

1. Objectives

This paper has two objectives. The first one is examining the relationship between marital happiness and the probability of having a child or children. This study has two hypotheses. First is that higher marital happiness leads to higher likelihood of probability of having a child or children. Second is that lower marital happiness leads to higher likelihood of probability of having a child or children because a person with lower marital happiness is more likely to seek satisfaction by having a child or children.

The Second objective is examining changes in the level of marital happiness before and after childbearing.

2. Data

Data for this study consist of currently married men with wives aged 18-39 and currently married women aged 18-39 drawn from the Generations and Gender Survey in Japan conducted in 2004 (here after called JGGS-1) and their follow up data in 2007. JGGS-1 is designed to collect information on family relations and family life, using the stratified two-stage probability sampling of Japanese men and women of all marital statuses aged 18-69 in 2004. Information was collected through self-administered questionnaires. Sample frame is 15,000. A total of 9,074 usable questionnaires was obtained. A response rate is 61 percent. Men and women of all marital status aged 18-49 were followed up by JGGS-2 in 2007. I heartily thank the national JGGS committee for permission of using the JGGS data.

3. Marital Happiness and Spousal Agreement on Family Life

As the JGGS-1 in 2004 does not have a questionnaire about a respondent's opinion of marital happiness, this study made a composite indicator of marital happiness from a questionnaire about degree of agreement with a respondent's spouse about different aspects of family life. This paper assumes a positive relationship between marital happiness and the degree of agreement between spouses. The high level of marital happiness hypothesizes to be associated with high degree of agreement between spouses.

The JGGS-1 and JGGS-2 have same questionnaire, "Within the past 12 months, how often did you and your spouse have disagreement about the following issues? Circle one that fits best, a) sharing of household chores, b) money, c) use of leisure/vacation time, d) sex, e) relations with friends, f) relations with parents and in-laws, g) having children, h) child-raising issues. A respondent circles best one from "never", "seldom", "sometimes", "frequently", and "almost every day". The responses were scored on a five-point scale ranging from 1 (almost every day) to 5 (never) and were summed about 8 aspects and recoded into a scale ranging 8 to 40.

4. Methods and Variables

This study has two analyses. Firstly, I examine changes in the level of marital happiness before and after childbearing.

Secondly, I examine the relationship between marital happiness and the probability of having a child or children, using logit model. The dependent variable is probability of having a child or children. "No birth during 2004 and 2007" is equated with 0 and "having a child or children during 2004 and 2007" is equated

with 1. The independent variables are the composite indicator of marital happiness in 2004, the number of children in 2004, and interactions of the composite indicator of marital happiness and the number of children. The control variables are years after getting married at 2004, wives' birth year, wives' education at 2004 and husbands' education at 2004.

5. Changes in the Level of Marital Happiness before and after Childbearing

The table 1 shows averages of the composite indicator of marital happiness in 2004 and in 2007 about currently married women aged 18-39 and currently married men with wives aged 18-39 in 2004. From the table 1, women's marital happiness decreases after first and second childbearing. Men's marital happiness doesn't change after first childbearing and decreases when they had no child and no birth during 2004 and 2007. Also their marital happiness decreases after second childbearing.

The table 2 shows the percentage distribution of increases, unchanging, and decreases in the composite indicator of marital happiness of currently married women aged 18-39 and men with wives aged 18-39 from 2004 to 2007. Women's percentages of increases in marital happiness are large when they had no child or no first or second childbearing during 2004 and 2007. Their percentages of decreases are large when they had births. Men's percentages of increases in marital happiness are remarkably large when they had the first child and their percentages of decreases are large when they had the second child.

6. Marital Happiness and the Probability of having a child or children

I examined the relationship between marital happiness and the probability of having a child or children, using a logit model. The descriptive statistics of the variables used in the logit model and the table about estimated coefficients of the variables used in the logit model are not shown in this abstract.

The figure 3 shows predictive probabilities by the composite indicator of marital happiness and the number of children about currently married women aged 18- 40 and men with wives aged 18-40, based on the logit analysis.

