

NWEC

NEWSLETTER

A Biannual Publication of the National Women's Education Center of Japan

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES 2000



The National Women's Education Center held the "International Forum on Women's and Gender Studies 2000" from August 3 (Thursday) to 6 (Sunday), 2000. This forum was carried out responding to the success of the Special Session of the UN General Assembly, "Women 2000" convened in June, 2000. The purpose was to exchange information on the issues and results in various kinds of research, education and practical activities relating to women's and gender studies and women's empowerment, and to promote building both domestic and foreign networks, aiming to realize global gender equality and advancement of women and to establish the activity for empowerment and human rights of women in the 21st century. This project was co-sponsored with the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) and supported by the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The theme was "Gender Equality, Development and

Peace toward the 21st Century", and the program of this forum consisted of,

- ① 104 independently organized workshops, which had been enlisted from all over the country, on results and issues of day-to-day research, education and practices relating to women's empowerment, women's and gender studies, and
- ② the programs provided by the organizer focusing to offer the latest global information on gender studies.

The number of participants with the interest in women's and gender studies from all parts of the country and abroad amounted to 1736 (female: 1612, male 124). Regarding occupation, 35% were related to groups and organizations, 20% of government employees, 6% of teachers and 4% of professors and researchers. As for age, forties and fifties accounted for more than half (forties: 24%, fifties: 32%).



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Vol.17 No.2, February 2001

1. The program provided by the organizer

(1) Keynote Report: “Result and Strategy of the Women 2000”

*Lecturer, Mavic Cabrera-Balleza
Isis International Manila’s Communication Programme (the Philippines)*
*Lecturer, Hiroko Hashimoto
Professor of Jumonji University/ Member of Organizing Committee of this forum*
*Coordinator, Makiko Arima
President of the Yokohama Women’s Association for Communication and Networking / Chairperson of Organizing Committee of this forum*
The report on the “Women 2000” was made and information on both domestic and foreign strategies in future were provided.



(2) International workshops

The forum held in the wake of the success of the “Women 2000” featured workshops organized by a foreign specialist, a Japanese specialist and coordinator around one of the following eight themes from the Twelve Critical Areas of Concern listed in the Platform for Action in the Fourth World Conference on Women.

<A: Women and economy>

*Foreign specialist, Janice Goodson Foerde
ICDA International Consultant (Denmark)*
*Japanese specialist, Naohiko Jinno
Professor of Tokyo University*
*Coordinator, Keiko Imai
Professor of Sophia University*
Gender equality issues under globalization were examined from the viewpoint of economy.

<B: Education of women>

*Foreign specialist, Chung Sei-wha
Professor of Pool Gakuin University (Korea)*
*Japanese specialist, Kazuhiro Okuyama
Director of Guidance, Planning Division of Lifelong Learning, Shizuoka Prefectural Board of Education*

*Coordinator, Atsuko Kameda
Professor of Jumonji University*
Measures and issues toward gender free education including school education were discussed.

<C: Violence against women>

*Foreign specialist, Camena Guneratne
Senior Lecturer of Open University of Sri Lanka*
*Japanese specialist, Keiko Kondo
Representative of the Women’s Space On*
*Coordinator, Yoko Shoji
Professor of Rikkyo University*
Future measures were sought after particularly learning the actual state of domestic violence and the practical activities to support victims.

<D: Institutional mechanisms for advancement of women>

*Foreign specialist, Philippa Hall
Deputy Director-General, Department for Women, NSW (Australia)*
*Japanese specialist, Takashi Ebashi,
Professor of Hosei University*
*Coordinator, Hiroko Hashimoto
Professor of Jumonji University*
Issues of institutional systems were sought from the perspective of policy planning, budget analysis and influence survey, on the basis of gender equal standpoint to realize advancement of women.

<E: Women and media>

Foreign specialist, Mavic Cabrera-Balleza
Japanese specialist, Kaori Hayashi, Lecturer of
Seikei University
Coordinator, Yasuko Muramatsu
Professor of Tokyo Gakugei University/ Member of
Organizing Committee of this forum

Considering the situation of mass media and ICT (a new communication technology) in recent years, the meaning for women to have access to the media, the way to secure women's sending information and communication and the way to change mass media were reported and discussed.

<F: Women and health>

Foreign specialist, Catherine Crone Coburn
President of Management Science for Health
(MSH) (USA)
Japanese specialist, Kiyoko Ikegami
Resource Mobilization Officer of International
Planned Parenthood Federation Head Office
Coordinator, Tomoko Sakota

Commentator of Japan Broadcasting Corporation
(NHK)/ Member of Organizing Committee of this
forum

The way to perceive and promote reproductive health and rights was mainly discussed.

<G: Human rights of women>

Foreign specialist, Suteera Thomson
President of Gender and Development Research
Institute (Thailand)
Japanese specialist, Yasuko Yamashita
Professor of Bunkyo Women's University
Coordinator, Yoko Hayashi
Lawyer

The Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was focused particularly among wide ranging issues concerning "Human rights of women".

