

家族規模と教育達成：移動構造の人口学的側面

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Family Size and Educational Attainment
-Demographic Aspect of Mobility Structure-

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Demographers since Arsène Dumont have suggested that family size may be related to a difference in ambition or experience of social mobility. From the same point of view, Philippe Ariès described "a modern family model" where family organized itself rationally in terms of the children and their future. It assumed that the fewer the children, the more time and care could be devoted to each and the better the results. In these expression, we can find a strategy generally taken by a family to survive in modern class society.

Mobility research has also examined the effect of family size (or sibsize) on one's career in the status attainment model. But, family size has been treated as a control variable, and a socio-demographic aspect of family has been ignored because of its focus on the meritocratic problems. If it is true that family background continues to influence one's educational and occupational attainment contrary to the expectation of meritocracy, we should reset a focus of research on family of orientation as a whole rather than individual.

In this paper, I examined the process of educational expansion after the World War II in Japan relating to class differential fertility. Based on the census of 1950, 1960 and 1970, and using the method of "ecological regression", I found the followings; 1) Until the great decline of fertility at the first half of 1950's, family size had been inversely related to a husband's socioeconomic status. 2) Children from smaller families had a great deal of advantage to push their educational attainment during 1960-1970 than those from larger families. 3) This relationship was observable even if socioeconomic variables were controlled. So we might conclude that family size intervened between a family's socioeconomic status and a child's educational attainment, and that every family had a motivation to limit the number of children.