

## Education, Work, Job and Life Satisfaction, and Transition to First Marriage in Korea: A Gender Comparison

In East Asian countries, marriage is still an important demographic event affecting both fertility and mortality. The literature commonly cites increased levels of education and labor force participation among women as the cause of late ages at marriage and very low fertility rates. Recent studies in the US, however, find a trend seemingly contradictory to such a general assumption: women as well as men who attained higher socioeconomic status are more likely to marry than are less achieving counterparts. Using data from 10 waves of the Korea Labor and Income Panel Study, this study examines the effects of educational and employment characteristics on the transition to first marriage. In addition, it examines how job and life satisfactions mediate the effects of work characteristics on transition to first marriage, and also how job and life satisfactions change over the period of marriage transition. The event history analysis and multi-level analysis models will be used.

The Korea Labor and Income Panel Study (KLIPS) survey was first conducted in 1998, and the annual follow-up surveys have used the very similar questionnaires as well as yearly special modules. The main survey includes detailed questions on educational and occupational histories, life satisfaction, health, and marital history.

The baseline survey was based on nationally representative sample of 5,000 households and all members in those households. The follow-up surveys trace all those initial household members, and add in the survey new individuals who move into the households of those initial members. Spouses who marry the initial household members are thus added in the survey.

Table 1 presents the sample to be used for the analysis. A total of 1,041 initial household members report transition to first marriage during the waves 3 through 10. For these people, one or more waves of KLIPS were conducted before their first marriage. The analysis of this study will focus on these people. Another 1,170 respondents report first marriage during the same waves, 3 through 10, did not participate any waves of survey before their first marriage. These people can be included in the analysis as far as the retrospective questions provide the needed information.

Table 1. Number of respondents by the experience of first marriage and the status of survey participation: Korea Labor and Income Panel Study, waves 1 through 10 in 1998 through 2007

	Male	Female	Total
Sample size (=Number of respondents who were aged <b>15 to 44</b> in <b>1998</b> who participated in any of waves 1 through 10)	5,481	5,383	10,864
Respondents reporting first marriage at wave 3 to 10	1,083	1,128	2,211
Number of survey-waves participated before reporting the first marriage			
<b>1 through 9</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>1,041</b>
1	46	81	127

2	69	69	138
3	108	90	198
4	65	70	135
5	67	69	136
6	56	64	120
7	48	43	91
8	23	39	62
9	17	17	34
none	584	586	<b>1,170</b>

Number of survey-waves participated after reporting the first marriage

0	193	204	397
1	182	199	381
2	141	146	287
3	171	170	341
4	146	153	299
5	97	102	199
6	117	107	224
7	36	47	83

Of those surveyed before the first marriage transition	499	542	1,041
Number who worked before marriage	429	444	873
Number who did not work	70	98	168
Percentage who worked	86.0	81.9	83.9

Of those surveyed after the first marriage transition	890	924	1,814
Number who worked after marriage	869	411	1,280
Number who did not work	21	513	534
Percentage who worked	97.6	44.5	70.6

Number surveyed both before and after first marriage	420	445	865
Number working both before and after	350	178	528

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