
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Committee on Statistics

Second session

Bangkok, 15-17 December 2010

Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda

Items for information: Gender statistics in Japan

Gender statistics in Japan¹

1. The Responsibility for Gender Statistics in Japan

The statistics system of the Japanese government is decentralized without any specific organization responsible for gender statistics. The Gender Equality Bureau of the Cabinet Office, which is in charge of formulation and comprehensive promotion of policies for gender equality, formulates the Basic Plan for Gender Equality based on the Basic Act for a Gender-equal Society. The Plan covers comprehensive matters including gender statistics.

2. Gender Statistics

2.1. Recent Situation

2.1.1. The Basic Plans for Gender Equality based on the Basic Act for a Gender-equal Society includes following government policies regarding gender statistics.

- Promote collection, organization and provision of the statistical information which supports formulation (promotion) of the gender equality society.
- Promote data utilization for further analysis by the public.

¹ This document was contributed by the Director-General for Policy Planning on Statistical Standards of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and Cabinet Office, the Government of Japan. It has been reproduced without formal editing. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations.

- Examine appropriateness of the design of the surveys, questionnaires and presentation of the results from the view point of gender equality perspective.
- As for the statistical research, collect information from specialists on gender equality, NGOs, and the public, and exchange opinions with them.
- Make the outcomes of the statistical research available to the public as fast and broad as possible through a wide variety of information networks and make it utilize mutually among the related organizations such as the central and regional governments and NGOs.
- As for the statistical information, ensure to collect data by sex and try to present the data by prefecture.
- Establish statistical data archives so that those individual data can be utilized for the second analysis and the more advanced analysis conducted by academics.

2.1.2. The results generated from the above mentioned Plan.

- Each ministry which is responsible for the statistics has improved collecting, publishing and analyzing sex-disaggregated data for several fields.
- National Women's Education Center, Japan (an independent administrative institution) collects and organizes the data on women and family, and offers a large variety of databases over the internet.
- The Center for the Advancement of Working Women offers information about working women on the internet.
- Basic Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics approved by the Cabinet in 2007 includes the necessity to develop the statistics comprehensively and consistently along with the social and economic trends such as the change of family structure and the increasing requirement for Work-Life Balance, which is also the stressed viewpoint of gender equality perspective.
- National Statistics Center (an independent administrative institution), which is basically in charge of performing tabulation of basic national statistics, also works on behalf of various national and local government offices and agencies in tabulating various data and statistics to support the improvement of statistics for government departments, established statistical data archive and stated offering those statistical data to research institutions. The Center also has started compilation of tailor-made statistics, including gender statistics, for researchers and educational institutes to conduct academic research and statistical analysis compiled from anonymous survey data.

2.1.3. Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation

- The Gender Equality Bureau has been conducting the monitoring and Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation by disaggregate analysis using public data and ad-hoc surveys for the purpose. The analyses have been designed to investigate the gender gaps in their situations, views, needs, assesses to the public service and others.

The titles of the reports published recently are:

- Skills Development and Lifelong Learning Measures to Enable Diverse Choices (2007).
- Evaluation Regarding Support for Independent Lifestyles for the Elderly (2008).
- Men and Women Facing Living Difficulties in the New Social and Economic Situations (2009).

2.2. Future Development

The Council for Gender Equality, one of the important national policy council, submitted policy report on the next Basic Plan for Gender Equality in July 2010. The report includes the following points regarding gender statistics,

- The research and the analysis on unpaid work (such as household work, caring or nursing, child care, volunteer and social activities) are needed to improve during next 5 years.
 - Enhancement of the gender disaggregate statistics are needed.
 - Studies to redefine the process of Monitoring and Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation in Japan conciliating the international concept of Gender Responsive Budgeting.
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