

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSITION IN JAPANESE SOCIETY (SOCIO-CULTURAL STUDY)

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### Abstract

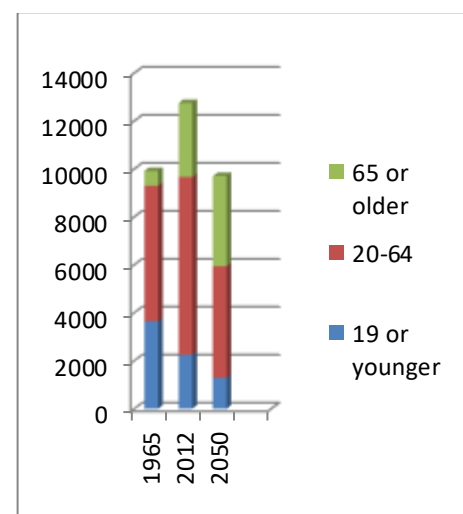
This research is a field research by going directly to the community as informants to obtain data. The data were obtained through distributing questionnaires and interviews with young people in the Kobe District, Japan. These problems are summarized in a study entitled: Demographic Transition in Japanese Society One Socio-Cultural Study. In the data collection stage, a questionnaire method and Interview techniques were used. Meanwhile, the method used to analyze the data was descriptive method. In this study, the results of data analysis were presented using informal methods, namely explaining data by describing all elements descriptively. Factors causing the demographic transition experienced by Japanese society at this time include Japan's involvement in the World War, geographic contours that are prone to disasters, high cost of living, and the presence of sophisticated robots that are the choice of entertainers in Japanese society. From the problems that have occurred, there have been several efforts made by the Japanese Government, including announcing a special allowance program for families who want to give birth to more than three children. A working mother can use quite long leave both before and after giving birth.

**Keywords: Demographic Transition, Socio-Cultural, human population**

### 1. Introduction

The development of technology in Japan is inversely proportional to the development of its people. Based on the data "Population Composition of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare 2012" shows the composition of children to adolescents, adults, and the elderly which is described in a curve as follows.

Population Composition of Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare Curve 2012



Curve data 1.1

Curve data 1.1. describes the number of human population in Japan getting smaller. Starting from 1965, the condition at that time Japan and other countries in the world have ended world wars. After returning from the war, many offspring were born. The next era in 2012 was a phase when Japan experienced its heyday with a very large population of young people. However, this is predicted to decline in 2050. This occurs due to several factors. The factors causing the decline in population in Japan will be the topic of the problem in this study. This study focused on the problems of young people in Japan which have caused a decline in the human population in Japan.

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## **2. Methods**

Methods and techniques are two very important tools for getting the final result of a study. Method is a way of approaching, observing, analyzing, and explaining a phenomenon (Kridalaksana, 2011: 153). While technique is a way of implementing the method. The following three stages are the stages that the researchers took to get the final data. The three stages are the data collection stage, the data analysis stage, and the presentation of the data analysis results. (Sudaryanto, 2015).

In the data collection stage, a questionnaire method was used and advanced techniques such as interviews

were used. The questionnaire used by the researcher as a research instrument, the method used is an open questionnaire and a closed questionnaire. In this study, the interview method was carried out by asking respondents who had direct experience and became a source of data on the issues to be discussed. In this case, researchers tend to use this method to obtain written data. In subsequent practice, this tapping technique was followed by advanced techniques in the form of note-taking techniques and engaging-free listening techniques. The note-taking technique is to note things that are considered important. In the peer-to-peer observation technique, the researcher only acts as an observer of the informant's opinion.

The method used to analyze the data is descriptive method. Descriptive method is used to tabulate data, clarify data, and describe matters related to this research.

The presentation stage is an attempt by the researcher to present in the form of a written "report" the things that have been produced from the analysis work, especially rules (Sudaryanto, 2015). In this study, the results of data analysis were presented using informal methods, namely explaining data by describing all elements descriptively.

## **3. Result And Discussion**

In this research, several things have been found based on field studies. The data were obtained by distributing questionnaires to students at Kobe Women's University accompanied by advanced techniques in the form of interviews with a number of students to ensure the information obtained. The number of questionnaires obtained was 72 pieces and about 5 students who were successfully interviewed directly. This is done to convince researchers to draw conclusions. The following are the results of the research which are divided into two, namely the

causes of the decline in population in Japan and the Japanese government's efforts to address the population problem.

