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ULTIMAS NOTICIAS DEL JAPON

(Semana del 20 al 26 de septiembre, 1993)

(VIP 93)

(DISTRIBUCION EXCLUSIVA)

OPINION SURVEY ON SEXUAL EQUALITY :

(1) Men get preferential treatment, women think more women than men believe men are treated better in the home, at work, in politics, and in other areas, and fewer believe that the sexes have equal status, according to the results of a survey on sexual equality recently released by the Prime Minister's Office. The survey targeted 5,000 people aged 20 and over in an interview format, and achieved a valid rate of response of 70.5 percent (1,553 men and 1,971 women). This is the first piece in a three-part series summarizing the survey's findings, which will be used as reference material for future policies.

To questions concerning sexual equality, the share of respondents believing men were treated better broke down as follows: in the home, 63.8 percent of women and 48.1 percent of men in the workplace, 63.6 percent of women and 55.6 percent of men at school, 18.6 percent of women and 11.2 percent of men in politics, 81.7 percent of women and 73.3 percent of men in law and within institutions, 54.9 percent of women and 40.4 percent of men as concerns accepted behavior, and traditions, 78.8 percent of women and 73.7 percent of men. In all areas, a higher share of women than men considered the situation to be unequal.

At work, in politics, and in customary behavior, especially, a majority of both men and women recognized the existence of a "Man's world".

Asked what it was most important to do to bring about equality in every area of society, the order of reference was the same for both men and women, and the sexes responded in approximately equal proportions. The most popular opinion, given by 28.0 percent of respondents, was that women themselves should be more positive in gaining economic power, knowledge, and technical skills, followed by 26.8 percent who favored a change in an array of social prejudices and fixed ideas concerning women, 13.1 percent who wanted changes in the legal and institutional practices that discriminate against women, and 12.7 percent who favored a system adopted whereby a fixed share of important positions in government and business would go to women. Finally 9.3 percent wanted to see adequate policies and provision of services to encourage women to enter the work force in greater numbers.

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THE COMPARATIVE TREATMENT OF THE SEXES (PERCENT)

	IF MEN ARE ANYTHING, MEN ARE TREATED:			IF WOMEN ARE ANYTHING, WOMEN ARE TREATED:		
	FAR BETTER	TREATED BETTER	EQUAL STATUS	TREATED BETTER	FAR BETTER	DON'T KNOW
<u>HOME LIFE</u>						
WOMEN	16.8	47.0	29.1	3.9	0.6	2.7
MEN	8.9	39.2	42.9	5.7	0.6	2.7
<u>WORK</u>						
WOMEN	20.8	42.9	16.6	2.5	0.5	16.8
MEN	12.7	42.9	28.7	4.8	0.5	10.4
<u>SCHOOL</u>						
WOMEN	3.2	15.4	58.0	3.9	0.7	18.8
MEN	1.9	9.3	63.8	4.9	0.6	19.5
<u>POLITICS</u>						
WOMEN	43.7	38.0	8.9	0.7	0.2	8.5
MEN	30.7	42.7	18.3	1.4	0.3	6.7
<u>THE LAW AND INSTITUTIONS</u>						
WOMEN	17.2	37.7	30.8	1.3	0.3	12.7
MEN	10.0	30.5	48.4	3.1	0.5	7.7
<u>ACCEPTED BEHAVIOR AND TRADITIONS</u>						
WOMEN	28.4	50.4	12.1	2.7	0.3	6.0
MEN	20.3	53.4	19.3	2.6	0.5	3.9

OPINION SURVEY ON SEXUAL EQUALITY:

(2) Wives perform most household chores.

This is the second piece in a three-part series summarizing the results of a survey on sexual equality undertaken by the Prime Minister's office. For this part of the survey, which focuses on the roles of husband and wife within marriage, 1,560 women and 1,285 men took part. In the great majority of homes, the burden of all household chores among married people falls mainly to the wife. Wives wash clothes and prepare meals in about 9 out of every 10 families, and clean, shop, and clear away after eating in about 4 out of 5. In many households all partners help look after infants and parents, and lend children a hand with their homework, but even so, 50-60 percent of households rely on the wife to perform these tasks.

