

Statistics and Figures

■ Women's Participation in Various Fields

1. Administration

The percentage of female national public officers in high-ranked managerial positions stood at 1.3% as of FY2002 and has shown a gradual increase over the long term.

According to the survey as of September 30, 2004, the proportion of female members of national advisory councils and committees has risen substantially to 28.2%. Moreover, 102 out of 103 advisory councils and committees had female members; and 55 of them, 53.4% of the total number, had no less than 30% female representation.

2. International Fields

Twelve women have been appointed ambassador extraordinary or plenipotentiary since the Japanese government appointed its first female ambassador in 1980. Three of them currently serve as ambassadors to Italy, Ghana, Norway, and women account for approximately 2.4% of all Japanese ambassadorships (as of January 11, 2005).

At the end of June 2004, women accounted for 58.2% of all Japanese staff in the Secretariat of the United Nations.

The number of Japanese female staff at major international organizations including the United Nations has increased from 180 in 1994 to 416 in 2004. As of January 2005, Japanese women in senior positions include the Deputy Director General of UNIDO, and the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

3. Politics

Except for a short period after the Second World War, the percentage of female members of the House of Representatives had wavered between 1% and less than 3% until the thirty-eighth general elections in 1986, and, since then, this percentage has started to rise reaching 7.1% as of November 2003. Female membership of the House of Councillor has risen gradually from 4% in the first ordinary elections in 1947 to 13.6% as of July 2004. Female representation in local assemblies is comparatively high, standing at 21.5% (as of the end of December 2003) in special ward assemblies (Tokyo), and 16.0% (as of the end of December 2003) in government-designated cities.

4. Judiciary

The percentage of female judges, public prosecutors, and lawyers has been increasing over the long run.

5. Managerial, Professional and Technical Fields

Women employed in managerial posts, female researchers in natural science fields and female medical doctors still occupy low percentages, but they have been increasing in number overall.

Women's participation in administration and international fields



(Sources) National public officers, National Personnel Authority; National advisory councils and committees, Cabinet Office; Professional staff at the United Nations Secretariat, UN Secretariat's materials

Women's participation in Politics



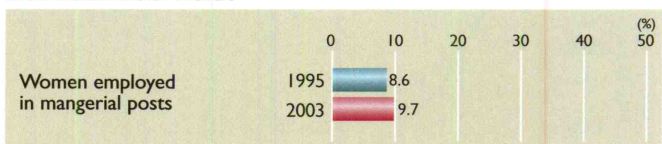
(Sources) House of Representatives, house of Councillors and local assemblies, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Women's participation in the Judiciary

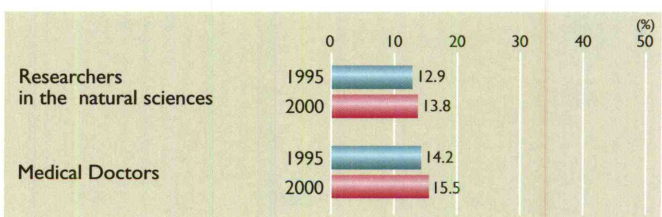


(Sources) Judges, Supreme Court; Public prosecutors, Ministry of Justice; Lawyers, Secretariat of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations

Women's participation in managerial, professional and technical fields



(Sources) Labor Force Survey, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.



(Sources) Population Census of Japan, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Basic Data on Gender Equality in Japan

Current situation of Japanese Women

1. Declining birthrate and aging population

Japan has been gaining lower birthrates and an increase in the population of the elderly. The total fertility rate (a cumulative rates of age specific fertility rates for women aged 15 to 49 in a given year; this corresponds to the number of births per woman in her lifetime based on these age specific birthrates) fell below 2.00 in 1975 and has been declining further since then. It is assumed that one of reason for decrease of total fertility rate in Japan is increase of unmarried rate.

The average age at the first marriage has been rising and in 2003, it was 29.4 years old for men and 27.6 years old for women. Women in their late 20s used to have the highest fertility rate in the past, but now approximately half of the women in this age group still remain unmarried. The percentage of lifelong unmarried people (the percentage of people who are still single at age 50) has increased gradually both man and woman since around 1960, particularly, it's percentage for men has been rising drastically in recent years.

The aging rate (the proportion of population aged 65 years and over to total population) has also been rising rapidly. Japan's population is aging mainly due to lower birthrates and longer life expectancies. The life expectancy at the birth for women was 85.33 years and 78.36 years for men in 2003.

