

Investigation of Attitude toward Marriage and Family Formation

Although the previous investigation shows that many young people want to have a family with two or more children in the future, they cannot achieve the hope for marriage, pregnancy, and childbirth, and the rates of late marriage and lifetime non-marriage are becoming higher. This time, we surveyed the attitude toward marriage, pregnancy, childbirth and childrearing of married and never married people in their 20's and 30s in order to extract factors of their anxiety about marriage and analyze the social background.

<Do you want to have a boy/girlfriend?> (Figs. 1 and 2)

A percentage of 60.8% replies that they want to have a boy/girlfriend. The rate of answers, "I want to have a boy/girlfriend" is higher among those with high communication skills.

<Anxiety about dating> (Fig. 3)

The rate of answers, "I have no chance to meet a suitable partner" is the highest (55.5%), followed by "I think I am not attractive" (34.2%), and "I am worried about whether I can have a romantic feeling" (20.5%).

<Attitude toward marriage> (Fig. 4)

The rate of answers, "it is better to marry" (including "it is surely better to marry" and "it is better to marry if possible") is 68.1%: the rate of answers, "it is better to marry" is higher in men than women. In contrast, the rate of answers, "it needs not to marry" and "it is not necessarily to marry" is 30.9% in total.

<Influence of surrounding people on marriage> (Fig. 5)

The influence of friends and acquaintances is strong: the rate of answers, "my friends and acquaintances get married and have childbirth one after another" is 62.7%, followed by "I can see my friends have a happy marriage and family life" (50.5%), and "I hear the news of happy marriages from people around me" (41.3%).

<Woman's ideal way of working> (Fig. 6)

Women's answers:

A) In case of married women with no child, the rate of answers, "I want to work fulltime with

sometimes overwork" is 44.7%, followed by "I want work fulltime with no overtime" (32.3%).

- B) In case of women with the youngest child of 3 years or under, the rate of answers, "I do not want to work but concentrate on housework and childcare" is 44.8%, and "I want to work fulltime/part time/a side-job at home" is 53.9%: the latter is higher.
- C) In case of women with the youngest child of 4 years to preschool, the rate of answers, "I want to work part time" is 38.9%, followed by "I want to work flexible fulltime" (24.6%).
- D) In case of women with the youngest child of primary school age, the rate of answers, "I want to work part time" is 38.4%, followed by "I want to work flexible fulltime" (33.5%)
- E) In case of women with the youngest child of middle school age, the rate of answers, "I want to work fulltime with no overtime" is 33.8%, followed by "I want to work flexible fulltime" (33.7%).

<Factors of anxiety about childrearing> (Fig. 7)

The rate of answers, "I am worried about whether I can manage my family economically" is the highest (63.9%), and in the descending order, "it seems difficult to work while raising a child" (51.1%), "I have no confidence that I can bring up my child to a decent child" (40.7%), and "it seems hard to raise a child" (37.0%).

<Appropriate age to acquire medical knowledge about pregnancy and childbirth> (Fig. 8)

The rate of answers, "around the time while in middle and high schools" is the highest (38.6%), followed by "around the time while in a university (18 to 22 years old)" (35.5%): more than 70% replied that they should know while they are students.

*In this survey, "the medical knowledge of pregnancy and childbirth" means to understand that women's ability to become pregnant gradually declines around 30 years old, and that it becomes fairly difficult over 40 years old (source: Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology).

