contraceptive knowledge by possessor and nonpossessor of contraceptive knowledge (percentage)

	(1) Has knowledge	(2) None	(3) Unknown	(4) Total
A. Total				
(a) Whole country	49.3	23.0	27.7	100.0

(b) Urban district	52.6	23.1	24.3	100.0
(c) Rural district	47.4	22.9	29.7	100.0

B. By Age of Wife

(a) Whole country				
15-19	70.0	10.0	20.0	100.0
20-24	65.1	14.4	20.5	100.0
25-29	59.2	20.8	20.0	100.0
30-34	53.1	19.2	27.7	100.0
35-39	45.4	24.2	30.4	100.0
40-44	37.5	28.1	34.4	100.0
45-49	38.4	28.9	32.7	100.0

(b) Urban district				
15-19	75.0	25.0	—	100.0
20-24	73.1	7.5	19.4	100.0
25-29	63.7	19.5	16.8	100.0
30-34	57.1	24.8	18.1	100.0
35-39	44.8	23.3	31.9	100.0
40-44	43.4	26.2	30.4	100.0
45-49	41.0	32.0	27.0	100.0

(c) Rural district				
15-19	66.7	—	33.3	100.0
20-24	60.9	18.0	21.1	100.0
25-29	57.2	21.4	21.4	100.0
30-34	50.8	16.0	33.2	100.0
35-39	45.7	24.7	29.6	100.0
40-44	33.8	29.3	36.9	100.0
45-49	37.0	27.2	35.8	100.0

C. By Duration of Marriage

(a) Whole country				
0-4	61.9	16.6	21.5	100.0
5-9	51.4	23.9	24.7	100.0
10-14	50.4	19.9	29.7	100.0
15-19	42.6	27.8	29.6	100.0
20—	39.1	27.4	33.5	100.0

(b) Urban district				
0-4	67.9	14.7	17.4	100.0
5-9	58.8	23.5	17.7	100.0
10-14	47.2	24.7	28.1	100.0
15-19	50.0	21.9	28.1	100.0
20—	39.0	30.8	30.2	100.0

(c) Rural district				
0-4	58.6	17.6	23.8	100.0
5-9	47.6	24.0	28.4	100.0
10-14	52.1	17.4	30.5	100.0
15-19	38.3	31.1	30.6	100.0
20—	39.2	25.7	35.1	100.0

D. By Number of Children They Have at present

(a) Whole country				
0	48.8	16.2	35.0	100.0
1	56.6	23.2	20.2	100.0
2	51.8	23.8	24.4	100.0
3	57.3	18.3	24.4	100.0
4	41.8	29.1	29.1	100.0
5	47.0	22.1	30.9	100.0
6—	32.7	31.3	36.0	100.0

(d) Urban district				
0	52.4	16.7	30.9	100.0
1	60.2	23.7	16.1	100.0
2	56.3	22.7	21.0	100.0
3	60.9	18.4	20.7	100.0
4	45.2	29.0	25.8	100.0
5	46.0	26.0	28.0	100.0
6—	30.4	35.7	33.9	100.0

(c) Rural district				
0	46.2	15.8	38.0	100.0
1	54.5	23.0	22.5	100.0
2	49.4	24.5	26.1	100.0

3	55.4	18.3	26.3	100.0
4	40.2	29.1	30.7	100.0
5	47.5	20.2	32.3	100.0
6—	33.5	29.7	36.8	100.0

E. By Occupation of Husband

(a) Whole country				
Salaried man	62.9	15.7	21.4	100.0
Commercial & industrial proprietors	43.0	28.7	28.3	100.0
Laborer	49.1	26.2	24.7	100.0
Farmer & fisherman	46.0	23.8	30.2	100.0
Others	50.5	17.9	31.6	100.0
(b) Urban district				
Salaried man	63.8	17.2	19.0	100.0
Commercial & industrial proprietors	45.9	27.7	26.4	100.0
Laborer	48.2	25.3	26.5	100.0
Farmer & fisherman	56.6	26.4	17.0	100.0
Others	49.0	21.6	29.4	100.0
(c) Rural district				
Salaried man	62.0	14.1	23.9	100.0
Commercial & industrial proprietors	39.7	29.8	30.5	100.0
Laborer	50.0	27.1	22.9	100.0
Farmer & fisherman	45.1	35.6	19.3	100.0
Others	52.3	13.6	34.1	100.0

E. By Degree of Husband's Education

(a) Whole country				
(1) Elementary.	44.0	26.9	29.1	100.0
(2) Secondary.	62.6	14.4	22.7	100.0
(3) Higher.	70.3	7.2	22.5	100.0
(b) Urban district				

