

## **The Perception of the Marriage and Childbirth: Focused on Female Nursing College Students**

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**Abstract:** This study is conducted to understand the perception of the marriage and childbirth. The objectives are to provide basic materials to find fundamental alternatives for increasing marriage and birthrate. Research tools used for this research are composed of questions about demographic and family-related characteristics, job-related characteristics of respondents, awareness for marriage and giving birth to children. For the data analysis, descriptive statistics and t-test were conducted using SPSS 21.0 statistical program. Demographic characteristics of respondents are in the form of family living with parents and siblings and level of income of their parents are all above average and a lot of them had one sibling. Intentions for marriage appeared to be positive. As the result of researching for the ideal age of women for marriage, the average age was 28.02 years old and the actual age of their wedding planning was 28.87 years old in average. As the result of researching for consciousness for childbirth, 65.7% of them said that having children is certainly necessary and the ideal number of children appeared to be 2.54. But the actual number of children that they are actually going to give birth to was 2.12. As the result of verifying differences of intentions for marriage and childbirth according to variable factors of respondents. There were high consciousness for marriage and childbirth as the relationship between parents are intimate and the relationship with parents are intimate and as the satisfaction for family life is high. It is considered that education for positive thoughts on marriage and childbirth is necessary and the continuous movement for changing consciousness through social education should be pursued.

**Key words:** Female, nursing college students, perception of the childbirth, perception of the marriage, characteristics

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Population size and structure of the country effect on the competitiveness of the country, socio-economic development and the quality of lives. And reduction of producing population due to decreased fertility has been pointed out as the underlying cause of the slow economic growth according to the labor shortage (Shin, 2009).

According to the recent statistic of births and deaths in 2015 which national statistical office recently released, the total birth rate in our country last year (the number of born children that one woman is expected to bear in lifetime) was 1.24 people which largely fell short of average birth rate of OECD, 1.7 people. If we look at birth rates by age, the birth rate of >30 years old increased, while the birth rate of <20 years old decreased. For the age-specific birth rate of mothers (the number of born children per 1000 people by corresponding age) the early 30s was the highest as 116.8 people, the late 20s was the next highest as 63.1 people and late 30s was the next as 48.3 people. The average age of giving birth last year was

32.23 years old and it increased by 0.19 years comparing to the previous year. Proportion of pregnant mothers aged over 35 was investigated as 23.8% which increased by 2.2 points from the last year (21.6%). The number of born children in 2015 was 438,700 people which increased by 0.8% comparing to the last year but it is also the fourth lowest level ever.

Major factors of this phenomenon of low fertility are factors according to the social and structural changes such as pursuit of qualitative life in accordance with the rapid industrialization and urbanization, increasing economic activity of women, social advancement of women, the increase in the age of first marriage and the increased expense for child support. And a change in the consciousness of the young people for marriage is another major factor for low birthrate (Do, 2011). In other words, changes in the consciousness of the young people for marriage, in the situation which the social, cultural, economic and political factors are acting in combination with the whole society encouraging the low birthrate is a factor worth noting.

On this, I would like to provide basic materials to find fundamental alternatives for increasing marriage and birthrate, since there are only enterprises for married people such as supporting child rearing expenses for policy enterprises being pursued in the country for the business encouraging childbirth currently.

**Literature review:** The consciousness for marriage can be expressed as an attitude of expectation for marriage and it means the positive or negative consciousness of individual related with the marriage which includes views on marriage, family, love, spouse, gender and gender roles. Whether someone has the positive awareness or negative awareness for marriage effects not only on carrying out the actual marriage but also on maintaining the married life, procreation and rearing of children (Lee, 2006). Korean young people recognize marriage as an option not as a prerequisite, unlike the era which recognized the marriage as a prerequisite for establishing immediate family in traditional society. And this emerged as the very major factor affecting the low birth rate. That is in the survey for trends of marriage and childbirth for young people, the case of having negative awareness for marriage was 25.7% out of the total. And especially for the case of unmarried women, it was found that 48.6% of them have negative attitudes (Jeon, 2005).