2. Education

The percentage of students advancing to high school in Japan is extremely high, with the percentage of female students exceeding that of male students.

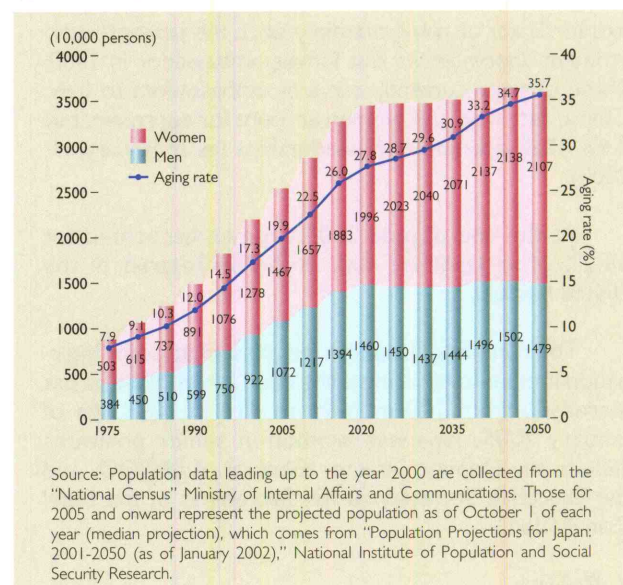
In terms of higher education level, most male students choose universities (undergraduate-level). On the other hand, some female students go to universities (undergradu-

ate-level), while other female students enter junior colleges. Recently, more female students have been enrolling in four-year universities, while the percentage of female junior college students has been falling. Female students have recently come to major in more diversified areas.

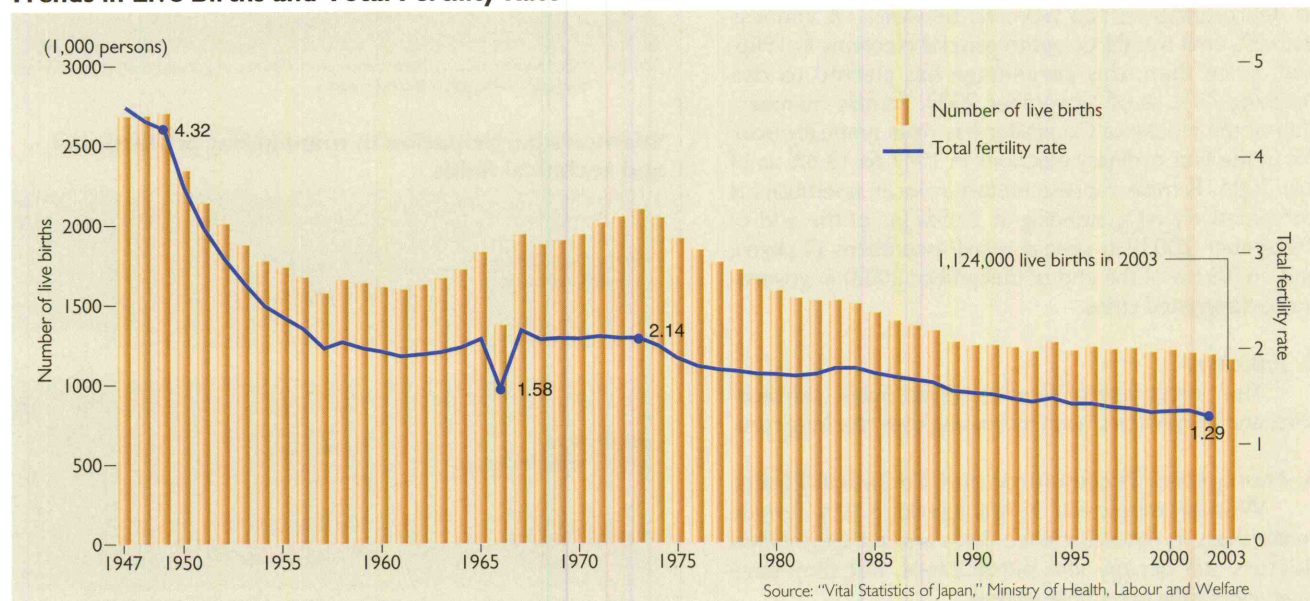
3. Employment

The labor force participation rate of Japanese women shows an M-shaped curve with their participation declining due to marriage, childbirth and childcare. On the other hand, many women have a strong desire to work throughout their childbirth/childcare years. The latent labor force

