

Income and Gender Roles: What Do People Think About Marriage ?

Name

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Who am I? Who do I want to be?

I am Haruna Nagaya. I am a second- year student in this university. My personality is cheerful. I can talk to anyone friendly!!

I want to be an independent woman. It's about being able to live a happy life on my own.

What local problems am I aware of?

One local problem I'm aware of is food loss at home. When I cook for myself, I sometimes can't finish all the vegetables or meat I buy, and they go bad. Throwing them away is wasteful and part of the bigger problem of food loss. This issue relates to SDG Goal 12: "Responsible Consumption and Production." To reduce food waste, I want to plan my meals better and only buy what I really need. Even small actions like this can help create a more sustainable lifestyle.

What global problems am I aware of?

One global problem I am aware of is gender inequality. In many countries, women still have fewer opportunities for education, work, and leadership than men. Some girls are even forced into early marriage or denied the right to go to school. I believe that everyone should have the same rights and chances, no matter their gender. Gender equality is important not only for individuals but also for creating a fair and peaceful world. This issue relates to SDG Goal 5: "Gender Equality."

What Sustainable Development Goals have I learned about?

SDG 5: Gender Equality

Goal: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls by ending all forms of discrimination, violence, and harmful practices.

Source: <https://globalgoals.org/goals/5-gender-equality/>

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Goal: Reduce inequality within and among countries by ensuring equal opportunities and reducing discrimination in income, education, and participation.

Source: <https://globalgoals.org/goals/10-reduced-inequalities/>

My fieldwork

What was my research question?

To explore this question, I worked with three friends to conduct a field interview with university students, with slightly more female participants than male. We asked them the question: "Do you expect men to earn more than women in marriage?" Participants placed a sticker on a chart to show their answer, so the results were easy to understand visually. We also asked them to explain their reasons and analyzed the answers by gender to compare different perspectives.

Why is this important to me?

This topic is important to me because I have a desire to get married in the future. While most couples today are in dual-income households, I feel that traditional gender roles at home haven't changed much. For example, I still have the impression that women are expected to do most of the housework. That's why I became curious about what people expect in marriage, especially regarding income and gender roles.

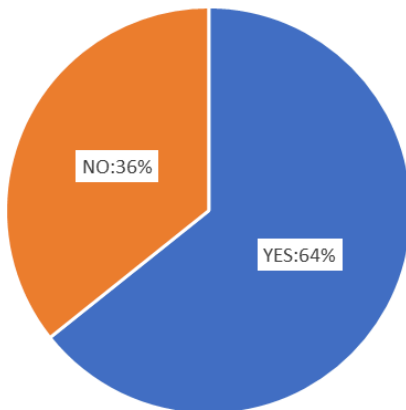
What did I do?

I worked with three friends to conduct interviews with university students, asking them, "Do you expect men to earn more than women in marriage?" We used a sticker chart to collect their answers visually. I also analyze the differences in opinions between male and female participants.

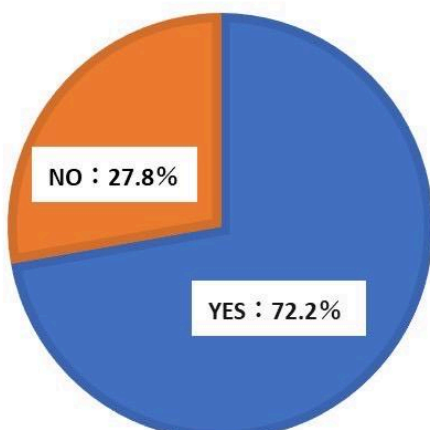
What data did I collect?

