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**POPULATION STUDIES TRANSLATION SERIES
No. 1**

I

FECUNDITY OF JAPANESE WOMEN

II

**THE EFFECT OF INDUCED ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTIVE
PRACTICE ON MARITAL FECUNDITY IN
PRE- AND POST-WAR JAPAN**

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA
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**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA
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Foreword

This is to introduce the first publication of the new **ESCAP Translated Population Study Series**. The origin of the ESCAP translation project dates back several years. The Clearing-house and Information Section of the Division of Population and Social Affairs became aware of the implications of the translation problem through a series of basic fact-finding surveys such as the 1971 survey to identify demographic, teaching, training and research institutions in the region.

At the regional level, the translation problem was discussed and its importance stressed at the Second Asian Population Conference held in Tokyo in 1972 and at several sessions of the Commission. At the global level, the subject was brought to the attention of international leaders at the United Nations World Population Conference, 1974, held at Bucharest which I attended where translation activities were encouraged at both national and international levels.

In response to the growing awareness of language barriers to an effective exchange of population information, the Clearing-house and Information Section started to provide technical assistance in initiating national translation projects in the fields of population information to help meet the expressed needs of member countries. The Expert Group Meeting on the Translation of Population Materials was held in December 1975 to establish practical guidelines for setting up national translation programmes.

The first of its translation pilot project was launched by ESCAP in 1973 jointly with the Government of Japan. This pilot project was in line with the programmes of cultural exchange that the Japanese Government stressed in the region. One of the other reasons for ESCAP carrying out the project in co-operation with the Government of Japan was because Japan was one of very few countries which had completed a demographic transition an experience to be shared by developing countries. This justification was strengthened by the results of the 1974 ESCAP Exploratory Survey on the Translation of Printed Population Materials. Survey respondents expressed interest in many countries of the region and a high degree of interest in some countries. The country most frequently mentioned was Japan.

The Survey also substantiated what topics were preferred from Japan. Following up on these findings, the Japanese National Translation Committee selected two research papers for translation from Japanese into English. Translation was funded by the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP).

The papers, "Fecundity of Japanese women" by Hisao Aoki, and "The effect of induced abortion and contraceptive practice on marital fecundity in pre- and post-war Japan", by Tatsuo Honda, are the first publication of the ESCAP translation series.

Hisao Aoki's paper includes the computation and analysis of age-specific fecundity per married couple in 1965. It is based on a sample survey of 7,473 married couples in a large business enterprise. Although the measurement of fecundity is the primary objective of the Aoki paper, the analysis refers to other demographic aspects such as abortion effect, and diffusion and effectiveness of contraception, all of which are areas of interest for population and development planners in developing countries. Furthermore, the methodology utilized with

some modifications may be applicable to other ESCAP member countries, as they assess the effect of their family planning programmes and other fertility control measures. Hisao Aoki is currently Chief of the Population Policy Division of the Institute of Population Problems, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Tokyo.

Tatsuo Honda's paper deals with a time-series analysis of structural changes of Japanese fecundity in relation to fertility reduction over the period 1925-1958. By his analysis the author estimates the degree of intensity of fertility control and elucidates its effective means with emphasis upon induced abortion and contraception. At the same time, the paper discusses the impact of socio-economic changes upon fertility reduction. The contents of this paper coincide with the areas of interest of many population planners and policy decision-makers in the ESCAP region, as reflected in the 1974 ESCAP Exploratory Survey on Translation of Printed Population Materials. Tatsuo Honda, who died in 1967, was formerly with the Institute of the Population Problems.

