Changing demographics and the family in Asia and the Pacific

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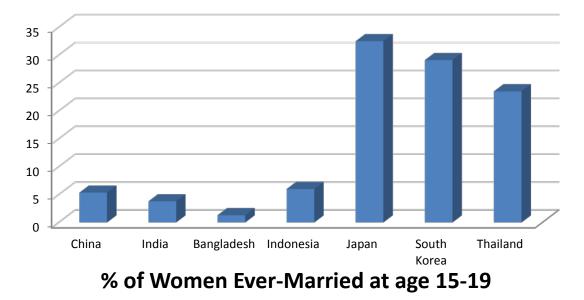
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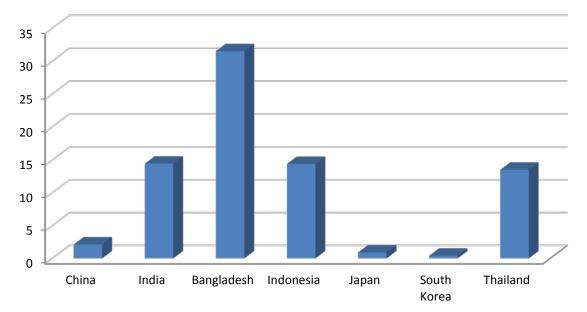
Asian family systems

- East Asia the Confucianist family
- South Asia the Hindu and Muslim family
- Southeast Asia bilateral kinship systems a very different pattern

Enormous variation, not only between these broad systems, but between countries and regions within them

% Women Single at age 30-34, 2010





How is the family changing in the face of massive economic, social and ideational change?

- The key economic and social changes:
 - Higher incomes
 - Female educational advancement
 - Changing labour market opportunities for women
- Key aspects of family change:
 - Age at marriage
 - Who chooses spouse?
 - Ability and motivation to terminate marriage
 - Decision-making within the family
 - Role of the elderly in the family
 - Role of the unmarried in the family

Key area of stress for the family throughout Asia

- Changing opportunities for women in the face of resistance to change in ideologies about women's roles
- Women face issues: how to benefit from opportunities in the labour force while also raising a family?
- The traditional "care" function of the family under stress

Trends in female labour force participation

- Enormous regional differences
- Number of economically active females per 100 economically active males:
 - East Asia 80.3
 - SE Asia&Pacific 72.0
 - South Asia 40.6
- Trends over time:
 - East and SE Asia female LFPR increasing
 - South Asia India rate declining; Pakistan increasing from very low level; Bangladesh increasing (partly real, partly changing measurement practices)

Education and female LFPRs

- East Asia: women's educational attainment has skyrocketed. Educated women have high opportunity costs of not getting remunerative work. Thus: delayed marriage and low fertility
- South Asia: slower increase in women's educational attainment.
- Parents' motives in educating daughters in South Asia: in order to get a good job, or in order to get a good husband?

Elements of family change and continuity observed in Asia

EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Smaller family size
- Almost complete shift to self-choice of marriage partner
- Some of the highest rates of singlehood in the world, but also some low rates
- Non-marriage especially concentrated amongst highly educated women, and in cities
- Some increase in cohabitation
- Rising divorce rates
- The "marriage package"

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_1537