Aging Rate and Population of Elderly People aged 65 and over



Trends in Live Births and Total Fertility Rate

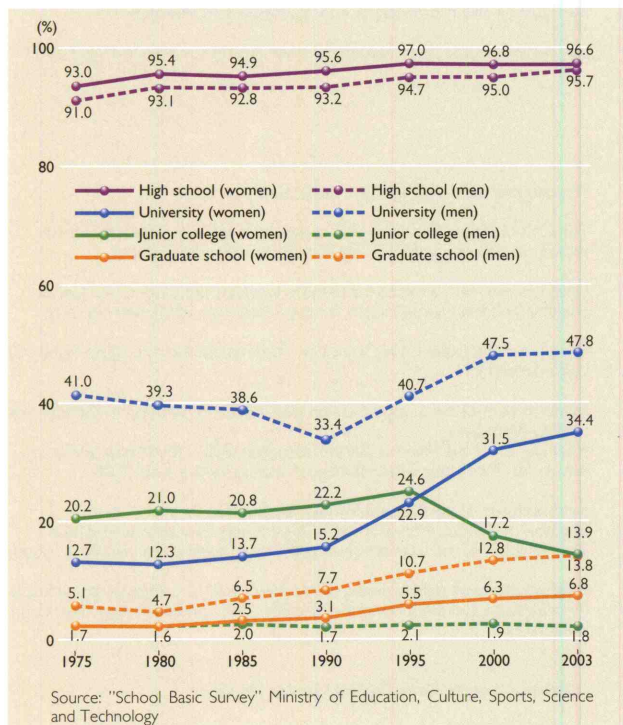


participation rate, which incorporates the labor force participation rate with the ratio of nonworking women willing to work, approximates an inverse U-shape curve.

In terms of how Japanese married couples spend their time, husbands spend little time on household duties, child-care and nursing care, regardless of whether their wives work or not. As a result, working wives have to shoulder heavy responsibilities both at home and at work.

Recently, employment patterns have been particularly diversified. Part-time workers, temporary employees, contract workers and other non-regular workers account for a higher percentage both for men and women. This trend is particularly noticeable among female workers.

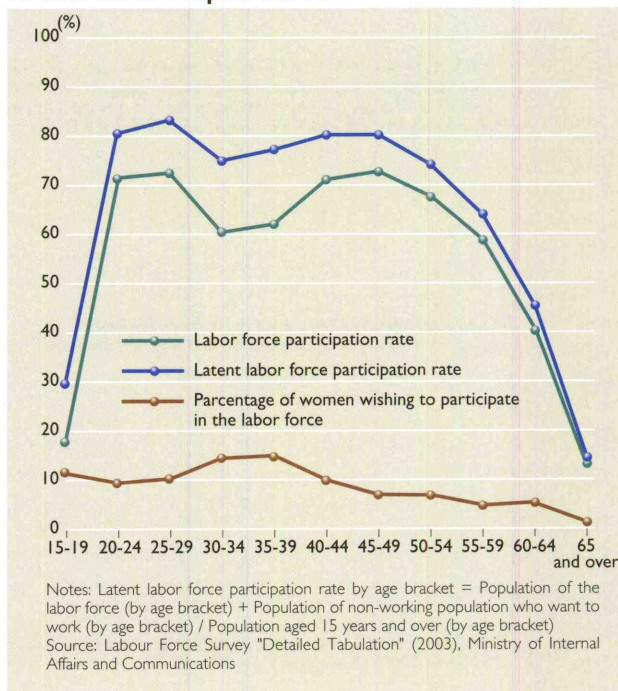
Enrollment Rate by School Category



4. Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Industries

In Japan, women account for 55.2% of the total labor force engaged in agriculture as of 2004, 16.7% in forestry as of 2003, and 16.4% in fisheries as of 2003. Women engaged in agriculture, forestry and fisheries play important roles in their respective industries and contribute greatly to supporting livelihood and maintaining/revitalizing local communities. In terms of women's participation in local policy decision-making processes, women won 3.9% of the seats in the agricultural committee elections in July 2002, doubling from the preceding election's level in 1999. This is mainly because of two reasons: More women stood for agricultural committee members responsible for coordinating farmland usage; and mayors paid due attention to gender equality in appointing agricultural committee members.

Women's Latent Labor Force Participation Rate Avoids an M-shaped Curve



Usage of Time by Married Couples