### 1.1 The cause of the decline in population

In fact, there are many complex factors that contribute to the decreasing population in Japan. Whereas in the past, when the islands in Japan were visited by migrants, population growth was quite high so that the cities of Kyoto and Nara in the past were known as one of the most populous cities in the world. From the reports of several in-depth studies, this can be concluded as the cause of the decline in the population of Japanese people.

### War

Japan is known as the only Asian country that dared to invade and colonize other countries. During World War 2, Japan showed courage to attack Asia-Pacific countries armed with brave soldiers and increasingly sophisticated technology. Japan is famous for the principle of ATM (observe, imitate, modify), the technology they learned from western countries, has been shaped in such a way as to become a product with a better version.

Japan's involvement in the World War sparked the anger of other countries such as the United States, especially Japan, which carried out the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The counterattack from the United States in the form of atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki not only killed hundreds of thousands of people but also left an effect for the next generation. Many babies were born with disabilities or even died from the radiation effects of the atomic bomb a few years later.

The Japanese civil war known as 戊辰戦争 Boshin sensō. This war between the Tokugawa Shogunate and a faction that wanted to return political power to the

empire. Control over all of Japan returned to the empire, and at the same time marked the end of the military phase of the Meiji Restoration. About 12,000 people were involved in the war, and 3,500 of them died.

### Natural disasters

Japan has geographic contours that are prone to disasters. The country is a meeting point for volcanoes and earthquakes. Therefore the Japanese government designed its buildings to withstand earthquakes. If you visit Japanese homes you will rarely find hanging and large furniture. The living room does not use chairs but tatami.

Tsunami and earthquake have often claimed many lives. For example An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale in Osaka in mid-June 2018, As a result of the accident, five people died and more than 400 were injured. Floods and landslides in July 2018 claimed 221 lives. Typhoon Jebi in September 2018. The worst typhoon in the last 25 years ravaged buildings, vehicles and even flooded the Kansai International Airport. The heat wave with the temperature at that time had reached 41.1 degrees Celsius which killed more than 100 people.

Realizing this danger, lessons in dealing with situations during an earthquake are things that Japanese residents must know from school age.

### Decreased interest in marriage

There are many reasons that underlie young productive age people in Japan not to get married. The first is the high cost of living. In Japan, to rent an apartment, the cost of living and also the cost of educating children is not cheap, so many choose to stay single so as not to experience overruns in the cost of living. In addition, with the awareness of emancipation for women, many career

women in Japan choose to continue working and not getting married.

In Japan, the culture of patrilineal element is still quite strong. A married woman will become a housewife because of the principle of *kyoiku mama* (mother as an educator at home). Japanese men will work and later meet household needs and children's school fees. The mother is in charge of dividing the financial position in the family, directing the child to achieve the best achievements and entering favorite schools and ensuring that the child succeeds in achieving prestigious academic degrees.

Unfortunately, due to the strong culture of Japan's *hatarakibachi* (workaholic), fathers are often too demanding on their wives. If there is a failure in education, for example the child does not get the best academic grades in school, then the mother will be blamed. There are so many cases of housewives who commit suicide because they feel they have failed to deliver their children to good achievements. Japanese women are increasingly reluctant to get married and some even choose to look for foreign men as husbands.

### **Male entertainer robot**

Japan is a country with robot innovation which is among the most sophisticated in the world. Various robot technologies to facilitate human work have been created by the experts of this country, until there is a robot specially created for Japanese men. The robot is called an android or humanoid robot which is very human-like.

Japanese men who do not want to have a family and are reluctant to commit to a long-term relationship but do not want to feel lonely will buy the humanoid robot and are happy enough with friends who fill their daily lives. The presence of this robot provokes pros and cons in Japanese society.

3.2 The Japanese government attempts to solve the population problem

The government announced a special allowance program for families willing to give birth to more than three children. Even more pleasant, a working mother can use a fairly long leave both before and after delivery. The leave is six weeks before birth and eight weeks after delivery. There are many other ideas that are being planned and hopefully will solve this problem in the future.

## **2. Conclusions**

Some things that can be concluded from this study as follows. Factors causing the demographic transition experienced by Japanese society at this time include Japan's involvement in the World War, geographic contours that are prone to disasters, high cost of living, and the presence of sophisticated robots that are the choice of entertainers in Japanese society. From the problems that have occurred, there have been several efforts made by the Japanese Government, including announcing a special allowance program for families who want to give birth to more than three children. A working mother can use quite long leave both before and after delivery.

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