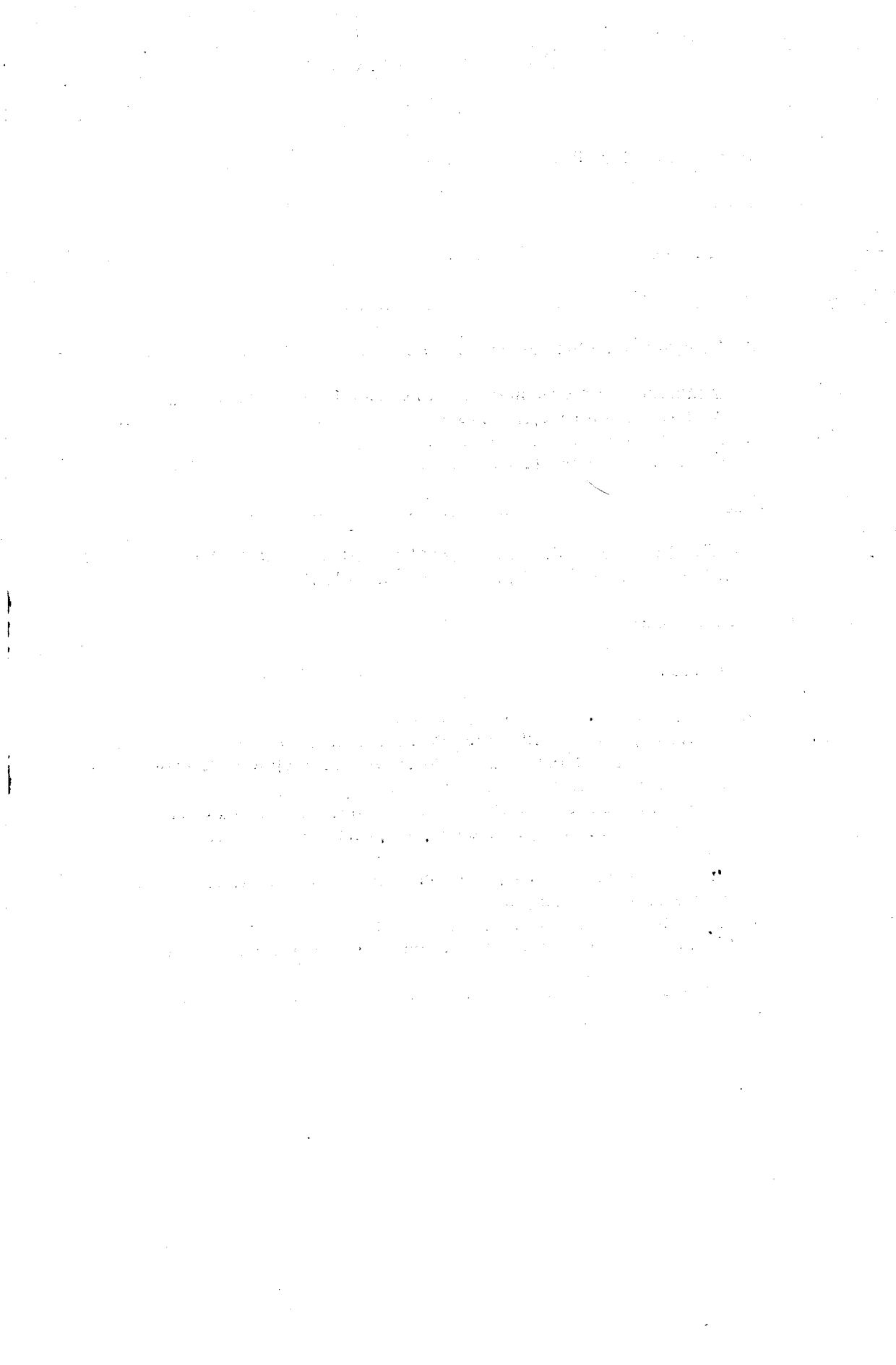
In this pilot project, the Government of Japan is primarily responsible for the selection and translation of the materials from Japanese into English. The role of ESCAP in turn, is to continue to keep the Government of Japan informed of areas for translation suggested by ESCAP member countries through market surveys by ESCAP, and to distribute the translated materials in printed form to national organizations which will in turn translate the materials into their own national languages for new consumers of the information. This recycling of information is a truly co-operative venture in which ESCAP is pleased to participate.

The secretariat of ESCAP is currently exploring the feasibility of establishing translation programmes in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Korea and working out arrangements for a translation programme in collaboration with the Government of France. In this context, ESCAP's pilot translation project with the Government of Japan is particularly meaningful because of its pioneering role in the important field of translation in the ESCAP region.

J.B.P. Maramis
Executive Secretary

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FECUNDITY OF JAPANESE WOMEN

by

Hisao Aoki *

INTRODUCTION

1. The major purposes of this study are (a) to calculate, on the basis of the pregnancy data of the employees or their spouses of a particular establishment in the industrial sector, the basic fecundity of Japanese couples which could be achieved if their fertility should be uncontrolled, and (b) to analyse the processes following from the basic fecundity to actual fertility.

2. The transition from fecundity or latent potential pregnancies to actual fertility or births, takes the following paths: basic fecundity ^{1/} → (birth control) → fecundity after birth control → (exclusion of spontaneous or induced abortions and foetal deaths) → live births. The relation between basic fecundity and actual fertility may be analogous to that of genotypes and phenotypes in genetics. It is also analogous to that of consumption expenditures and total expenditures, the former being derived from deducting expenses such as taxes, insurance premiums, savings, etc, from the latter.

3. It is, of course, ideal to have data on a national scale in order to estimate or observe fecundity, but such data is not available in the current publication. Hence, it has become necessary to utilize data collected in regard to a particular occupational group. If one were to apply the results of these analyses on a national scale, one might be criticized for ignoring biases and constraints due to occupational and social classes. For purposes of this study, it is,

therefore, assumed that there is no difference in potential fecundity of various social and occupational groups.