(1) Elementary.	48.8	28.0	23.2	100.0
(2) Secondary.	59.3	18.6	22.1	100.0
(3) Higher.	70.3	9.4	20.3	100.0
(c) Rural district				
(1) Elementary.	42.5	26.5	31.0	100.0
(2) Secondary.	66.3	10.5	23.2	100.0
(3) Higher.	70.2	4.3	25.5	100.0

G. By Degree of Wife's Education

(a) Whole country				
(1) Elementary.	45.9	25.8	28.3	100.0
(2) Secondary.	61.8	14.0	24.2	100.0
(3) Higher. ※	70.4	11.1	18.5	100.0
(b) Urdan district				
(1) Elementary.	49.9	26.5	23.6	100.0
(2) Secondary.	61.0	16.9	22.1	100.0
(3) Higher. ※	58.3	16.7	25.0	100.0
(c) Rural district				
(1) Elementary.	44.1	25.5	30.4	100.0
(2) Secondary.	62.4	10.9	26.7	100.0
(3) Higher. ※	80.0	6.7	13.3	100.0

Note (1): In marked cases (※) number of couples are very small.

Note (2): Unknown cases in ages, duration of marriage etc. are omitted in this table.

IX. Extent of use of various contraceptive methods

The frequency percentage of use of each of contraceptive methods employed by contraceptors against the number of married couples is given in Table 11. It shows that methods which have been popular among the masses in the past, such as, use of condom, periodical abstinence and coitus interruptus, are predominating, but contraceptive agents sold newly since the war's end are also used

along with above methods.

Table 11: Extent of use of various contraceptive methods
(Frequency percentage of use of each of methods
against the number of married couples)

A. Present Contraceptor only

Method	(a) Whole country	(b) Urban district	(c) Rural district
(1) Condom	63.7	64.9	62.5
(2) Periodical Abstinence (Ogino's Method)	41.0	35.8	46.4
(3) Other Abstinence	4.6	4.7	4.5
(4) Chemicals	25.3	29.0	21.3
(5) Coitus interruptus	13.4	14.3	12.4
(6) Pessary	11.5	13.3	9.7
(7) Sponge	3.5	2.5	4.5
(8) Douche	2.4	3.9	0.7
(9) Sterilization	2.0	1.8	2.2
(10) Others & Unknown	6.2	6.1	6.4
Total	176.1	176.3	170.7

B. Past Contraceptor only

Method	(a) Whole country	(b) Urban district	(c) Rural district
(1) Condom	65.4	73.9	55.8
(2) Periodical Abstinence (Ogino's Method)	36.4	37.5	35.1
(3) Other Abstinence	2.4	1.1	3.9
(4) Chemicals	23.6	27.3	19.5
(5) Coitus interruptus	9.7	11.4	7.8
(6) Pessary	9.1	11.4	6.5
(7) Sponge	0.6	—	1.3
(8) Douche	8.5	8.0	9.1
(9) Sterilization	9.1	13.6	3.9
(10) Others & Unknown	11.5	11.4	11.7
Total	176.4	195.5	154.5

Note: Numbers of married couples are: (a) 546; and (b), 165; totaling 711.

A) Among 546 couples, those who use only one method are 346, but the remaining 200 use two or more methods concurrently or alternately.

B) Among 165 couples, 111 used only one method but the remaining 54 used two or more methods.

X. Failure of contraception and resort to abortion

As to "the unwanted pregnancy" resulting from the failure of contraception, whether it will terminate in birth or induced abortion is a question of great concern particularly under the existing circumstances in this country where abortion has been legalized to a large extent. Our recent survey has revealed, as shown in Table 12, that one half of "the unwanted pregnancies" has ended in abortion.

Table 12: Distribution of pregnancies resulting from failure of contraception by forms of termination

Termination of pregnancy	(a) Whole country	(b) Urban district	(c) Rural district
Birth	42.7	37.9	47.2
Spontaneous still-birth	7.3	5.8	8.7
Induced abortion	50.0	56.3	44.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Note: The numbers of pregnancies used for tabulation were 206 in the urban district and 218 in the rural district, totaling 424.

There has been shown above the circumstances, under which abortion is widely resorted to by contraceptors, after failure of contraception, as the second best method substitutive.

When we make an observation by contraceptive and non-contraceptive

to see how total pregnancies in the past have terminated, the result will be such as shown in Table 13. It is rare that non-contraceptors have recourse to abortion. Of the total pregnancies, those which have terminated in induced abortion is only 1.5% among non-contraceptors whereas the percentage is as high as 12.9% among contraceptors. This tendency is same both in the urban and rural districts.

