

# The Fertility Intention and Birth Behavior in Japan and Korea

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This paper examines the relationship between fertility intention and birth behavior using Japanese and Korean data. We showed the followings. First, ideal number of children is almost same in Japan and Korea. They want to have 2.2-2.3 children on average regardless of their age, though Korean elder males want to have more children. Second, the gap between the ideal number of children and their actual ones is bigger in Korean female than Japanese ones. Third, the gap between the ideal number of children and the actual ones will be shrunk in Japanese females, but is not in Korean females. To be more specific, Japanese females who want to have one more child will bear 0.25 child in two years and 0.35 child in four years. However, Korean females who want to have one more child will bear 0.1 child in two years and less than 0.2 child in four years. Fourth, comparing with females and males in Korea, males' gap between the ideal children and the actual ones will be more shrunk than females' one. It means that males have a strong power to decide the number of children in Korea. Fifth, estimating the effect of the gap on birth behavior based on microeconomic model with controlling demographic conditions, Japanese females can fill their birth intention more easily than Korean ones. Our estimation explains why total fertility rate is higher in Japan than in Korea, regardless of similar ideal number of children between in Japan and Korea.

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