

## An Examination of Factors Which Are Causing the Fertility Rate Decline in Japan

### ABSTRACT

The fertility rate in Japan has been gradually declining since the Second World War. The total fertility rate was 1.39 in 1997.

It is said that the reason for the decline is that people are getting married later in life. Although the young also wish to continue to have a prosperous life after marriage, they are less confident about being able to do so. Therefore, it is said, they are postponing marriage.

Also, as for the women, since they are expected to carry a lot of burdens—e. g. housework, their own job, bearing children—they are hesitating to have children. Moreover, some people say that the women believe that raising children is hard work, and that they are, therefore, less attracted to it. Some even say that their mothering skills are being questioned. This paper will examine various factors which control the fertility rate in Japan.

**Key words:** aged society, total fertility rate, affluent society