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Current situation of Parasite-singles in Japan (Summary)

This research was made as one of the researches in the Statistical Research and Training Institute, Japan. The outline of the results of our research on “young people who are never married and living with their parents”, so-called “Parasite-singles”, in Japan is as follows.

The word “Parasite-single” was named by Prof. Masahiro Yamada, Tokyo Gakugei University, in 1999. The reasons why Parasite-single was picked up this time as a research theme are as follows: It is said that increasing Parasite-singles influence the rapid progress of declining birth rate and prolonged economic stagnation. And “New York Times” in the United States also picked the current situation of Parasite-singles in Japan up as a special topic with six pages on 1 July 2001. Thus, there is growing interest in Parasite-singles both domestic and international.

The micro data of “Labor Force Survey”, which was conducted by the Statistics Bureau of Japan, was specially tabulated for our research. And the data for the whole of Japan in September from 1980 till 2004 were used.

Here, Parasite-singles mean the persons who are 20-34 years old, never married, and living with parents. A condition whether they rely on their parents or not is not included here.

1. Parasite-singles increased rapidly in the latter half of the 1980s.

The number of Parasite-singles in Japan was 8.17 million persons and accounted for 29.5% of population aged 20-34 in 1980. In 2003, it increased up to 12.11 million persons and 45.4%, that is, came to nearly 10% of the total population of Japan. Specially, in the latter half of the 1980s, it increased 1.61 million persons and 6.7 points for these five years. This period was the most increased period in both number and rate of Parasite-singles.

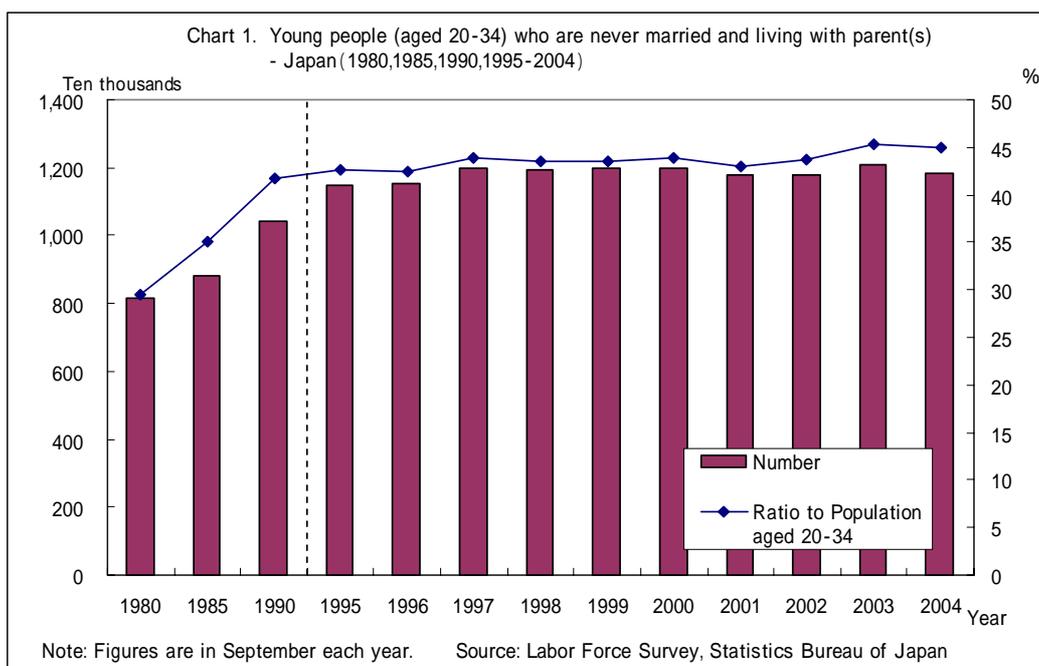


Table 1. Young people (aged 20-34) who are never married and living with parent(s) : Parasite Singles
- Japan (1980,1985,1990,1995-2004)

| Population and Rate | | Year | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | 1980 | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 |
| Population aged 20-34 | A (Ten thousand persons) | 2,765 | 2,507 | 2,492 | 2,689 | 2,720 | 2,735 |
| of which Parasite Singles | B (Ten thousand persons) | 817 | 879 | 1,040 | 1,147 | 1,154 | 1,201 |
| Rate of Parasite Singles | B/A (%) | 29.5 | 35.1 | 41.7 | 42.7 | 42.4 | 43.9 |

Note: Figures are in September each year.

Source: Labor Force Survey, Statistics Bureau of Japan

| Year | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
| 2,748 | 2,747 | 2,732 | 2,748 | 2,698 | 2,667 | 2,630 |
| 1,196 | 1,196 | 1,201 | 1,179 | 1,177 | 1,211 | 1,182 |
| 43.5 | 43.5 | 44.0 | 42.9 | 43.6 | 45.4 | 45.0 |

2. Middle-aged parasite-singles increased rapidly after 2000.

Middle-aged parasite-singles mean the parasite-singles aged 35-44. The number of the middle-aged parasite-singles was only 390 thousand persons and accounted for 2.2% of population aged 35-44 in 1980. In 2004, it increased up to 1.98 million persons and 11.9%, that is, came to more than 10% of population aged 35-44. Specially, for four years from 2000 till 2004, it increased 390 thousand persons and 1.9 points. This period from 2000 till 2004 was the most increased period in both number and rate of the middle-aged parasite-singles.

3. The unemployment rate of Parasite-singles is relatively high.

The unemployment rate of Parasite-singles was 4.1% in 1980, rose up to 10.3% in 2002, and slightly declined to 9.7% in 2004. On the other hand, the unemployment rate of population aged 20-34 was 2.5% in 1980, rose up to 7.4% in 2002, and slightly declined to 6.8% in 2004. The unemployment rate of Parasite-singles was always higher than that of population aged 20-34 in the period from 1980 till 2004. Specially, in and after 1999, the unemployment rate of Parasite-singles was about 3 points higher than that of population aged 20-34.

4. Parasite-singles account for high ratio to the unemployed aged 20-34.

Unemployed Parasite-singles were only 270 thousand persons in 1980 and 1.04 million persons in 2001. Although it declined slightly after 2001, it still kept around 1 million. On the other hand, the ratio of Parasite-singles to the unemployed aged 20-34 was 53.9% in 1980 and rose up to 69.9% in 1999. Although it declined slightly in and after 1999, it still kept high rates of more than two third.

Note: Refer to the following page in Japanese for further information:

<http://www.stat.go.jp/training/2kenkyu/saika.htm>