Table 13: Distribution of total pregnancies of contraceptors and non-contraceptors by termination of pregnancy

Contraceptor or non-contraceptor	(1) Birth	(2) Spontaneous stillbirth	(3) Induced abortion	(4) Total
A. Actual number				
a) whole country				
Contraceptor	2,050	126	320	2,490
Non-contraceptor	5,642	282	92	6,016
Total	7,692	408	412	8,512
b) Urban district				
Contraceptor	1,012	59	169	1,240
Non-contraceptor	1,776	90	44	1,910
Total	2,788	149	213	3,150
c) Rural district				
Contraceptor	1,038	67	151	1,256
Non-contraceptor	3,866	192	48	4,106
Total	4,904	259	199	5,362
B. Percentage				
a) Whole country				
Contraceptor	82.1	5.0	12.9	100.0
Non-contraceptor	93.8	4.7	1.5	100.0
Total	90.4	4.8	4.8	100.0
b) Urban district				
Contraceptor	81.6	4.8	13.6	100.0
Non-contraceptor	93.0	4.7	2.5	100.0
Total	88.5	4.7	6.8	100.0

c) Rural district

Contraceptor	82.6	5.3	12.0	100.0
Non-contraceptor	94.2	4.6	1.2	100.0
Total	91.5	4.8	3.7	100.0

Note: Contraceptors include past contraceptors.

XI. A Summary

From the figures given above showing the results of our survey, those worth of note will be picked up hereunder for review.

1. The rate of general diffusion of contraceptive experience has been 28.3%, including past contraceptors, among married couples whose female partners are under the age of 50, and when analyzed by district, the rate has been 36.9% in the urban district and 22.6% in the rural district. The proportion of married couples now practicing contraception is 28.1% in the urban district and 17.6% in the rural district, the average national proportion being 21.7%.

2. With regard to the distribution of married couples by the time of commencement of contraception, it has been shown that 86.6% of them commenced it after the war's end and 53.3% of them after 1950. It may be said that contraception is a marked post-war phenomenon and that contraception is spreading with rapidity of late.

3. It has been made clear that the degree of diffusion of contraceptive experience and the rate of current contraceptive practice are highest in the 10-14 years when observed from the viewpoint of marriage duration and 30-34 years when viewed from ages of wives. It has been noted that the age demarcation lines are drawn somewhere about the 15th year when expressed by the marriage duration and about 35 years when expressed by ages of wives.

In calculating the rate of current contraceptive practice in respect to couples of married duration under 15 years alone, it has been found that the proportion of those practising contraception is 33.9% in the urban district and 22.2% in the rural district, the average

proportion in the whole country being 26.9% while the rate in respect to married couples whose female partners are under the age of 35, is 35.8% in the urban district and 23.8% in the rural district, the average national rate being 28.5%.

4. When we have observed the rates of contraception diffusion by the number of living children, the maximum value has been found in 3 children in the urban district, 4 in the rural district and 3 in the whole country. However, when classified by the number of children at the time of commencement of contraception, couples with 2 children are largest in number both in the urban and rural districts. It may be said that difference of mode bespeaks the technical failure of contraception and its extent.

5. The diffusion differentiation by occupation of the husband is most evident. The rate of contraception diffusion is highest among salaried men and lowest among farmers and fishermen. The rate of current contraception practice of salaried men in the urban district is 40.9% while that of farmers and fishermen in the rural district is 13.8%. Commercial and industrial proprietors and laborers rank in the middle together with other occupational groups in respect to the rate of contraceptive practice.

6. The diffusion differentiation by the degree of education is obvious like the occupational differentiation. The rates of current contraceptive practice (whole country) by the degree of husbands' education is 15.2% in the case of those who have received elementary education and 42.2% in the case of those of higher education.

7. The married couples without the least contraceptive experience form 71.7% of the total, and of these non-contraceptor couples, those with some contraceptive knowledge are only one half in the whole country approximately, that is 49.3%. The occupational and educational differentiations are seen here too. In the case of married couples whose male partners are highly educated, couples who have contraceptive knowledge amounts to more than 70%. even among those without contraceptive experience.

8. As to the contraceptive methods now employed by contraceptors,

use of condom is predominating, 63.7% of the total married couples depending on that method. The second place is occupied by periodical abstinence, its proportion being 41.0%. The proportion of the chemicals whose sale has been authorized after the war's end amounts to 25.3%, occupying the third place.

9. It is regrettable that we were unable to work out accurate figures in regard to the effectiveness of contraception, but we have learned that there appears to be a considerable number of pregnancies during the period of contraception. With regard to the pregnancies resulting from the failure of contraception, the cases of induced abortion represents 56.3% in the urban district and 44.1% in the rural district, the national rate being 50.0%. It may be said that one half of 'the unwanted pregnancies' terminates in abortion.

10. We have observed forms of termination of pregnancies in the past by the contraceptor and non-contraceptor and have found that 1.5% is dealt with by means of abortion in the case of couples without contraceptive experience whereas the rate is as high as 12.9% in the case of contraceptors. This tendency is same both in the urban and rural districts.