<H: Women in power and decision-making >

Foreign specialist, Azza Karam
Program Manager of Queen's University Ethnic
Conflict Research Centre (Egypt)
Japanese specialist: Kimiko Kubo
Secretary-General of the Ichikawa Fusae Memorial
Association
Coordinator: Atsushi Shibuya
Professor of Ibaraki University/ Member of
Organizing Committee of this forum

This workshop on women's political participation on the global level mainly focused on ways to send women to the legislative assembly.

(3) International Symposium "Measures to realize gender equality, development and peace toward the 21st century"

Foreign specialists:
six foreign specialists of the International
workshops

Japanese specialist:
Mitchiko Nakamura, Chairperson of the National
Women's Committee of the United Nations NGOs /
Member of Organizing Committee of this forum

Coordinator:
Makiko Arima

Based on the discussion in each international workshop, six foreign specialists and Japanese specialist Ms. Nakamura presented their opinions on the actual state, issues and future plan of measures for gender equality, development and peace toward the 21st century. Each specialist was asked from the floor on how men may be made to participate in the measures. "Gender analysis is to study conditions of both men and women, and needs and viewpoints of both WID and gender". "It is important to change men's way of thinking in the first place, particularly the men engaged in the administration of justice should be appealed". "Men should be made to recognize that the establishment of women's rights is also beneficial for them". "Gender sensitivity is a kind of study so it requires learning and practice" were some of the opinions.

2. Independently organized workshops

Independently organized workshops were carried out not only to make presentation on result of day-to-day women's and gender studies or activities as well as to exchange information on research, but also to provide an opportunity to reconsider their own research and activities aiming for the next step up.

104 workshops were enlisted from 38 administrative divisions of Japan and from abroad (Korea).

"Research in Gender and Women's Issues" was chosen as the theme by most workshops (15) followed by "Violence against Women" (12), "Family, home and children" (11), "Women and Labor" (10), "Education and Learning for Women", "Policies for Women", "Gender equality in School Education" (8 each). (See Table of p.5 for the list of workshops for this fiscal year) Figure of p.4 shows the change in numbers of workshops held from 1996.

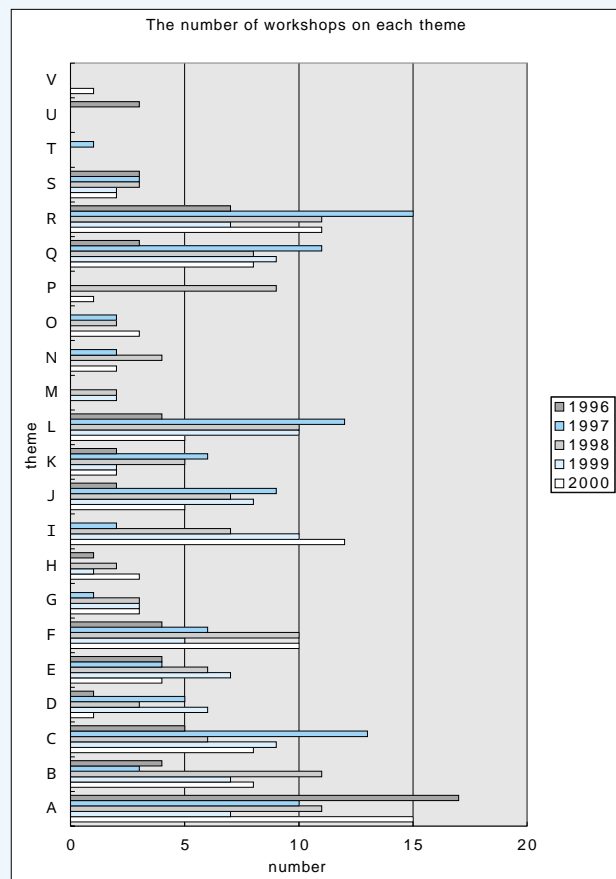


Workshops with themes such as “Policies for Women” and “Women’s Participation in Political Decision-making” particularly attracted many participants, who exchanged views and information earnestly in the workshop.

Furthermore, the workshop on “Men’s magazines and gender” with the theme of men’s studies and men’s issues was conducted for the first time since the forum started.

Various methods were applied in managing workshops, many of which included participatory learning such as performances of a skit and a cross talk, role play and collaborate works in groups besides one-sided reports and raising of issues by the workshop managers.

Importance of empowerment in conducting effective exchange of research was suggested as some workshop manager noted that the success depended on ability of a manager in titling a workshop to attract participants and in contriving intents, methods and handouts.



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|--|---------------------------------------|
| A Research in Gender and Women's Issues | K Women and the Media |
| B Education and Learning for Women | L Women and Expression |
| C Policies for Women | M Women's Information |
| D Women's Facilities | N GO and NGO Collaboration |
| E Women's Participation in Decision-making Processes | O Networking |
| F Women and Labour | P Group Activity Reports |
| G Women and an Aging Society | Q Gender Equality in School Education |
| H Women and Human Rights | R Families, Home, Children |
| I Violence against Women | S Women and Development |
| J Women's Bodies and Sexuality | T Women and Environment |
| | U Women's History |
| | V Men's Studies & Men's Issues |



3. “Special exhibition on the Women 2000”

Wide variety of materials on the 2000 were collected and exhibited, sponsored by the Prime Minister’s Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UNIC, and cooperated by NGO organizations in Japan.