Among married couples, decisions over the purchase of land and residence fall to the husband in 53.2 percent of households, the couple together in 31.5 percent, all family members in 8.6 percent, and the wife alone in 1.9 percent, indicating that the wife has little sway in these matters.

Over the purchase of furniture and large household appliances, 43.7 percent of couples make the decision together, independent decisions being fewer-the husband alone decides in just 23.2 percent of married

households, and the wife in 20.1 percent. The wife has responsibility for the management of accounts in 70.5 percent of families, followed by the couple together in 15.0 percent, and the husband in 9.7 percent. Finally, husbands were considered to wear the trousers in 61.7 percent of households, the couple together in 20.5 percent, and the wife in 11.6 percent.

A majority of 78.2 percent of women and 81.5 percent of men concurred with the view that a woman finds true happiness in marriage, and so it is best for her to wed, the figures showing general agreement between the sexes. To the proposition that since the decision to marry is a private matter, marrying and remaining single are equally acceptable, 66.1 percent of women and a rather lower 58.1 percent of men agreed.

The view that a man belongs in the workplace and a woman at home was held by 55.6 percent of women respondents and 65.7 percent of men. In a 1979 survey, 70.1 percent of women and 75.6 percent of men had agreed with this idea, indicating that a significant change has taken place since then. Moreover, 65.2 percent of women respondents and 69.0 percent of men concurred with the notion that when a woman marries, she would live her life for her husband and children, and other members of her family, rather than for herself. Among younger respondents, however, fewer people supported these statements, around 40 percent of women and about 30 percent of men in their 20s and 30s noting their disagreement.

The view that having children was not always necessary even if you married was opposed by 59.0 percent of women and 63.4 percent of men. A majority of 83.9 percent of women and 87.7 percent of men agreed that it was all right for a women to be in paid employment, but she should do the housework and look after the children properly.

The view that a married person dissatisfied with her or his partner should get divorced was held by an almost equal share of men and women, 44.4 percent of all respondents agreeing and 43.8 percent disagreeing. The opinion that women tend to be at a greater disadvantage after divorce than men in today's society was held by 65.2 percent of men and 51.8 percent of women.

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THE SHARING OF HOUSEHOLD CHORES WITHIN MARRIAGE (PERCENT)

	<u>HUSBAND</u>	<u>WIFE</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>	<u>ALL THE FAMILY</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>
CLEANING						
WOMEN	1.9	86.0	1.3	8.3	2.4	0.1
MEN	2.2	82.7	1.2	11.1	2.6	0.2
WASHING						
WOMEN	1.3	91.3	1.3	3.7	2.4	0.1
MEN	1.5	88.9	1.2	5.8	2.4	0.2
SHOPPING						
WOMEN	2.1	84.9	2.2	8.5	2.2	0.2
MEN	3.0	77.0	2.0	15.0	2.6	0.2
MEALS PREPARATION						
WOMEN	0.8	91.5	1.5	3.2	2.6	0.4
MEN	1.2	88.2	1.4	5.4	3.6	0.3
CLEARING AWAY, WASHING DISHES						
WOMEN	1.5	84.7	3.1	7.3	2.7	0.7
MEN	1.9	80.9	3.2	10.1	3.0	0.8
GUIDING CHILDREN'S EDUCATION						
WOMEN	9.0	52.5	4.4	12.5	3.8	17.8
MEN	6.7	43.7	3.5	22.1	6.0	18.1

	HUSBAND	WIFE	CHILDREN	FAMILY	OTHERS	DON'T KNOW
LOOKING AFTER INFANTS 2						
WOMEN	0.6	68.6	1.6	14.6	6.8	7.8
MEN	0.8	56.5	1.3	20.7	5.9	14.8
LOOKING AFTER PARENTS 3						
WOMEN	1.1	72.5	1.4	15.7	3.6	5.7
MEN	4.4	54.1	2.6	29.3	5.7	3.9

1. This applies only to families with children of junior High school age and under 686 female and 520 male respondents took part.
2. This applies only to families with infants 309 female and 237 male respondents took part.
3. This applies only to families looking after parents on a daily basis 280 female and 229 male respondents took part.

OPINION SURVEY ON SEXUAL EQUALITY

(3) Little sexual bias found at work

This is the last in a three-part series looking at the results of a public opinion survey on sexual equality, undertaken by the Prime Minister's Office. This piece, in which 3,524 people participated, will focus on the workplace.

