

# EXPLORING THE ODDS OF BECOMING A PARENT IN JAPAN

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## **Abstract**

This study investigates Japanese participants' attitudes towards childrearing and how these attitudes impact their odds of becoming parents and the odds of the number of children they choose to have. The data analyzed is from the 2020 "Investigation related to popularization and enlightenment to foster social momentum for child-rearing support, Mitsubishi UFJ Research & Consulting" survey. Two models were implemented to estimate the effect of participants' perspectives on society on their odds of becoming a parent and on the number of children they choose to have. First, a binomial logistic regression was used to examine the odds of becoming a parent. Then, a generalized linear model with a Poisson distribution and log link function was applied to explain the number of children. The results indicate that positive views on the role of society in childrearing and a perception of the community as being supportive of childrearing households were positively related to both parenthood and the number of children. This suggests that participants' attitudes towards society play a significant role in their fertility strategy and should be taken into account in future policies in Japan. Socioeconomic factors such as income, occupation, and education were also

analyzed and found mixed results compared to current policies in Japan. For female participants, a higher incidence rate of becoming a parent and having more children was observed for lower levels of income, occupation (non-employment), and education, whereas for males, higher income, education, and occupation (full-time) were associated with a higher incidence rate of becoming a parent and having children. Overall, the study suggests that policies that focus on the perspectives of Japanese citizens are worthwhile for increasing the odds of becoming a parent and having more children. To create a society where both childrearing households and non-parents can thrive, it is important to raise awareness about the challenges faced by both groups. Financial assistance policies for households can be helpful, but special consideration should be given to the younger generation. Providing financial stability to younger individuals may increase the likelihood of marriage, parenthood, and further childbearing.