The “Women’s and Gender Studies Forum” aims to step up to the second stage in the next fiscal year, and to become more substantial as the site for exchanging studies combining “Study”, “Education” and “Practical activities”.



(Chieko KOBAYASHI, Specialist, Programme Division, NWEC/Kazue AOKI, Chief, International Exchange Unit, Information and Interantional Exchange Division, NWEC)

LIST OF THE INDEPENDENTLY ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS

1	Research in Gender and Women's Issues	55	Building better relationships between survivors of sexual abuse and their supporters
2	Let's try a "Gender Check"	56	Human rights & domestic violence (DV)
3	Sexism - A graphical interpretation of the structure and the mechanism of gender discrimination. How to read "MANDALA of Women's Life"	57	Training Program for Teachers on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Schools
4	Women and Sports : Issues for the 21st century - derived from publishing White Papers on Women and Sports	58	Report on a course entitled "Stop Domestic Violence against Women and Children" planned by citizens of Toyama - Women who became active after attending a DV course
5	"Women 2000" in the eyes of Hexen (meaning witch)	59	Video-based discussion - Using a video of the UNIFEM Videoconference on Domestic Violence of March 8th, 1999
6	A Pictorial Interpretation of "The Basic Law for a Gender-equal Society"?	60	Let's expand the National Campaign against Violence against Women
7	Beautiful life? - Days you want to spend with your partner	61	Thinking about how to prevent violence against women
8	Difficult decisions we have to make - The status of self-determination for women today and suggestions	62	"Women and men: what they learn from home" from the viewpoint of domestic violence
9	Talking about diet	63	Discussion on concrete measures against sexual harassment on campus
10	Beyond Gender - Body and Mind	64	Workshop on education for the prevention of sexual violence in school "Date Rape, the Body and Violence "
11	Millennium International Women's Forum		
12	Are advice columns none of your business?		
13	Women's studies from a TA (Transactional Analysis) perspective		
14	Colour-coding children : An examination of children's early learning environment		
15	Health maintenance throughout a woman's lifecycle, prevention of obesity and personal walking programmes		
16	Education and Learning for Women		
17	Hobbies and gender - A case study of "trainspotters"		
18	Problems encountered on women's issues courses - Thinking about the goals of courses at women's centers		
19	Let's compare Mrs. Akiko Yosano's theories on education with gender education today		
20	Reaching beyond the "walls of ice" to think about lifelong education		
21	Discover your true feelings - A special workshop about self-expression training		
22	Foreign women in Japan & support in Japanese language learning		
23	"What is women's studies?"		
24	Create a "Gender Sensitivity" program		
25	Advance women's health empowerment through gender sensitivity training		
26	Policies for Women		
27	Policies for women in "my" city - Action plans, enlightenment programmes, women's centers and citizens' participation		
28	Activities of an independent group attempting to formulate a Basic Ordinance for Gender Equality in Meguro Ward		
29	Is the Law on Non Profit Organization gender sensitive? - What changes when organizations receive NPO status and what remains the same?		
30	Let's write a "Citizens' Ordinance on Gender Equality" in our own words		
31	Takatsuki citizens' proposal for an "Ordinance on the Promotion of Gender Equality Takatsuki City"		
32	Measures to make Ordinances on the Promotion of Gender Equality more personal - reflecting citizens' opinions in the Mie Prefectural Ordinance on the Promotion of Gender Equality		
33	Stand-up comedy "Women and Pensions"		
34	A gender-free perspective on nursery nursing (Part2) Fresel Nursing		
35	Women's Facilities		
36	Childcare facilities at women's centers - How do we fare today?		
37	Women's Participation in Decision-making Processes		
38	Positive and spontaneous involvement in public affairs - What we learned from a questionnaire about a gender-equal society		
39	"Back-up School Kagoshima Seminars" - The first female Prefectural Assembly Member elected in Japan came from Kagoshima		
40	"What it's like to stand as a candidate" - Getting women prepared for municipal elections		
41	"Creating a city based on citizen participation" in Ise City - Creating a town in which women (I) want to live		
42	Women and Labour		
43	Investigating NET-based businesses: Women's voices on women's business		
44	"Convenience store for information on women - franchise opportunities!" - A businesslike approach to women's issues		
45	Creating our own new work rules		
46	What changes has "The Revised Equal Employment Opportunity Law" brought to working women?		
47	Equal treatment for part-time workers		
48	Gender discrimination in workplace		
49	"We can! - Women can do anything!" - Challenging the trades!		
50	Woman farmers' group activities - A case study of a city in Fukuoka Prefecture		
51	Working women in Korea : Now and in the future		
52	Work and Child Raising		
53	Women and an Aging Society		
54	Aging and women - A gender-free perspective of the aging process		
55	Photo exhibition "Wonderful Elderly People" Photos by Takeko Saguchi		
56	Raising the social status of home helpers - Reports on the results of a survey of people's attitudes towards home helpers		
57	Women and Human Rights		
58	Progress made in establishing Women's Rights - Plans for the 36th Koshigaya Convention on Motherhood		
59	FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) - Women, human rights and violence		
60	Strengthening the Convention on the Elimination of All for Forms Discrimination against Women		
61	Violence against Women		
62	Violence against women		
63	Symposium - Potential and limitations for cooperation between counseling services for the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence (DV)		
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NWEC TRAINING COURSE FOR INFORMATION PROCESSING ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

The National Women's Education Center has conducted the "NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women's Issues" annually since the fiscal 1989, and the 12th was held during this fiscal year.

