Survey and Examination of the Present Status of Gender Statistics Publications
Prepared by Japanese Local (Prefectures) Governments

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The Author’s standpoint

- The author is solely based on the standpoint of the user of gender statistical data, from the outside of the maker of statistics.

- Firstly at the national level,
  1) As a member of specialist committee of, Gender-Equal Conference of the Cabinet Office contributed to make a special report for expanding production of gender statistics in Japan in 2003.
  2) edited the Gender Data Book, which described and analyzed with statistics the lives of women and men, and made proposals for improving production and dissemination of gender statistics in 2003 and 2006.
Secondly the work turned on the local gender statistics.  
1) in the first place, the work started with survey and collecting gender statistics publication, which described and analyzed gender issues or lives of women and men with statistics, by local government 
s.  
These publications have been produced by the local gender-equality units, not by the local statistical divisions.  
2) After examining these publication, the author’s work will propose  
① to the gender-equality units of local government for improvement of these publication,  
② to the national statistical offices and local statistical divisions for the improvement of the production and presentation of gender statistics.  
This presentation is concerned with the above first step, and give the result of survey-collection of statistical gender analysis and some observations.
structure

1. Japanese situations of gender issues and gender statistics—
nationally and locally

2. Method of Surveying Gender Statistics
   Publications of Local governments

3. Survey result and some findings and examination


1. Japan has particularly remarkable differences between men and women among advanced countries.

(1) The ratio of female members in the Japanese House of Representative is 9.0%, which is ranked in the 132nd position among 185 countries in the world.
(2) M-shape of labour force participation rate of women by age group. 【Chart 1】

The figure for women plots as an M-shape, reaching 74% for ages 25 to 29, then dropping to 61% for ages of 30 to 35 and finally returning to 73% for ages 45 to 49, while men holds at 90% or so over range of ages from the latter half of the twenties to 60.
This is because women retire on the occurrence of marriage or childbirth. When women commence work after raising children, their employment pattern is as a part-timer or temporary employee under poorer work conditions as compared with men.

【Chart 2, 3, 4】
(3) The ratio of the average wages of full-time employees between men and women is approximately 100 to 65.

It is believed that the reason for the above-mentioned results is that the Japanese social system operates on the basis of stereotyped role-sharing and a corresponding social awareness has developed.
Gender equality policies at national level

- In Japan, efforts for gender equality on the state level have been made since “the National Plan of Action for Promotion of a Gender-Equal Society by the Year 2000” was established in 1996 and “the Basic Law for a Gender-equal Society” was enforced in 1999. “The Basic Plan for Gender Equality, 2nd” was established in December 2005.
Gender statistics at national level

During this process, the expansion of gender statistics was gradually promoted on a national level.

- A report on the enforcement of gender statistics by the Specialist Committee of the Council for Gender Equality at the Cabinet Office in 2003
- and the publication of the 2003 and 2006 versions of the *Statistical Data-book for Gender Equality* edited by the National Women’s Education Center (NWEC) and Y.Ito.
Local governments in Japan

- The total population of Japan is a little less than 128 million (ranked 10th worldwide) and is now decreasing after reaching a peak in 2005. The total fertility rate as of 2005 is 1.25.

- Japan consists of 47 prefectures. The largest is Tokyo Metropolis with a population of 11.6 million while the smallest is Tottori Prefecture with a population of 0.6 million.
Under the prefectures, there are 15 major cities designated by government ordinance, with a population of more than 1 million. The largest of these is Yokohama City with a population of 3.6 million and the smallest is Shizuoka City with an exceptional population of 0.71 million. In addition, there are 764 cities, 23 wards, 844 towns, and 197 villages (as of April 2006).
There are considerable differences in the degree of participation of women to decision making or labour market among prefectures.