From the figure 3, women's marital happiness doesn't have significant impact on the probability of having a child or children. More children women have, less likely they have the next child. Men's marital happiness has a significant impact on the probability of having a child or children. Happier men are, less likely they have the first child and more likely they have the second child.

7. Discussion

Although men get happiness from the first childbearing, women do not get happiness from it. Although men's marital happiness positively relates with the probability of having the second child, women's marital happiness does not relates the probability of the probability of having a child. Among Japanese couples, working wives, especially wives employed full-time, bore the heavy burden of balancing employment and domestic responsibilities (Tsuya, Bumpass and Choe 2000). The results imply that Japanese wives need a support, for example a child care service which is available for all working wives, in order to get happiness from their childbearing. If Japanese wives could be happier when they have a child, they might desire having more children.

Reference

Tsuya, O. Noriko, Larry L. Bumpass, and Mnja Kim Choe. 2000. "Gender; Employment, and Housework in Japan, South Korea, and the United States." *Review of Population and Social Policy* 9:195-220.

Table 1 Averages of the Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness in 2004 and in 2007 by births during 2004 and 2007, and the number of children in 2004, Currently Married Women aged 18-39 and Currently Married Men with Wives aged 18-39 in 2004

Averages	Women				Men			
	2004	2007	Change		2004	2007	Change	
Total	33.9	33.1	-0.7	**	33.9	33.2	-0.7	**
Births during 2004 and 2007								
No birth	33.9	33.3	-0.5	*	33.8	33.1	-0.7	**
Births	33.8	32.3	-1.5	**	34.2	33.6	-0.6	
Number of children in 2004								
0	35.3	34.4	-0.9		35.2	34.5	-0.6	
1	33.3	32.7	-0.6	#	34.3	33.2	-1.1	*
2	33.9	33.3	-0.6	*	33.4	33.0	-0.4	
3+	33.7	32.7	-1.0	**	33.6	32.9	-0.8	
No children in 2004& births during 2004 and 2007								
No birth	35.0	35.1	0.1		36.5	35.1	-1.4	*
Births	35.6	33.6	-2.1	#	33.4	33.8	0.4	
One child in 2004& births during 2004 and 2007								
No birth	33.2	33.4	0.2		33.6	32.8	-0.8	
Births	33.4	31.7	-1.6	**	34.9	33.6	-1.3	*

Notes:**Significant at 1 percent. *Significant at 5 percent. #Significant at 10 percent.

Table 2 Percentage Distribution of Increases, Unchanging, and Decreases in the Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness during 2004 and 2007, Currently Married Women aged 18-39 and Currently Married Men with Wives aged 18-39 in 2004

	Women				Men			
	Increase	Unchanging	Decrease	Total(N)	Increase	Unchanging	Decrease	Total(N)
total	34	13	53	100(582)	35	14	51	100(469)
Births during 2004 and 2007								
No birth	35	12	52	100(450)	36	15	49	100(354)
Births	29	14	57	100(130)	33	11	56	100(115)
Number of children in 2004								
0	40	11	48	100(62)	36	20	45	100(56)
1	35	14	50	100(147)	27	15	59	100(109)
2	32	14	54	100(240)	40	13	48	100(208)
3+	33	9	58	100(131)	33	14	53	100(94)
No children in 2004& births during 2004 and 2007								
No birth	44	19	38	100(32)	22	28	50	100(32)
Births	34	3	62	100(29)	54	8	38	100(24)
One child in 2004& births during 2004 and 2007								
No birth	44	11	45	100(84)	30	18	52	100(50)
Births	24	19	56	100(62)	24	12	64	100(59)

Figure 3 Predictive Probabilities with 95% Confidence Interval by the Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness in 2004 and the Number of Children in 2004, based on the Logit Analysis about the Probability of Having a Child or Children, Currently Married Women aged 18-39 in 2004 and Currently Married Men with Wives aged 18-39 in 2004