In the research for perception on childbirth and marriage of college students, female college students had nontraditional views on childbirth and recognized child-rearing burden much more seriously than male college students. Male college students had non-traditional and progressive values on marriage than female college students and we could see that they avoid or delay the responsibility as a head of household as they become to have individualistic tendencies (Son and Kim, 2010). That is in cases of men, they still lay burden of giving birth and raising children on women and the high pressure for giving birth and raising children effects on the effective value of children and it reduces the number of children to give birth to Kim and Seo (2012). When we assume that the perception of childbirth and upbringing as common responsibilities of the society is generally weak in the society and various causes caused women's low fertility, it is the important time to seek multilateral solutions to resolve for this. The awareness for marriage is not something that is formed in the marriageable age but it is one's own value which starts to be established in the early adulthood (Oh, 2009). Therefore, educational access and interventions targeting early adulthood are important for cultivating positive awareness of marriage. Specially, it is meaningful to investigate the awareness of

marriage and childbirth targeting female students in the nursing department which is one of the majors that almost all graduates get jobs, based on the result that increasing women entering society influences the birth rate.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The subjects of the study are female college students who enrolled in the nursing department of 4 years university in Seoul, Gyeonggi and Chungcheong provinces. This survey was conducted from 5th, October to 30th, October in 2015 and total of 650 questionnaires were distributed and total of 630 questionnaires were used as final analysis materials, except 20 questionnaires which were not returned or inaccurately filled out.

Research tools used for this research are composed of questions about demographic and family-related characteristics, job-related characteristics of respondents, awareness for marriage and giving birth to children (Cho, 2007). Detailed contents of questionnaire created for this study are as follows. For questions identifying demographic characteristics of female college students are composed of questions on grades, religion, family structure (nuclear or extended family) monthly income of family, siblings, marital status of siblings and presence or absence of divorce experience of parents, etc. Variable factors related with family are composed of 5 questions about the democratic inclination of parents, marital intimacy of parents, intimacy with parents, sibling's satisfaction on marriage and their satisfaction on family life. and they were measured with 5 Likert measurement. The 5 points was measured as 'very satisfied', 4 points was measured as 'satisfied', 3 points was measured as "usual", 2 points was measured as 'dissatisfied', 1 point was measured as 'very dissatisfied'.

Employment-related variables were questions on their career hopes and it was measured with 5 points likert measurement. For questions asking about the perception on marriage, the perception on marriage, perception on the marriageable age, the ideal marriage age, considerations for selecting the spouse, the presence or absence of intention for marriage and the age planning to get married if one has the intention for marriage were asked about. For questions asking about awareness for childbirth, thoughts on the childbirth, ideal number of children, the actual number of children to give birth to parenting responsibilities and thoughts for women's lives at work were asked about. For the data analysis, descriptive statistics and t-test were conducted using SPSS 21.0 statistical program. The result of this study is as follows.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Demographic characteristics:** Looking at the demographic characteristics of subjects of this study, it is like Table 1. Looking at the grade firstly, first grade was the most common as 27.3% and second grade was 25.2%, third grade was 23.7% and the fourth grade was 23.8%. As for religion, 52.3% appeared to have religions and 47.7% appeared not to have religions. Looking at the form of the family, nuclear families were 93.4% and the extended families were found to be 6.6%. As for the average monthly income of the family having <2 million won appeared to be 16.3% having >4 million appeared to be 31.2% and having <2~4 million appeared to be 52.5%.

Looking at relation with siblings, cases of having one sibling were the most common as 54.7%, cases of having two siblings appeared to be 29.8%, cases of having >3 siblings appeared to be 12.7% and cases of being the only child appeared to be 2.8%. For cases of having unmarried, cases of having married siblings appeared to be 12.3% and cases of having unmarried siblings appeared to be 87.7%. As for presence of absence of experiences divorce and separation of parents, 94.4% appeared not to have such experiences and it was higher than cases of having the experience which was 5.6%.

**Family-related characteristics and characteristics related with the employment:** Family-related characteristics and characteristics related with the employment were analysed using 5 points Likert measurement (Very likely = 5 points, likely = 4 points, usually = 3 points, unlikely = 2 points, very unlikely = 1 point) and the result is shown in Table 2. Democratic inclinations of parents were 3.82 in average (SD = 0.84) and they were close to have democratic inclinations and intimacy of parents was 3.76 in average (SD = 0.92) and parents had intimate relationship in general. And intimacy between parents and themselves was 3.97 in average (SD = 0.83) and they were close to each other in general. In cases of respondents who had married siblings, the satisfaction rate for marriage was 3.76 in average (SD = 0.64) and it was high in general. Their own satisfaction rate for family life was 3.72 in average (SD = 0.88) and it was high in general. The degree of hoping for employments appeared to be high as 4.92 in general (SD = 0.32) and most of them appeared to hope for employments.

