

IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF MINORITY WOMEN

In the second UPR cycle, the recommending States (Germany, Libya, Cuba, Belarus) made recommendations with relate to improving the situation of minority women.

However, Japan has not conducted a comprehensive study on the situation of minority women.

Surveys conducted by indigenous and minority women revealed that compared to the dominant Japanese women, women from minority communities have a lower educational level, less access to

employment and less income, and are more reluctant to use the public consultation services for domestic violence due to the fear for revealing their identity and/or re-victimization.

Despite the repeated recommendations from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Government has not collected disaggregated data nor adopted specific measures for indigenous and minority women.

CHALLENGES

1. Japan has not conducted a comprehensive study on the situation of indigenous and minority women and has not adopted any positive measures for them to ensure their full enjoyment, especially in education, employment and violence against women.

SUGGESTED QUESTION

1. When is the Japanese government going to collect disaggregated data to comprehend the situation of indigenous and minority women?
2. What measures is the Japanese government going to take to ensure indigenous and minority women enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination?

SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

1. Immediately collect disaggregated data to comprehend the situation of indigenous and minority women including in education, employment and violence against women, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
2. Adopt positive measures for indigenous and minority women to ensure their full enjoyment, especially in education, employment and violence against women, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

CASES, FACTS, COMMENTS

- ✓ Indigenous and minority women, including Buraku, Zainichi (resident) Korean, indigenous Ainu and Okinawan women, are facing multiple challenges.
- ✓ In the absence of the Governments' disaggregated data, Ainu, Buraku and Korean women conducted surveys by themselves so far.
- ✓ The survey conducted by Koreans revealed that the unemployment rate of Korean women was 9.13%, which was higher than that of all female respondents (5.03%, 4.1 percentage point gap) and of all foreign female nationals (7.7%, 1.4 percentage point gap). As to non-regular employment rate, it also turned out that the rate of Korean women was 62.3%, which was higher than that of Korean men (27.3%, 35.1 percentage point gap) and of all female respondents (54.6%. 7.8 percentage point gap). [See Table 1&2]
- ✓ A survey conducted with 250 Ainu women by a local Ainu group in 2005 revealed that most of respondents worked on part-time basis with an annual income less than 1.5 million yen.
- ✓ Women from minority/indigenous communities have lower educational background than that of men from their own community and of women from the mainstream. According to a survey by Ainu women in 2004, only 36% of them went to a high school, considerably lower than the national average. The rest of 60% were not allowed to go to a high school because of poverty or discriminatory attitude of school administrations or classmates. With the lower educational background, many of Ainu people live in the low standard of living.
- ✓ The survey also revealed that victims of domestic violence of these communities rarely go to a public consultation service for help. Some refrain from taking the service out of fear of being found where they are from or being re-victimized in the consultation.

Table 1. Unemployment rate (based on the 2010 census)

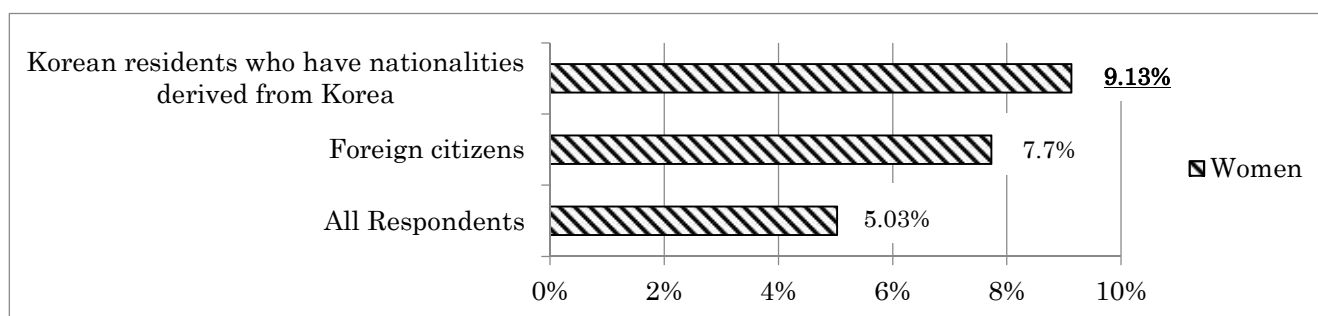


Table 2. Non-regular employment rate (based on the 2010 census)