I. DATA COLLECTION

4. In October 1966, the Nippon Telephone and Telegraph Corporation conducted a fertility survey with respect to the households of its married employees. The author of the present paper participated in outlining the survey and designing its detailed components. Although this survey was primarily formulated for other purposes, part of the survey was designed to collect the data needed for calculating basic fecundity. This particular aspect is focussed in the present paper. ^{2/}

5. The author had previously computed age specific pregnancy rates by using a part of the same data set (N = 3,405), and derived fertility control rates of Japanese couples by adjusting the former rates to a national scale. ^{3/} This paper, by rearranging the data, estimates basic fecundity rates as well as fecundity rates by parturition types.

6. A sample of the respondents to this survey was randomly drawn from a population of 137,000 households of married em-

* Translation of the article. "Wagakuni fufu no kihon-ninshinryoku ni tsuite," which appeared in *Jinko Mondai Kenkyu* (The Journal of Population Problems), No. 107 (July 1968) pp. 29-42. Translation approved by the Japanese National Translation Committee for Population Materials.

^{1/} "Basic fecundity" is defined as uncontrolled fecundity.

^{2/} The data was formulated by Ms. Masako Tomizawa, Staff Scientist at the Institute of Population Problems.

^{3/} For a discussion of the effectiveness of family planning practice in relation to this survey, see Hisao Aoki, "The fourth report on the effects of contraception practised by an industrial organization," *Annual Report of the Institute of Population Problems*, No. 12, October 1967: Measurements of the controlled fecundity of Japanese couples on a national scale are discussed in Hisao Aoki, "On the effects of family planning practice upon fertility," *Bulletin of the Population Association of Japan*, No. 1, November 1967.

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THE EFFECT OF INDUCED ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTIVE PRACTICE ON MARITAL FECUNDITY IN PRE- AND POST-WAR JAPAN

by

Tatsuo Honda

INTRODUCTION

1. The remarkable reduction in Japan's birth rate during the post-war period is unprecedented in the annals of world demography. It is a phenomenon that we the Japanese ourselves could not have anticipated 10 years before its occurrence. Needless to say, it was brought about by the earnest efforts of the Japanese people. Statistical measurement expressing just how severe these efforts have been, as well as measurement of the other properties this phenomenon possesses, is not merely a task having narrow demographic interest: it is an undertaking which we must tackle if we are to attempt a discussion of Japan's post-war population problems.

2. Japan's birth rate in 1958 suggests that the rapid trend of decrease has reached its lowest point. There are no changes in this state of affairs so far in 1959, either. The net reproduction rate has already fallen below 1.0; the stabilization of the birth rate at this low level, taken as proof of the attainment of a stable standard of living among our people for the first time in the post-war period, might be considered as a cause for rejoicing. Certainly, any further decline in the birth rate would result in disintegration in Japan's society, but will also cause an extreme shortage of labour force at the younger age. However, it is very essential to examine whether the birth rate has stabilized itself at this very low level or whether this phenomenon is only temporary and that there will be an increase in the birth rate. It is relevant to raise the question because the socio-economic condi-

tions is which population growth would erode the recovery of the national economy have not yet totally disappeared.

3. The analysis of fecundity is significant as a means for appraising this kind of situation. For this purpose, the problem demands analysis from a number of standpoints; however, the first essential task is to estimate the degree of intensity of fertility control and to elucidate the ways in which it has been practised. In particular, the analysis of the effectiveness of fertility control brought about by induced abortion and contraception is a very critical subject matter in contemporary Japan. Nevertheless, there have been few attempts in this direction. This is not only due to the fact that statistical measures required for analyses are largely based on a set of unreliable data, but also because there are many instances in which we lack even some of the unreliable figures necessary for such measures. This study, however, attempts to utilize the limited data. The primary motivation for such an attempt was the availability of data from the Mainichi Newspapers' Population Problems Research Council's **Opinion Survey on Birth Control** conducted on five occasions since 1950. These survey results give adequate information not only on contraception alone, but also data on the spread of induced abortion and surgical sterilization as well. Needless to say, many inadequacies and points of doubt remain in the statistical results, but this study may be considered as a preliminary step aimed at clarifying problematic areas.

4. It would be expedient at this point to note certain caveats pertinent to this study, as follows:

(A) As stated clearly in the title, the subject of analysis is marital fecundity, and hence does not include extramarital events;

* Translation of the article "Senzen sengo no fufu-shussanryoku ni okeru shusseiyokusei-koka no bunseki - tokuni chuzetsu to hinin no yokusei-koka ni tsuite", which appeared in *Jinko Mondai Kenkyu* (The Journal of Population Problems), No. 78 (December 1959) pp. 1-19. Translation approved by the Japanese National Translation Committee for Population Materials.

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D. The Second Asian Population Conference, Tokyo, 1972

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- 3.** *Directory of Key Personnel and Periodicals in the Field of Population in the ECAFE Region (E/CN.11/898; United Nations publication, Sales No. E.70.II F.14): 1970*

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