**The awareness for marriage:** Looking at the result for the awareness of marriage of respondents, it is shown in Table 3. The 66.7% of respondents appeared to have positive awareness and 33.3% of them appeared to have negative awareness. Specifically, 16.4% of them said that marriage is imperative, 50.3% of them said that it is good

Table 1: Demographic characteristics

Category	N	Percentage
<b>Grade</b>		
First	172	27.3
Second	159	25.2
Third	149	23.7
Fourth	150	23.8
<b>Religion</b>		
Yes	329	52.3
No	301	47.7
<b>Form of the family</b>		
Nuclear families	588	93.4
Extended families	42	6.6
<b>Average monthly income (million won)</b>		
<2	103	16.3
200~400	331	52.5
>4	196	31.2
<b>Relation with siblings</b>		
Only child	17	2.8
One sibling	345	54.7
Two siblings	188	29.8
>3 siblings	80	12.7
<b>Having married siblings</b>		
Yes	77	12.3
No	553	87.7
<b>Divorce and separation of parents</b>		
Yes	35	5.6
No	595	94.4

Table 2: Family-related characteristics and characteristics related with the employment

Category	M	SD
<b>Family-related characteristics</b>		
Democratic inclinations of parents	3.82	0.84
Intimacy of parents	3.76	0.92
Intimacy between parents and child	3.97	0.83
In cases of respondents who had married siblings,	3.76	0.64
the satisfaction rate for marriage (N = 77)	3.72	0.88
<b>Employment-related characteristics</b>		
Degree of hoping for employments	4.92	0.32

Table 3: The awareness of marriage

Category	N	Percentage
<b>Awareness of marriage</b>		
Be imperative	104	16.4
Be good to get married	317	50.3
Either of getting married or not getting married is okay	183	29.1
Better not to get married	20	3.2
Didn't know	6	1.0
<b>Recognition of marriageable age</b>		
Yes	433	68.8
No	197	31.2
<b>Ideal age for marriage for female (years)</b>		
≤27	183	29.0
28~29	317	50.3
≥30	130	20.7
<b>Considerations when selecting spouses</b>		
Physical condition like appearance	24	3.8
Economic power	217	34.6
Educational background	8	1.2
Religion	40	6.3
Trust and love	172	27.3
Personality	110	17.4
Home environment	56	8.9
Others	3	0.5
<b>Actual intention for marriage in future</b>		
Yes	575	91.3
No	55	8.7
<b>Age planning to get marriage (years)</b>		
≤27	152	24.2
28~29	240	38.1
≥30	238	37.7

Table 4: The awareness of childbirth

Category	N	Percentage
<b>Awareness for the need for children</b>		
Children are absolutely necessary	414	65.7
It does not matter even if there is no children	178	28.3
Having sons is necessary	3	0.5
Having daughters is necessary	15	2.3
Others	20	3.2
<b>Ideal number of children in one family</b>		
Don't care even if they don't have children	20	3.2
1	33	5.3
2	456	72.3
≥3	121	19.2
<b>Actual number of children that they want to have</b>		
Don't care even if they don't have children	33	5.3
1	96	15.2
2	423	67.2
≥3	78	12.3
<b>Responsibility of raising children</b>		
Mother	16	2.6
Father	4	0.6
Couple jointly	550	87.3
Possible person of the family	51	8.1
The nation	9	1.4
<b>Careers after marriage for women</b>		
Continue	411	65.2
They would quit if it interferes family life	103	16.4
They would quit no matter what	1	0.2
They would quit if they get pregnant	22	3.5
Continue again after raising children	93	14.7

to get married, 29.1% of them said that either of getting married or not getting married is okay, 3.2% said that it's better not to get married and 1.0% said that they didn't know. As for the recognition of marriageable age, 68.8% said that there 'is' marriageable age and 31.2% said that there 'isn't' marriageable age. As the result of researching the ideal age for marriage for female, among who answered that there is marriageable age, 28~29 years old was the most common as 50.3%, younger than 27 years old was 29.0% and >30 years old was 20.7%. As for considerations when selecting spouses, economic power (34.6%) appeared as the highest, trust and love (27.3%), personality (17.4%) and home environment (8.9%) appeared in order. The result of researching the actual intention for marriage in future, 91.3% said that they have intentions for marriage and 8.7% said that they don't have intentions for marriage. As the result of researching the age planning to get marriage among female college students who had intentions for marriage, 28~29 years old was the most common as 38.1%, >30 years old was 37.7% and <27 years old was 24.2%.