Fig. 1

Do you want to have a boy/girlfriend? (Never married persons without boy/girlfriend) <one item to be chosen> [by gender and age bracket]

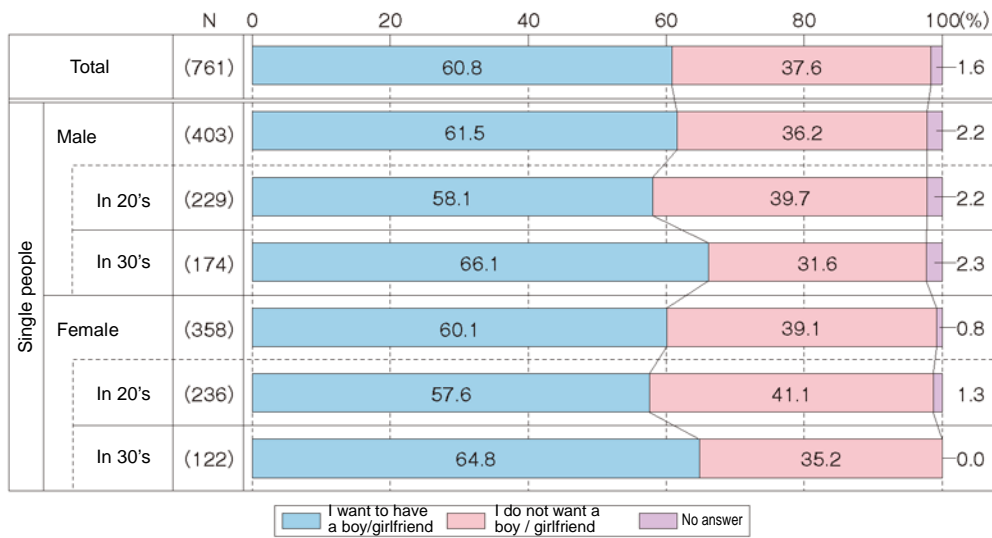
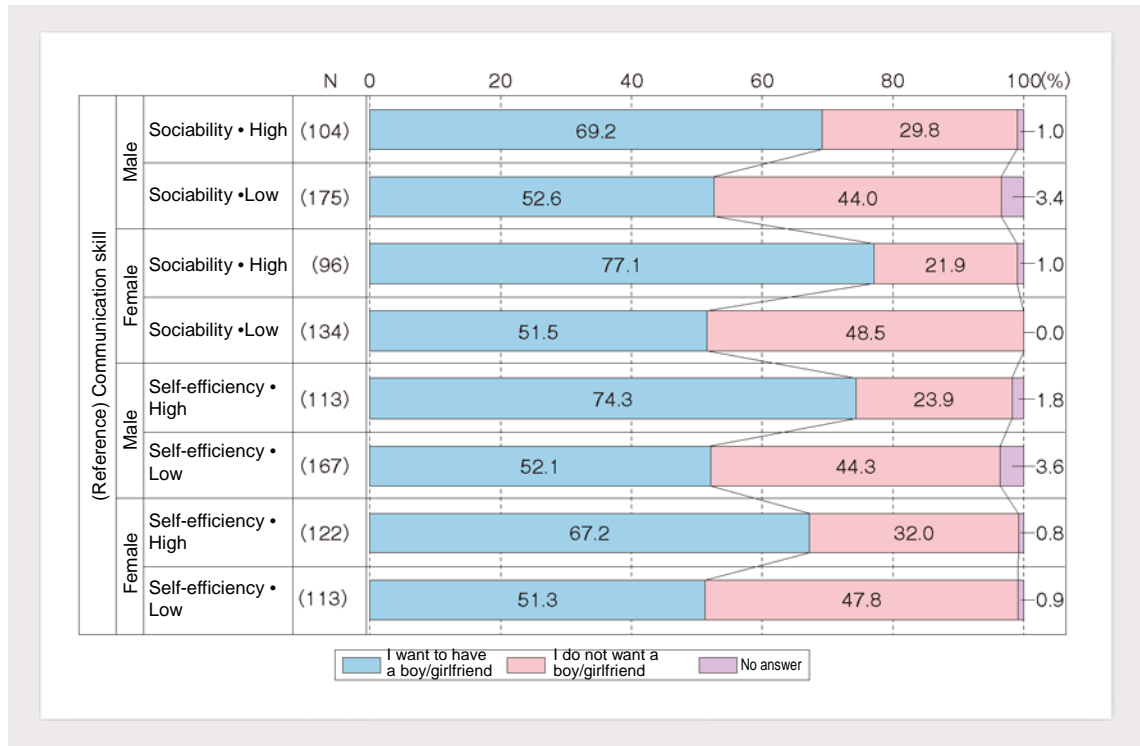


