156 First-Grade Shock: Women’s Work-Life Conflict in Japan

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Abstract

In Japan, where the responsibility for child rearing lies mostly with women, mothers experience tighter time constraints and increased demands for parenting when their children enter elementary school. We employ unique data containing detailed information about mothers’ employment and emotional distress to first examine the existence of first-grade shock, which has been recognized by the media and government. Our empirical investigation shows that the share of mothers’ employment as part-time workers increases when their children are in the first grade but returns to the previous level the following year. We also show consistent evidence from women’s perceptions of work-life conflicts, equal share of housework, and emotional distress, as well as evidence regarding their concerns about their children’s lives, evidence which supports the existence of first-grade shock.
Abstract

This paper examines the relationship between fertility intention and birth behavior using Japanese and Korean data. We showed the followings.

First, ideal number of children is almost same in Japan and Korea. They want 2.2-2.3 children on average regardless of their age. Second, the gap between the ideal number of children and their actual ones is larger in Korean females than Japanese ones. Third, the gap between the ideal number of children and the actual ones will decrease in Japanese females, but not in Korean females. To be more specific, Japanese females who want one more child will have 0.25 child in two years and 0.35 child in four years. However, Korean females who want one more child will have 0.1 child in two years and 0.2 child in four years.

Fourth, comparing with females and males in Korea, males’ gap between the ideal children and the actual ones will decrease than females’ one. It means that males have a strong power to decide the number of children in Korea. Fifth, estimating the effect of the gap on birth behavior based on microeconomics model with controlling demographic conditions, Japanese females can meet their birth intention more easily than Korean ones.

Our estimation explains why total fertility rate is higher in Japan than in Korea, regardless of similar ideal number of children between in Japan and Korea.
86 Assimilation of Marriage Migrants: Evidence from South Korea

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Abstract

Many Asian countries are experiencing an increase in a particular type of marriage migration, wherein females from developing countries migrate to marry males in developed countries that have male-skewed sex ratios. This paper studies economic assimilation of female marriage migrants using a rich dataset on more than 70,000 marriage migrants in South Korea, one of the largest bride-hosting countries. Marriage migrants in South Korea caught up with the labor market participation of native women in 10 years of migration and even surpassed that of natives afterwards. However, intra-household decision-making remains different in families with marriage migrants. For example, 15 years after migration only 40 percent of marriage migrants make decisions about daily expenditures themselves, whereas more than 60 percent of native women do so. Moreover, marriage migrants in South Korea also were not fully assimilated in terms of fertility and tend to have fewer children than native women. Migrants fertility in South Korea appears to be affected by that in the origin country of the migrants.
285 Marital Stability of Transnational Couples and Chinese Bride Interview Policy: Evidence from Taiwan

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Abstract

Many East Asian countries now have a large number of marriage migrants. Empirical evidence from Western countries show a lower marital stability among transnational and interracial couples, while research in non-Western context is still limited. The number of international marriages in Taiwan reached its peak in 2003: there was one foreign spouse out of four couples. Most of the foreign spouses came from China, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries. Taiwanese government started to conduct interviews for foreign brides from China in 2003. This policy creates a unique opportunity to examine the effect of interview in contrast to foreign brides from Southeast Asia who always had interviews. Estimation results show that the interview policy may have improved the marital quality of Taiwanese husbands and Chinese wives by decreasing the divorce rate and increasing the duration of marriage.