

Summary

**Religion and the Use of Family Policy Measures in Japan,
South Korea and Singapore**

Hiroshi KOJIMA

This study presents the results of a comparative analysis of the effects of religion on the use of family policy measures in Japan, South Korea and Singapore, drawing on microdata from the 2009 Survey on Comparative Study of Family Policies in East Asia (South Korea, Singapore and Japan), which was conducted by the Section for Measures against Declining Birthrate, Director-General for Policies on Cohesive Society, Cabinet Office (Japanese Government). Comparable logit models were applied to the microdata in order to clarify the effects of religion on the use of family policy measures (services, leaves and facilities) among adults (or their spouses) and parents in their reproductive ages (20-49) in the three Asian societies.

In sum, there do not seem to be too many commonalities among Japan, South Korea and Singapore, except the one that religion does not have too significant and large effects on the use of family policy measures by parents of both sexes. It is partly because of the small number of cases, partly because of the limited role of Buddhism and no religion in the three Asian societies and partly because of difference in the religious composition of each population. In the three societies, the effects of religion seem to be often mediated by age and, possibly, by other demographic variables. The directions of effects of the same religion on parents of both sexes are not always the same in each society and across societies.