Fig. 2

Do you want a boy/girlfriend? (Never married person without no boy/girlfriend) <one item to be chosen> [by communication skill]



*Regarding communication skills
Based on the answers to the survey item “about yourself,” we did a factor analysis, extracted two factors (characteristics) and scored them: “sociability” (willingness to be involved in an interpersonal relationship) and “self-efficiency”

(evaluation of whether a person can act so as to be needed by other people).
Then, we divided the mean values of “sociability” and “self-efficiency” into three levels: high, intermediate, and low (about one third of the respondents belong to one of them). The following table shows higher and lower groups.

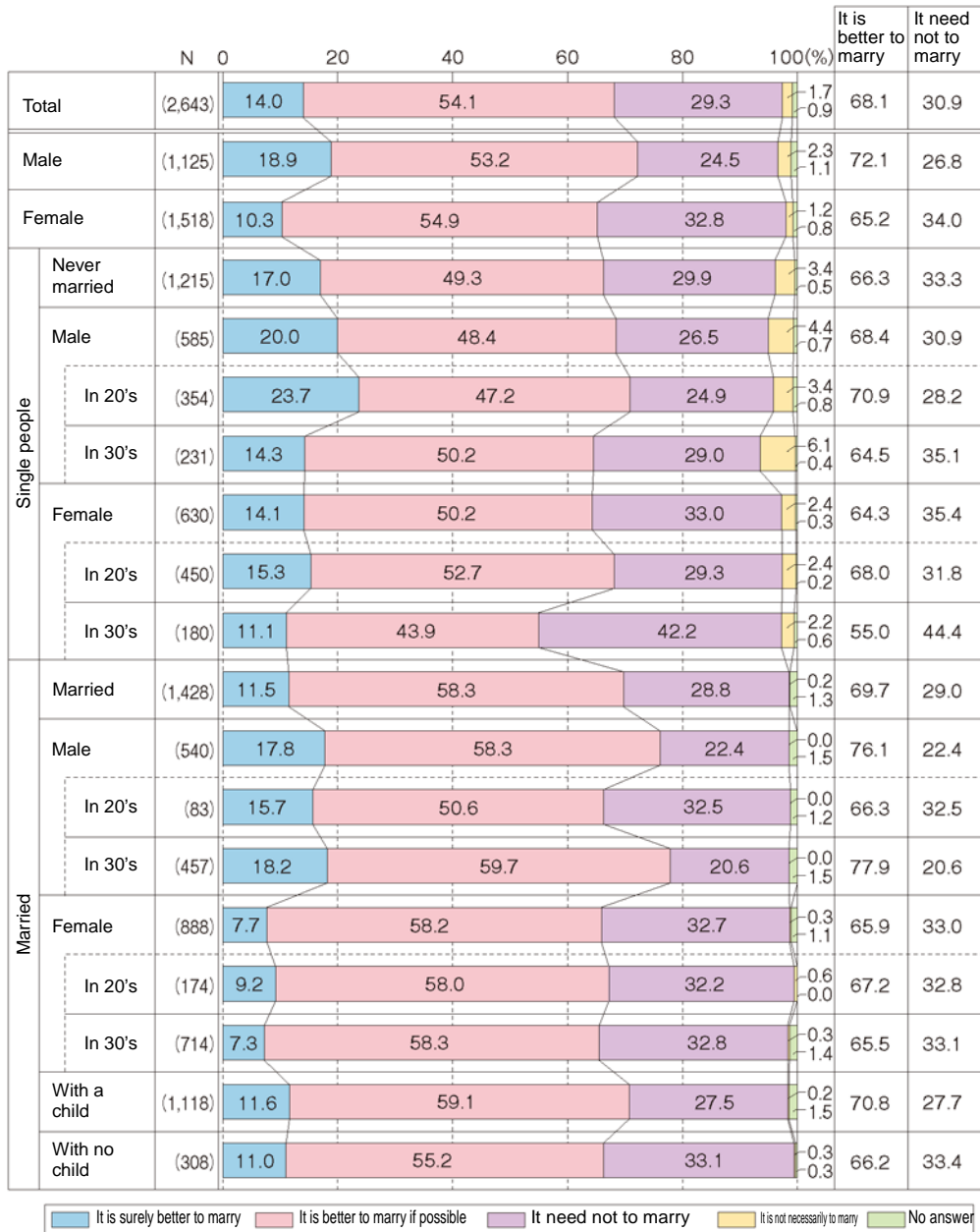
Fig. 3

Anxiety about dating (Never married persons with no boy/girlfriend) <multiple answers> [by gender/age bracket]

		N	There is a person who attracts my attention but I don't know how to speak to.	I don't know how to build a romantic relationship with my friend.	I don't know how to go on a date.	I am afraid to go on a date.	I lost my love before, so I think I would lose again.	I don't think I am charming.	I am anxious whether I can have romantic feelings.	I have no opportunity to encounter.	Others	No answer
Total		(761)	20.0	18.4	19.8	12.0	8.0	34.2	20.5	55.5	12.9	8.4
Single people	Male	(403)	21.6	21.6	20.3	12.4	8.4	32.8	16.6	52.4	12.9	10.4
	In 20's	(229)	22.7	24.0	20.5	14.4	7.0	33.2	14.4	51.1	10.5	11.8
	In 30's	(174)	20.1	18.4	20.1	9.8	10.3	32.2	19.5	54.0	16.1	8.6