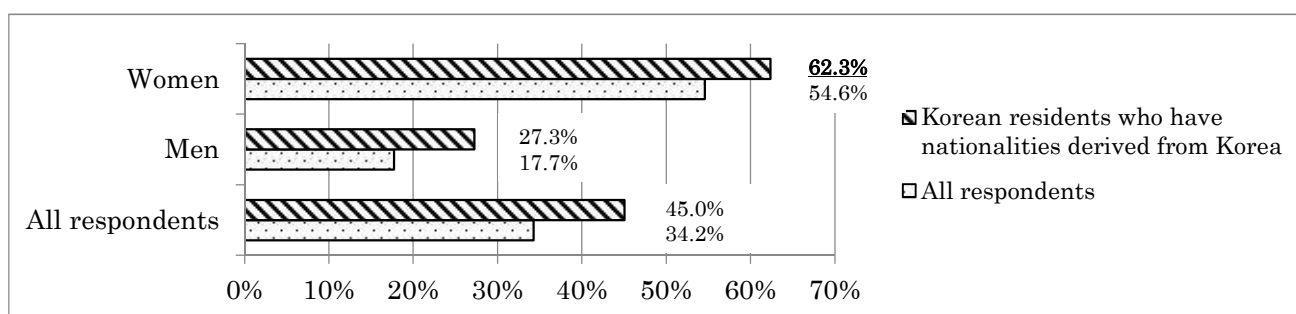


Table 3. Basic Information of Minority Groups

	Ainu	Buraku	Zainichi (Resident) Korean	Okinawa
Population in total/women	23,782/ 11,680 (2006) ¹ There are no surveys covering all Ainu people. The above figure is the number of people who call themselves Ainu in Hokkaido, the indigenous land of the Ainu people.	Over 892,751/ N/A (1993) ² The Buraku Liberation League estimates that there are 3 million Buraku people, and 6,000 Buraku areas.	Among Korean residents in Japan who have come to Japan because of Japan's colonial rule over Korea, and their descendants, approximately 400,000 people have nationalities derived from Korean peninsula ³ .	1,426,190 / 725,930 (2015) ⁴
Comprehensive gender-disaggregated survey/data	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Specific gender policy and measures	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Recognition status by the Government of Japan	Indigenous peoples	Japanese people discriminated based on social status	Permanent residents	Japanese people
UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	Indigenous peoples ⁵	People discriminated based on descent ⁶	People discriminated as non-citizens ⁷	Indigenous peoples ⁸

¹ Annex to State party report (CERD/C/JPN/3-6 (2009)), Statistics, table 24. *

² This statistics of Buraku population was collected from officially designated Dowa (Buraku) areas. Therefore, it excluded the Buraku population living outside of those areas.

³ Statistics of the Ministry of Justice as of 2013. Japan is a jus sanguinis state that attributes citizenship by parentage. In addition to this, there are more than 350,000 people (ibid.) who acquired Japanese nationality after 1952 and more than 160,000 people (As far as it can be ascertained from statistics of Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan during 1985-2013) who hold Japanese nationality by parentage, so in total it is estimated there are more than one million Korean residents in Japan.

⁴ Okinawa Prefecture, http://www.pref.okinawa.jp/toukeika/estimates/estimates_sukei.html. *The statistics includes migrants from outside Okinawa and excludes people of Okinawa living outside the islands.

⁵ CERD/C/JPN/CO/7-9 (2014), paragraph 20

⁶ Ibid, paragraph 22.

⁷ Ibid, paragraphs 11, 14 and 19.

⁸ Ibid, paragraph 21.