【Chart 5 and Table1】
Gender equality policies at local government level

- Each prefecture is required to have a gender-equality plan under the Article 14 of “the Basic Law for a Gender-equal Society”.
- In fact, the prefectures do have gender-equality plans (term: 5 to 10 years), and most of them publish annual reports.
Necessity of research of local gender statistics

Research of local gender statistics has not been taken

- Collection of local gender statistics publication
- Examination and analysis of them
- Establishment of the guideline for local communities are needed
2 Method of Surveying Gender Statistics
Publications of Local governments

(1) downloading from the web-site of the documents containing gender statistics and preliminary examination of them.

(2) survey of the state of preparation of gender statistics publications using questionnaires on which the document names are entered. Questionnaires were distributed to both the section in charge of gender equality for each prefecture and the gender equality center by mail-out and mail-back during February through April 2006.
(3) Questionnaires were returned from 42 out of 47 prefectures.

(4) For those local governments that did not return the questionnaire, we checked their web sites again or obtained copies of reports possessed by related libraries.

(5) Furthermore, questions regarding unclear aspects were submitted to the section in charge.

(6) Survey of 15 major cities designated by government ordinance and analysis and examination of the results are still under way.
3 Findings and examination

Summarization of the survey result is given by the Table 2.

☆Findings

1 Local gender statistics publication are contained in the annual reports (commonly), 【Column I of Table 2】 while they were prepared as independent documents in 2001, when the last survey was implemented.
Findings (cont.)

2 Furthermore, most of the reports are published today on the web site of each local government.

【Column IV of Table 2】

3 Organizing pattern of the system of gender statistics and indicators Arranged with respect to the gender plan type is adopted by an overwhelmingly large number of local governments (against social configuration type).
Findings (cont.)


5. Level of detail also varies among prefectures.

【Column II of Table 2】
Examination

- Material for examination of type, grouping and detail 【Table 3】
- Gender web site of UNECE, and the *NWEC Statistics Data Book* are listed
Plan type has some weakness:

- It can show the reality of gender issues according to priority, the progress of plan and actual results, but does not give whole picture of lives of women and men in the communities.
- On the contrary, social configuration type may describe the whole picture, but does not show the progress of plan.

(1) Independent publication of both type
(2) Mixed type (social configuration type + plan type)

is desirable.
At least 7 areas are desirable as those of UNECE:
① population, ② family and households, ③ work, ④ education, ⑤ health, ⑥ crime and violence, ⑦ public life and decision making.

In Japanese circumstances (major gender issues and preparation of statistical data at prefecture level), “work” should be divided into “paid” and “unpaid” work. To address “unpaid” work is critically important in Japan.

The numbers of selected statistics and indicators in each area are still too small. 【C and D rank in total number : Column II of Table 2】
Other inadequacies

(1) Weakness in substitution with national tables and charts.

(2) Limits of the display of statistics and indicators of a single year or of only the community concerned—necessity of comparison.

(3) Necessity of distinction between surveys of attitude and surveys of objective facts.
Technical examination of statistical tables and charts

(1) The number, title, subject area, subject year, and size of sample are not clearly stated for statistical tables and charts.

(2) In statistical tables, the absolute value is not clearly stated together with the ratio.
(3) The concept or definition is not clearly stated.
(4) The conditions in lower-order subcommunities of the community are not presented.
(5) Explanations and attachments need to be more user friendly.
Some proposals for future expansion of gender statistics publications on communities

1. Continuous survey and analysis of local gender statistics publications.
2. Recognition of importance of the preparation of gender statistics publications for local governments.
3. Preparation of a guidebook for local gender statistical publications.
4 Reinforcement of the production of statistics for expanding local gender statistics.

5 Necessity of tables generated at the national level for comparison of gender statistics of prefectures.

6 Introduction of the viewpoint of gender statistics into reports on common local statistics.
7 Necessity of examination of the budget related to gender equality and examination of the methods of evaluating policies and evaluating effects.

8 Establishment and reinforcement of systems toward expansion of local gender statistics.
• Are your statistical publications fully gender-sensitive?
• Related information are welcome

Thank you