	Female	(358)	18.2	14.8	19.3	11.5	7.5	35.8	24.9	58.9	12.8	6.1
	In 20's	(236)	18.6	14.8	19.5	11.4	5.5	39.0	23.7	60.6	12.7	6.4
In 30's	(122)	17.2	14.8	18.9	11.5	11.5	29.5	27.0	55.7	13.1	5.7	
										1 st	2 nd	3 rd

Fig. 4

Attitude toward marriage (all respondents) <one item to be chosen> [by gender and marital status (by gender and age bracket)]



*The total of answers "it is better to marry" includes "it is surely better to marry" and "it is better to marry if possible."

The total of answers "it need not to marry" includes "it need not to marry necessarily."

Fig. 5

Influence of surrounding people on intention of marriage (the never married) <multiple answers> [by gender and age bracket]

(%)

N		My parents recommend me to marry	My colleagues at work ask me about marriage	My friends, acquaintances and neighbors ask me about marriage	My friends and acquaintances get married and have childbirth one after another	I can see my friends' happy marriage life	I hear about happy marriages from people around me	Others	I am not strongly conscious of marriage	No answer	
Total	(1,215)	30.1	26.4	30.8	62.7	50.5	41.3	1.2	17.6	2.3	
Single people	Male	(585)	29.4	26.2	29.9	53.0	41.5	30.8	0.7	23.9	2.1
	In 20's	(354)	23.7	20.1	28.0	50.6	43.5	33.6	0.3	24.9	2.8
	In 30's	(231)	38.1	35.5	32.9	56.7	38.5	26.4	1.3	22.5	0.9
	Female	(630)	30.8	26.7	31.6	71.7	58.9	51.1	1.7	11.7	2.5
	In 20's	(450)	28.7	26.4	31.6	70.9	59.1	52.7	1.6	11.3	1.6
	In 30's	(180)	36.1	27.2	31.7	73.9	58.3	47.2	2.2	12.8	5.0
								1 st	2 nd	3 rd	