**The awareness of childbirth:** If we look at the survey results for the awareness of childbirth of respondents, it is shown as Table 4. Looking at the awareness for the need for children, 65.7% said that "children are absolutely

necessary", 28.3% said that "it does not matter even if there is no children", 2.3% said that 'having daughters is necessary' and 0.5% of them said "having sons is necessary". If we look at the awareness for the ideal number of children in one family, 2 children was the most common as 72.3% and >3 children was following as 19.2%, 1 child was 5.3 and 3.2% said that they don't care even if they don't have children. As the result of the actual number of children that want to have 2 children was the most common as 67.2% and 1 child was the following as 15.2% and >3 children was 12.3 and 5.3% said that they don't care even if they don't have children. The actual number of children that they want to have was lower than the ideal number of children. As for the responsibility of raising children, 87.3% of them thought it is 'couple jointly' and 'possible person of the family' followed after as 8.1%, 'mother' and 'the nation' were 2.6 and 1.4%, respectively and 0.6% answered 'father'. And we could see that we are now out of the traditional awareness that mother has the responsibility of raising children. As for the item about careers after marriage for women, 'continue' was 65.2%, 'continue again after raising children' was 14.7% and it could be seen that most of respondents who want employments want to maintain career after marriage. On the other hand, 16.4% said that 'they would quit if it interferes family life', 3.5% said 'they would quit if they get pregnant' and 0.2% said 'they would quit no matter what'.

#### **Comparison of family-related characteristics and job related variables according to intentions for marriage:**

The result of comparing family-related characteristics and job related variables according to intentions for marriage is shown in Table 5. It appeared that there were differences in familiarity of parents of respondents, familiarity of parents and themselves and the satisfaction rate of family life, between who had intention for marriage and who didn't have intention for marriage.

#### **Comparison of family-related characteristics and job related variables according to intentions of childbirth:**

The result of comparing family-related characteristics and job related variables according to intentions of childbirth is shown in Table 6. It appeared that there were differences in familiarity of parents of respondents, familiarity of parents and themselves and the satisfaction rate of family life, between who had intention for childbirth and who didn't have intention for childbirth.

Table 5: Comparison of family-related characteristics and job related variables according to intentions for marriage

	Yes (N = 575)		No (N = 55)		
Categories	M	SD	M	SD	t-values
<b>Family-related characteristics</b>					
Democratic inclinations of parents	3.84	0.78	3.78	0.85	0.43
Intimacy of parents	3.79	0.84	3.12	0.98	10.33**
Intimacy between parents and child	3.99	0.78	3.55	0.81	5.78**
In cases of respondents who had married siblings, the satisfaction rate for marriage (N = 77)	3.78	0.65	3.62	0.68	1.24
Satisfaction rate for family life	3.74	0.84	3.52	0.89	4.56**
<b>Employment-related characteristics</b>					
Degree of hoping for employments	4.93	0.28	4.82	0.33	0.98

Table 6: Comparison of family-related characteristics and job related variables according to intentions of childbirth

	Having intension for childbirth (N = 414)		Not having intention for childbirth (N = 178)		
Categories	M	SD	M	SD	t-values
<b>Family-related characteristics</b>					
Democratic inclinations of parents	3.82	0.77	3.76	0.82	0.39
Intimacy of parents	3.80	0.82	3.13	0.88	5.63**
Intimacy between parents and child	4.04	0.88	3.22	0.81	8.68**
In cases of respondents who had married siblings the satisfaction rate for marriage (N = 77)	3.88	0.45	3.52	0.65	2.14
Satisfaction rate for family life	3.94	0.74	3.53	0.89	5.42**
<b>Employment-related characteristics</b>					
Degree of hoping for employments	4.94	0.24	4.85	0.43	0.78

## CONCLUSION

This study proposed an improved decision tree algorithm for prediction of dropout student. The objective of this work is to develop an improved decision algorithm that enhances the ability to form decision trees and thereby to prove that the classification accuracy of improved decision algorithm on educational dataset is greater. A new decision tree model is to be constructed by using Renyi entropy for calculating the information gain and the association function will be used which determines the relative degree between the given attribute and class C. Experimental results will prove that improved decision tree algorithm will provide better prediction accuracy on student dropout data than that of traditional classification algorithms.

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