

Transitions of Differences in Values by Gender and Generation **- From the Survey on Japanese Value Orientations -**

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(Summary)

Based on the findings of the Survey on Japanese Value Orientations, a survey series which has been conducted every five years since 1973, the author analyzes how gender and generation differences in public opinions have changed over these years.

Major characteristics of opinion differences by gender are as follows.

1. In the long term, opinion differences between the genders have been reduced.
2. Questions related to politics always have different opinions between the genders and better response rates with men. More men give more priority to work than leisure pursuit than women, and many male respondents regard “income,” “responsibility,” or “being independent to do what he likes” as conditions for a dream job.
3. A number of female respondents believe in Buddha, good-luck charms or talismans, and fortune telling. The majority of women give more priority to leisure than work, and many think requirements for a dream job are “good health condition” or “good relations with colleagues to enjoy her work.”
4. Opinion differences between the genders have been reduced regarding the education level they want to provide for their children. In other topics, however, opinions positive about the gender gap remains among men.

Meanwhile, the following are major characteristics of opinion differences by generation.

1. There are more responses which do not show much generation differences among women than among men.
2. Differences between the generations have lowered more notably among men than women, but by only a small degree.
3. Attitudes towards politics and education for children do not show much generation gap.
4. A large generation gap is observed in feelings towards the Emperor, attitudes towards premarital sex, and whether they believe in Buddha, and these differences have long been unchanged.