

Published Paper

Intergenerational Dynamics and Family Solidarity: A Comparative Study of Mainland China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan

Family solidarity refers to adult child-parent relations and can be examined from structural, social-psychological, and transactional perspectives. In East Asia, the family organization has undergone substantial change along with socioeconomic and demographic transitions in the past decades, and consequently family solidarity may have been affected. Using the 2006 East Asian Social Survey, we develop a conceptual framework of family solidarity through which to compare patterns of adult child-parent relations among Mainland China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. Analytical results suggest that far from eroding, the family organization in East Asia remains strong in coresidence, emotional exchanges, and financial support between child- and parental generations, despite the differences in relative strengths in these dimensions of family solidarity across the four societies. Overall, families in Korea seem to maintain the strongest cohesion, followed by those in Taiwan and Mainland China, and Japanese families are the least cohesive. These results suggest a cultural force that holds the family a solidified system during rising modernization in economy and society.

[Keyword] Intergenerational dynamics; Family solidarity; Reciprocity; Intergenerational support

Paper presented at academic conference

Demographic transition, family change and elderly poverty: China 2002-2005.

Abstract

This paper attempts to explore the correlates of the prevalence of social poverty (defined as poor health and frequent loneliness) among the elderly age 65+ in transitional China. Drawing on both qualitative and quantitative data, it aims to shed light on a better understanding of the role that family and public welfare factors play in the elderly poverty, while taking into account individual and contextual background. Model results suggest that household context and public welfare are important associates of both physical health and psychological comfort of the elderly: those who live alone, widowed, without a son or without children at all are more likely to suffer from poor health and emotional loneliness. Findings also demonstrate that daily living sources, personality, and lifestyle of the elderly are strong correlates of their risk of suffering from social poverty. We draw successful experience in Japan to formulate policy implications for the improvements of the wellbeing of the elderly in China.

[Keywords] Family change; Elderly; Social poverty; Health status; Loneliness

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

The first paper was presented in East Asian Social Change Conference hold in Korea, December 2008.

A modified version of this paper will be presented at the Annual meeting of Population Association of America, Dallas, United States of America, 2010 (upcoming), which was accepted by the regular session of Family Structure and Intergenerational Relationship in the Context of Socioeconomic Transformation.

The second paper was presented to the XXVI Conference of IUSSP (International Union of Scientific Studies, 27 September - 2 October 2009, Marrakech, Morocco, and the annual meeting of Population Association of America, April 30 – May 2, 2009, Detroit, MI, USA.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

The first paper was published in *Sociological Research* (it is the best sociological journal in China)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

If more funding is available, a book on the Family Changes in East Asian Society will be written and published.