This course is conducted as part of Official Development Assistance. Inviting specialists on women's education and women's information in Asia-Pacific nations, the course aims to learn the technique of analyzing and collecting enlightening information on women's issues as well as utilizing information media through the study of information processing technology. It is also aimed at promoting mutual understanding and to promote building women's information network on women's issues in the region.

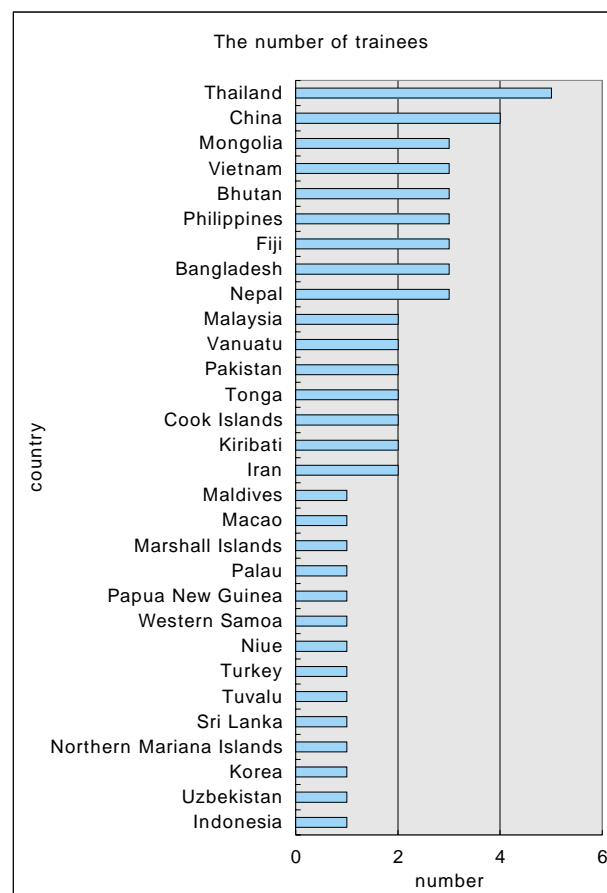
required to send information including compiling a Web page. In addition to training in information processing technology experiencing Japanese culture such as a tea ceremony party and a home visit are included in the programme.

With the remarkable development of information technology today it has been claimed that information training should be reconsidered to meet the rapid change. As a consequence a new training programme is scheduled to start from the next fiscal year, targeting instructors of GO and NGO in Asia-Pacific countries including Japan. Although the number of trainees and the details of curriculums are still under consideration, the training project aims at constructing an information network to realize the global empowerment of women.



In the fiscal 1989, four trainees from ESCAP member countries were invited to participate in the first sixty-day programme. Since fiscal 1996, the number of trainees increased to six and the training period was reduced to forty days. Since the fiscal 1993 the target countries were expanded to all ODA recipient countries in Asia-Pacific including associate members of ESCAP. To date thirty countries have participated including Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, West Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Macao, the Cook Islands, Niue, the North Mariana Islands and Uzbekistan. A total of fifty-eight trainees have participated in the project.

The content of the training programme is intended to meet the development of information technology. At first, the use of software such as Word and Excel was focused, but recently the focus was on introducing skills



(Kazue AOKI, Chief, International Exchange Unit, Information and International Exchange Division, NWECS)

SURVEY REPORT

“HAVE CHILDREN CHANGED?”

(EXCERPTS FROM ‘MONOGRAPH SERIES SHOGAKUSEI NOW, VOL.19-3’*)

This survey was conducted by a group lead by Prof. Fukaya Masashi of Tokyo Seitoku Junior College in June and July 1999. The purpose was to probe the change of children’s activities and thoughts in recent twenty years, comparing with the survey of 1980 (nine surveys conducted from 1979 to 1982 were combined into one). Total of 1620 school children (848 boys, 758 girls and 14 unidentified) from fourth to sixth grade living in Tokyo, Kanagawa and Chiba Prefectures were chosen to respond to the questionnaires. The outline of the survey focusing on the heading “Gender at School” will follow.

(*edited by the Benesse Educational Research Center, and published by Benesse Corporation, February 2000)

1. Daily life

(1) Study, play, and a sense of fulfillment

Children who answered they “enjoyed” “playing with friends after school” very much increased to 68 % in 1999 from 51 % in 1980.

(2) Eating habits (concerning hunger, pleasure of having meals, etc.)

2. Food

(1) Children’s favorite food

(2) Children’s share of housework

Comparing 1999 with 1980, it can be said that children became more helpful at home in the limited time they have. (Chart 1) Various reasons can be applied such as the fact that children are brought up with discipline at home and the increase of working couples.

3. Life experience and the concept of gender roles

(1) Life experience

Children who “rarely” peeled apples and pears increased to 35 % from 22 %. In the same context those who “rarely” carry a baby (sister or brother) on their backs increased to 45 % from 27 %, which shows that children have less life experiences.