Women in paid employment (1,081 persons) gave the following reasons for working in a multiple-response section of the survey: 39.4 percent cited the need to keep up with the cost of living 38.8 percent worked to help with the household accounts, and another 38.8 percent to put something by for the future 36.6 percent worked to obtain money for private use 26.3 percent said they liked to work and 26.2 percent worked because it provided a sense of purpose.

Respondents were questioned about their worries and frustrations with their jobs, again in a multiple-choice format. The most popular responses were that income was low and insecure, given by 19.9 percent, and that they had little vacation and few days off, and that it was difficult to take off the days they were allowed, by 17.6 percent. Following that, 8.2 percent complained that working hours were long and overtime excessive, 6.7 percent disliked the atmosphere in the workplace,

5.1 percent said that ability was not properly valued, and 4.6 percent said their position and standing at work was insecure. Finally, 4.5 percent complained that the possibility of promotion was low, 4.1 percent said they were unable to make the most of their abilities and technical skills, and 4.0 percent complained of sexual discriminations.

Asked whether they thought women were treated unfairly in comparison to men, both in the nature of their work and in the treatment they received, no more than 12.8 percent of respondents answered in the affirmative. Upon asking these people in a multiple-response format how this unfair treatment manifested itself, 61.6 percent said there was discrimination in wages, 26.8 percent claimed a bias in evaluating people's abilities, 25.4 percent said there was discrimination in promotion and status, and 18.1 percent complained that they were only allowed to work as assistants to men.

Asked in a multiple-response format once more what they would do if they received sexually biased treatment at work, 23.6 percent said they would talk to their superior about it, 19.4 percent said they would discuss it with a colleague, 15.0 percent said they would leave their jobs, and 12.7 percent replied that they would simply suffer the unfair treatment. Asked whether they had experienced sexual harassment, 72.1 percent said they had never heard of such a case happening, and 5.5 percent said they had direct experience.

When unemployed women (890 persons, the majority being over 50) were asked in a multiple-response format why they did not do paid work, 30.7 percent gave age as the reason (40.3 percent of the unemployed women were over 60), 20.2 percent said it was because they had a heavy responsibility bringing up children, 19.7 percent said it was not financially necessary to work, 18.3 percent said they were not fit or strong enough, 14.7 percent said it would go against the wishes of family members, and 12.9 percent said they had a great deal of housework to do.

Female respondents (1,971 persons) were asked for their reasons for leaving or changing any jobs they had had up to the present. The most popular reason given was marriage, by 35.0 percent. This was followed by bearing and bringing up children, given by 21.4 percent, problems with health, by 6.9 percent, and age by 6.6 percent. After this, 5.2 percent said the work hadn't suited them, and 5.2 percent said they stopped working to look after an aged parent or sick member of the immediate family.

Respondents were asked how they felt about women taking up paid employment, and answers were given as follows. The view that women should give up their jobs once they had children, and find work again once the children were grown was held by 45.4 percent of women and 39.2 percent of men. The opinion that women should continue working even if they were to have children was endorsed by 26.3 percent of women and

19.8 percent of men. The idea that women should work until they have children was chosen by 11.1 percent of women and 15.1 percent of men, and that women should continue working until they married by 10.8 percent of women and 14.8 percent of men. Finally, no more than 2.8 percent of women and 5.7 percent of men thought it was better for a woman not to work.

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REASONS FOR WORKING (PERCENT)

To keep up with the cost of living	39.4	85.9
To help with the household accounts	38.8	15.3
To save for the future	38.8	44.2
To obtain money for private use	36.6	28.8
I enjoy working	26.3	18.2
It gives me a sense of purpose	26.2	27.9
It is natural to work	26.0	50.1
To follow my profession	24.5	17.4
To expand my horizons, make friends	24.3	14.9
To make use of free time	18.9	4.9
To acquire funds for education	17.7	21.6
To realize my potential ability, skills, and qualifications	16.2	21.3
To repay housing or other loans	9.3	17.3
To make a social contribution	8.9	16.8
Others	1.1	0.3
No special reason	0.4	0.4
Don't know	0.1	0.4



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