YES:Prefer man's income higher NO:Do not prefer man's income higher

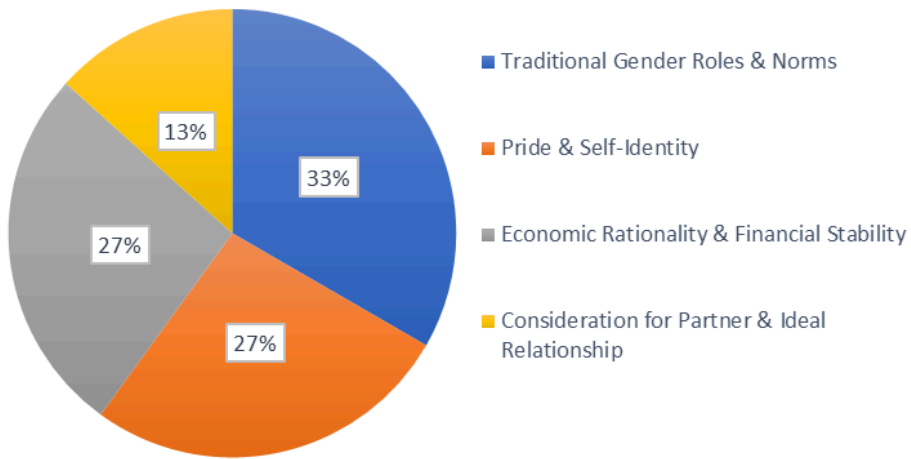
MEN



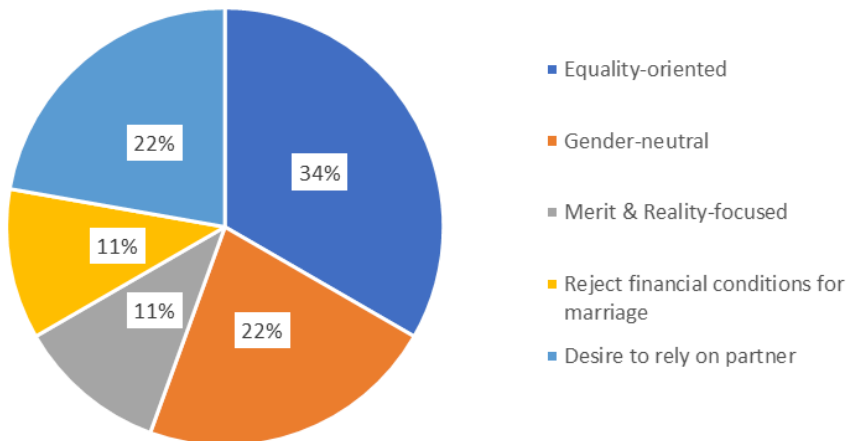
WOMEN



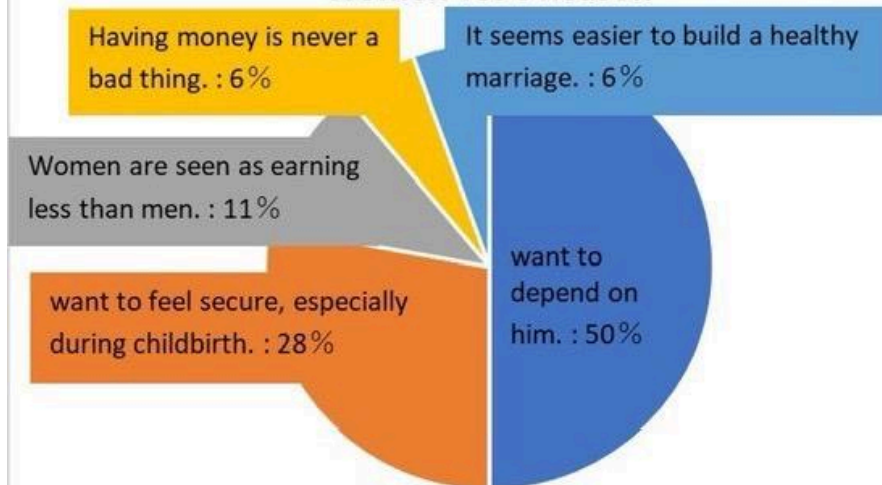
Men YES's Reason



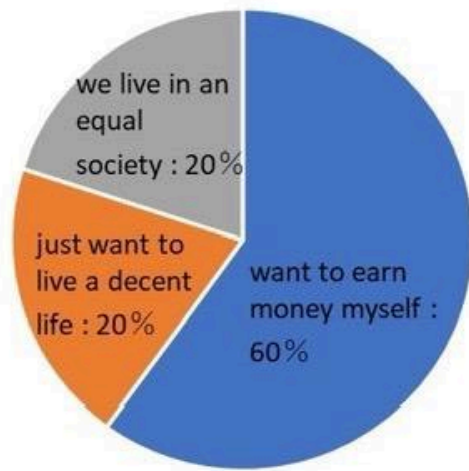
Men NO's Reason



Women Yes's Reason



Women No Reason



What trends did I find in the data?

From the results, I learned that both men and women generally prefer that the man earns more after marriage. However, the reasons varied widely. More than half of the men who preferred a higher male income said it was due to traditional values or personal pride. On the other hand, more than half of the men who did not prefer a higher male income mentioned gender equality or believed that gender shouldn't matter. Among women, the most common reason for preferring a higher male income was the desire to rely on the man. The second most common reason was wanting to feel secure when raising children. In contrast, over half of the women who did not prefer a higher male income said they wanted to be financially independent and earn money themselves. One surprising finding was that men seemed more influenced by traditional ideas—such as the belief that “men should earn more”—than expected. I also found it interesting that the reasons among women were completely opposite between those who preferred and those who did not prefer a higher male income.

How does my fieldwork connect to my future?

I believe that in the future, men and women should be able to live independently without being limited by gender roles. Through this fieldwork, I realized how strongly gender stereotypes still influence society. This experience made me want to take action, even in small ways, to help create a society where everyone can live equally.

Who is doing related work?

Local connection

a student at the University of Shizuoka

Reflection

What I learned this semester

This semester, I experienced a class style that was free, lively, and allowed me to do what I wanted for the first time. It was really fun and inspiring. Unlike passive classes where I just listen, I learned that actively participating and taking initiative makes the time much more fulfilling. This taught me the importance of being proactive and responsible for my own learning.

What I did well

I actively participated in group discussions and interviews during the fieldwork. I communicated clearly with my teammates and helped organize the data effectively. During the face-to-face interviews, I made an effort to create an environment where everyone felt comfortable asking questions. This helped us get clear and detailed reasons from the participants. I also stayed

motivated throughout the semester and tried to ask questions whenever I didn't understand something. This helped me learn more deeply and contribute to the team's success

What I could have done better

I think our team could have worked together more smoothly. If I had communicated more often and clearly with my teammates, we could have divided tasks better and worked more efficiently. Improving our communication and teamwork would help us complete projects more effectively in the future.

The connection to my future

This fieldwork helped me understand the importance of communication and teamwork, skills that are essential in any career. It also made me realize how social issues, like gender equality, affect people's lives. These experiences motivate me to work toward creating a fairer society and prepare me for future challenges, whatever path I choose.

Advice for other students

I recommend actively participating in class and group work because it helps you learn more deeply and build good relationships with your classmates. Don't be afraid to ask questions or share your ideas, even if you're not sure. Also, good communication with your teammates is key to successful projects. Finally, try to be open-minded and respectful of different opinions.