(2) Fighting experience

In the 1980 survey, experience of fighting tended to decrease with age. On the contrary, the 1990 survey shows the tendency to increase with age in almost all items.

(3) Gender in school

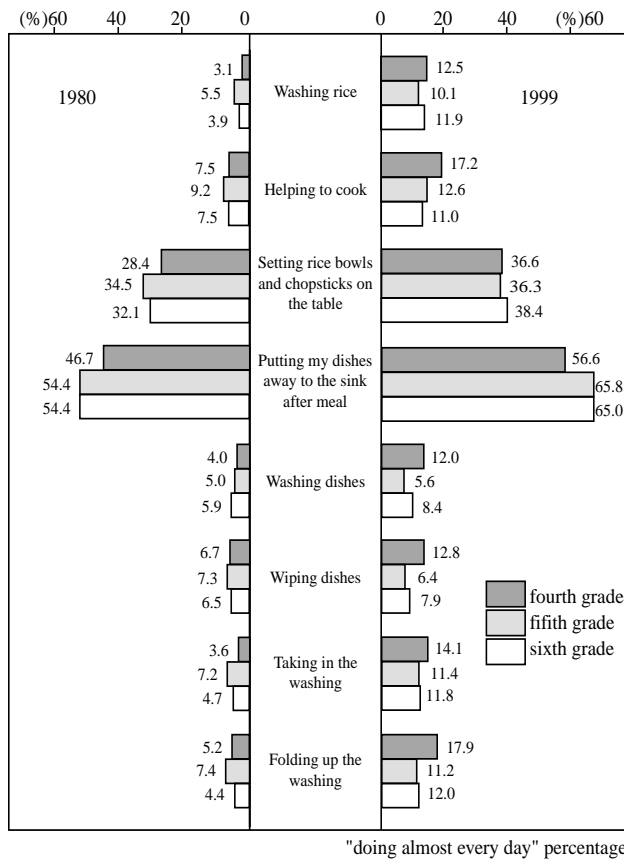
“There are various jobs in school. Do you think the following work is for boys, or for girls, or are you undecided?” This question was asked on eight items. It is interesting that “publishing class newspaper”, showed the reverse of gender role. Children who thought the job was “for girls” increased in 1999 compared to 1980 when it was considered a “for boys”. The gender ratio almost reversed when “undecided” was not included.

The answers were then separately examined by sex. Children show the tendency to think one’s own gender suits oneself in both sexes. (Chart 2) Children who were “undecided” increased from 40 to 50 %, however, which suggests the tendency to disapprove gendered role. Girls who were “undecided” on “serving school lunch” which is an activity that relates directly to housework was the lowest at 28 %. Almost 70 % of girls and about half boys consider “serving school lunch” is a job “for girls”. Compared to 1980, the similar change is seen for both boys and girls. It can be said that gendered bias on roles in classroom tends to disappear. Such items as “publishing class newspaper”, “cleaning the classroom” and “passing out handouts” show a larger change.

To examine roles in school by grades, an interesting result shows up. (Chart 3) Children who were “undecided” about “cleaning the classroom” “being in charge of lending out books” and “passing out handouts” increased with age, and reached 60 % in sixth grade children. The number of children who believe “serving school lunch” is a job “for girls” does not change much, but those who were “undecided” increased while those who thought it was a job “for boys” decreased. It was anticipated that the concept of gender-free would expand with growth overcoming typical view on gendered role of middle grades schoolchildren. Nevertheless, children who thought “secretary of class meetings” is a job “for girls” increased while those who thought it is “for boys” and “undecided” decreased. The number reversed for “chairperson of class meetings” and “representative member of class committee”. Conventional division of gender role in classroom is still preserved, and seems to strengthen with age. That is, the concept of a stereotyped gender role either for a girl or boy role will be modified with age to accepting a gender-free concept. However, the concept of primary and supportive role divisions by gender will certainly remain.

(4) Housework and role at home

Chart 1 Children's share of housework × grade



4. Enjoyment of school life

(1) Atmosphere of classroom

(2) Relationship with teachers

Children who said their "teacher gives a lot of homework" decreased to 42% from 52%, while "teacher gives advice" increased to 50% from 29%. It shows the increase in teachers who act more as counselors.

5. Future for children (about attachment to hometown, expectation for higher education, future job, future life, future of Japan)

6. Sense of happiness and self-image

(1) Change in the sense of happiness

Children who feel the sense of happiness accounted for 58% (the number who chose "very much" and "considerably") in 1980, but decreased by 14% down to 44% in 1999. The fact that both boys and girls show the similar change suggests the children's sense of happiness diminished considerably. Examined separately, the sense of happiness of girls exceeds that of boys both in 1999 (boys: 38%, girls: 50%) and in 1980 (boys: 53%, girls: 64%).

(2) Change in the self-image

Chart 2 Concept of gender role at school (classroom) × sex

		b o y s						g i r l s					
		absolutely + Comparatively for boys		undecided	comparatively + absolutely for girls		absolutely + Comparatively for boys		undecided	comparatively + absolutely for girls			
		1980	1999		1980	1999	1980	1999		1980	1999		
Serving school lunch	1980	14.6	39.2	46.2	3.2	25.8	71.0						
	1999	10.5	41.2	48.3	3.2	27.9	68.9						
Secretary of class meetings	1980	20.2	31.5	48.3	3.3	21.6	75.1						
	1999	16.0	38.9	45.1	7.8	35.3	56.9						
Cleaning the classroom	1980	7.1	31.7	61.2	8.2	39.3	52.5						
	1999	17.2	46.4	36.4	11.1	43.2	45.7						
Publishing class newspaper	1980	41.7	42.3	16.0	29.1	54.2	16.7						
	1999	19.0	44.9	36.1	13.1	44.2	42.7						
Being in charge of lending out books	1980	22.8	49.9	27.3	13.4	47.7	38.9						
	1999	22.9	44.9	32.2	15.6	46.0	38.4						
Passing out handouts	1980	11.9	53.1	35.0	3.9	54.7	41.4						
	1999	25.4	54.9	19.7	20.3	53.3	26.4						
Representative member of class committee	1980	49.4	40.4	10.2	22.2	57.1	20.7						
	1999	41.1	44.7	14.2	26.7	46.1	27.2						
Chairperson of class meetings	1980	62.7	28.6	8.7	45.9	42.5	11.6						
	1999	44.2	39.0	16.8	36.3	42.5	21.2						

Chart 3 Concept of gender role at school (classroom) × grade

		fourth grade			fifth grade			sixth grade		
		1980	1999		1980	1999		1980	1999	
Serving school lunch	1980	50.2	57.4	66.2						
	1999	58.2	60.4	55.9						
Secretary of class meetings	1980	54.5	58.1	70.8						
	1999	41.5	51.2	58.3						
Cleaning the classroom	1980	61.7	58.0	51.3						
	1999	41.4	44.7	36.6						
Publishing class newspaper	1980	24.8	8.9	16.9						
	1999	36.9	40.4	41.1						
Being in charge of lending out books	1980	34.5	29.4	35.2						
	1999	40.7	34.8	31.0						
Passing out handouts	1980	40.9	38.6	34.4						
	1999	31.5	22.2	16.0						
Representative member of class committee	1980	25.9	9.1	11.7						
	1999	22.6	24.7	14.3						
Chairperson of class meetings	1980	16.5	5.8	8.9						
	1999	23.3	21.5	12.0						

Percentage of "comparatively" + "absolutely" for girls

WOMEN'S CENTER IN JAPAN

KOCHI WOMEN'S CENTER

The Kochi Women's Center opened on Feb. 2nd in 1999, co-established and co-managed by Kochi Prefecture and Kochi City. Nicknamed "Sole" (an award winning name through a public contest) suggesting the image of the sun and a cheerful and lively woman in Italian and a shouting to get things started in Japanese, the Center aims to create a gender-equal society responding to the passionate wish of women.

Since then, almost a hundred thousand citizens of Kochi Prefecture have utilized the Center. The "Sole Festival" is held at the end of every January in memory of the opening, featuring lectures and various kinds of voluntary events by groups registered with the Center, to contribute to learning and exchange of citizens and women action groups in the prefecture.

Kochi Prefecture and Kochi City decided to co-establish the Center after calls from citizens for a base for women's activities and, after the input of the prefecture, city, constructors and users, Sole was established.

As for the operating body, the prefecture and the city jointly established a foundation. Eleven staff members including three dispatched from the prefecture and the city work in the foundation at present. The center carries out various projects utilizing four functions of the center, namely providing "Information", "Training", "Exchange" and "Consultation". The facility is open to all and is rented out to groups that aim to respond to the needs of the times and diverse values.

- ① Information: Providing information through the Internet, lending service of books, publishing enlightening journals and information papers, and carrying out research.
- ② Training: Holding lecture meetings and seminars with the purpose of enlightening consciousness and developing abilities.
- ③ Exchange: Supporting exchange activities and voluntary activities, promoting international exchange and network.
- ④ Consultation: Consulting various problems and troubles of women (with general, legal and mental advices).

To cope with the problem of violence against women, which has drawn attention recently, the center joined the network of enlightening activities on human rights in the prefecture to cooperate with other organizations concerned. Furthermore, the center joined the "Women's Mind and Body,

Nationwide Telephone Consulting" project for the first time in this fiscal year, and was sought advice from people both in and out of the prefecture.

Women's problems are varied and expanding to many areas. Since the problems originate largely in consciousness and social conventions of people, it is important for each person in the prefecture to consider and tackle problems as one's own, along with the support of the government. Reviewing what was taken for granted in the past, the Sole will carry out projects to solve women's problems and to promote women's participation in society, in cooperation with the citizens of the prefecture with the objective to realize a gender-equal society in which both women and men live independent and rewarding lives.



Outline of the center

Name

Kochi Women's Center, "Sole"
Ferroconcrete buildings, the five storied south wing and the three storied north wing
 Tel 088-873-9100 Fax 088-873-9292

Address

3-115 Asahimachi Kochi-shi Kochi-ken, 780-0935

Open

Mondays to Fridays (except Wednesdays, national holidays and December 29 through January 3)
 9:00 to 21:00

Saturdays • Sundays

9:00 to 17:00

Facilities

Library, Conference Rooms, Nursery, Communication Room, Printing Room, Work Room, Lecture Hall, Training Rooms, Practice Kitchen, Japanese-style Rooms, Audio Visual Room, Recreation Room, Tea Corner, Office, and two rooms for branch offices of the prefecture.



PUBLICATIONS

1. Women & families in rural Japan

(Edited by Masae Tsutsumi. Published in 2000 by Tsukuba-Shobo. 141 pages. ISBN 481190186X.)

This publication is based on reports presented at the 9th World Congress of Rural Sociology, held in Romania in 1996, and at the 1998 Obihiro Asia and the Pacific Seminar on Education for Rural Development (OASERD), held in Japan. Each contributor to this collection of essays shares common interests in agricultural regional research and in particular the families taking part in the study. Accordingly, we hope that this publication may help to clarify the actual state of rural women and families in Japan today. This is a collection of specialized these concerning agricultural sociology and family sociology research in Japan.



In this publication, emphasis will be placed on agriculture, families and the lifestyles of women in Japan since the Second World War, and we will attempt to clarify the current state and problems of Japanese rural society. In particular, a gender aspect has been introduced to the analysis of rural women, and we have tried to make

proposals aimed at solving some of their problems. We hope to pave the way to new knowledge regarding rural families by conducting analysis using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Accordingly, this publication is composed of two parts. The first part looks at problems in the “Mura”, “Ie” and lifestyle of rural society, and analyzes the various problems of policy and farm-administrated businesses from gender viewpoint. The second part deals with the analysis of continuity and change in stem family systems, the family form peculiar to Japan, using the results of long-term repeated surveys. In particular, we will consider changes in rural society, agricultural management scale, family ideology, and the roles and feelings of women.

Each research theme still requires further theoretic examination and investigation. However, it can be said that this is representative of substantiated research into Japanese agriculture, families and women. In recent

years, many overseas researchers have sought Japanese research in these fields. We have published this book in the hope that we may help to fill this demand to a small degree.

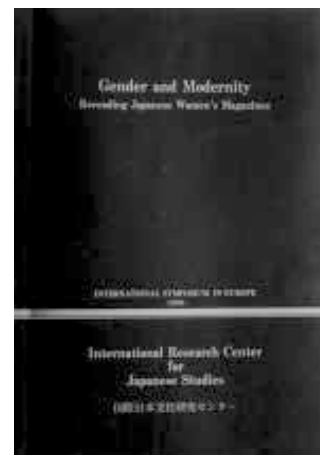
<...Extract from Foreword>

2. Gender and modernity : rereading Japanese women's magazines

(Edited by Ulrike Wöhr, Barbara Hamill Sato, Suzuki Sadami. Published in 2000 by the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. 187 pages.)

The present publication represents the proceedings of the European International Symposium held at Leuven Katholieke Universiteit in Belgium, October 10-12, 1998. The symposium itself was comprised of a General Session, titled “Translation of Culture and Culture of Translation”, and two subsidiary session: one a workshop on women's magazines; the other, a symposium on the reappraisal of the Belgian Botanist Dodoens. The present publication contains the papers delivered in the session on women's magazines, titled “Gender and Modernity : Women's Magazines”. Publications of the proceedings of other panels are forthcoming.

All the participants approached the workshop having read each others' papers beforehand so that they came equipped with comments and questions that made for a most lively and sharp discussion. Participants from Japan included Harald Fuess, Ishikawa Yoshimi, Muta Kazue, Barbara Hamill Sato, Suzuki Sadami, Takeuchi Keiko, Ulrike



Wöhr. The six panelists from Europe were Margaret Beetham, Joke Hermes, Barbara Holthus, Andrea Germer, Hilaria Gössmann, and Fleur Woss. Fleur Woss was unable to submit comments for the proceedings, Usui Atsuko's incisive comments, however, are a welcome addition to the publication.

It gives me great pleasure that the participants in the session on “Gender and Modernity : Women's Magazines” in the first International Symposium in Europe have worked together to synthesize the fruits of

their research to produce this most worthwhile book. The ideas and themes first raised at this session all continue to be topics of contemporary research and also point the way for future scholarship. The book is a welcome contribution to our field.

<...Extract from Preface>

Contents:

“Japanese women’s magazines : between indoctrination and pleasure, intellectual history and popular culture” “Discourses on media and modernity : criticism of Japanese women’s magazines in the 1920s and early 1930s” “Media, modernity and gender” “The emergence of women’s mass magazines and the formation of a new reading culture in early twenties’ Japan”

“Women’s magazines and the tradition of confessional writing in Japan” “Home, the school and the middle class : paternal narratives of child rearing in Fujin no tomo, 1908-1926” “Changes in the female roles of wife and mother as seen in the women’s magazines of a Japanese new religion before and after World War II” “Images of women and the family in PL Kyodan, and the significance of religious women’s magazines” “Continuity and change in Japanese feminist magazines : Fujin sensen (1930-31) and onna erosu (1973-82) “Analyzing Fujin sensen and Onna erosu within the context of the feminist movement in Japan” “Sexuality, body images and social change in Japanese women’s magazines in the 1970s and 1980s” “The complexity of sexuality, and Kurowassan” “Continuity and change : the Japanese woman’s magazine and the practice of cultural history”

Introducing NWECE

1. Publications

(1) WINET Information No. 6 (in Japanese)

This magazine focuses on information pertaining to books and materials housed in the Information Center for Women’s Education, and their usage. It is published with the aim of enhancing dissemination of information from NWECE, and promoting the distribution of women’s information and use of the Information Center. Its feature article, “Women 2000”, covers a special exhibition held at the Center titled “Gender Equality, Development and Peace towards the 21st Century”. It also carries articles concerning measures taken by the United Nations towards the advancement of the status of women since the First World Conference on Women held in Mexico City in 1975 including Copenhagen, Nairobi and the Fourth Conference in Beijing. It also contains measures taken by Japan towards the formation of a gender-equal society up until the Women 2000 meeting in June.

(2) Journal of the National Women’s Education Center of Japan Vol. 4 (Japanese, partly available in English)

NWECE publishes the journal to contribute to international, interdisciplinary and practical research in the field of lifelong learning with a gender perspective. The theme of the fourth volume is “Women and Human Rights”.

2. NWECE Sponsored Programmes in FY2000

(1) Seminar for Staff of Women’s Education Centers

The Seminar for staff of Women’s Education

Centers was held over the four-day period June 27th-30th. This seminar has been held since the inauguration of NWECE with the aim of improving the quality of staff at public and private women’s centers by enhancing their knowledge and skills through specialised and practical training.

Entitled “Gender Equality, Development and Peace in the 21st Century - Roles and Prospects for Women’s Centers”, the 24th of these seminars, including both a Directors’ Course and a Staff Course, was attended by 138 persons.

(2) Seminar on Gender Equal Education for Teachers

This seminar was held over the three-day period July 25th-27th under the theme “Gender/Gender Equal Education in Schools”. As part of lifelong learning for teachers, the seminar aimed to enhance respect for human rights in school education and guidance related to gender equality, and deepen acceptance of gender sensitive perspectives.

The seminar, comprising discussions, workshops and group discussions, was attended by 142 persons (27 men) including teacher’s consultants at Prefectural boards of education, school principals, directors of educational institutions, vice-principals and teachers.

The seminar investigated whether schools were providing an education free from male or female biases and whether guidance was being provided, and considered gender-equal education for the future. A lively exchange of opinions took place during both the general discussions and the group discussions and the seminar made a significant contribution towards improving education and guidance that heightens awareness of gender equality.

(3) Seminar on Child Raising by the Family and the Community

Held over the two-day period September 8th-9th, this seminar was attended by 143 persons (121 women and 22 men), including those in administration of social education or working at women's centers, and others from companies, groups and organisations involved in supporting family education. The seminar comprised practical training aimed at promoting men's participation in child raising and community life, and relieving mothers' stress about child raising, towards the formation of a gender-equal society.

Lectures, presentations, workshops and sectional meetings were conducted during the seminar, and participants and speakers at the sectional meetings exchanged earnest opinions at the plenary session titled "Towards Women and Men Sharing the Responsibility of Child Raising".

(4) Guatemala Education Administrators' Course

This course is held under the joint auspices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, Osaka University, Kobe University, Okayama University and NWEC. It aims to strengthen the functions of national and local education administration in Guatemala by transferring technology and know how on issues such as Japanese school administration, school education and teacher training, to education officers and local government officers in Guatemala. This course has been conducted since FY1997 with the aim of contributing towards a particularly urgent issue, enhancement of education for girls from indigenous tribes. This fiscal year, ten trainees from Guatemala attended the training course held from November 6th through December 1st. Three days of this course, November 27th-30th, were held at NWEC, during which time trainees were given lectures on girls' education in Japan and Latin America and the opportunity to experience Japanese culture first-hand by attending a tea ceremony and visiting a Japanese family.



(5) Conference on Information Networks for Women's Facilities

Held over the three-day period December 13th-15th, this meeting was attended by 49 information officers (40 women; 9 men) from women's facilities throughout Japan that makes information available on the Internet. In addition to discussions on how women's facilities should collaborate to make best use of information and information functions, specialised and practical training was provided as a means of stimulating the formation of information networks between institutions and their staff. The meeting included reports on case studies by each institution, hands-on practice in searching for information, and lectures on the IT revolution. Positive ideas on future networking between institutions were voiced at the meeting on the final day, reflecting how worthwhile the meeting had been.

Editor's Note

The NWEC Newsletter is published biannually with the aim of introducing to overseas readers NWEC's study, exchange, research and information programmes as well as other information concerning women in Japan. It also aims to promote building international information network in the fields of women's education and home education.

As of January 2001, this newsletter is mailed free of charge to approximately 1500 organisations and individuals in 178 countries world-wide. We are continuously expanding our circulation and we would appreciate it if you would contact us at the address below to inform us of any institution that would be interested in receiving a copy of this newsletter.

As a consequence of reorganisation undertaken as part of the Japanese Government reform of January 6th, 2001, NWEC has become affiliated to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and its Japanese name has changed from Kokuritsu Fujin Kyouiku Kaikan to Kokuritsu Josei Kyouiku Kaikan.

The Center is scheduled to be an independent administrative institution in the next year.

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