

NGO ANSWERS

TO THE LIST OF ISSUES (No.24) FROM CEDAW

Survey on Ainu, Buraku, Korean Women in Japan

- The International Movement against all forms of Discrimination and Racism-
Japan Committee (IMADR-JC) 1
- Ainu Association of Hokkaido, Sapporo Branch 2
- Buraku Liberation League Central Women's Division 6
- APEURO Women's Survey Project 11

July 2009

IMADR-JC

3-5-11, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo, 106-0032, JAPAN

Tel: +81-3-3568-7709 Fax: +81-3-3586-7448 E-mail: imadrjc@imadr.org

URL: <http://www.imadr.org>

A NGO Answer to the question made by CEDAW

24. In its previous concluding comments (see A/58/38, sect. IV, para. 366), the Committee requested the State party to provide, in its next report, comprehensive information, including sex disaggregated data, on the situation of minority women in Japan, with regard to their educational, employment and health status and exposure to violence. Please provide such information.

The Japanese government does not have any data regarding the status of minority women and, thus, cannot provide such information. At the same time, the government has not even acknowledged the need to comprehend the situation of minority women or for policies regarding them. Comprehensive information about minority women cannot be provided without first conducting a survey, but it has become clear through negotiations with the government, held twice since 2007, that the latter does not have the will to execute one. The government has not ventured to understand the situation because executing a survey will clarify gaps and discrimination in society and require it to implement corresponding measures.

Having received the Committee's Concluding Observations, the Japanese government added the item "Minority Women" to its sixth periodic report, but in the three paragraphs contained, there was no mention of the situation of minority women. There is also no mention of minority women at all in policies and guidelines, as well as pamphlets regarding gender equality.

From 2004 to 2005, we indigenous Ainu women, discriminated Buraku women and Korean women resident in Japan conducted, on our own, the first survey of minority women dealing with issues of education, employment, social welfare, health and violence, and pressed the government to come to see our situation. The government, however, continues to be silent. Excerpts from the survey results are attached. Although the conditions for respective survey was different and limited, it can be seen that there is a gap in educational standards and that there is a tendency for minority women to work long hours until old ages. To accurately grasp the situation of minority women and take appropriate measures, it is necessary for the government to secure the budget required and execute a survey in consultation with minority women. Unless minority women make a point of taking part in deliberations on policy regarding women, their point of view will not be known or reflected in policy.

Ainu Association of Hokkaido, Sapporo Branch

Buraku Liberation League Central Women's Division

APEURO Women's Survey Project

The International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism Japan Committee

(IMADR-JC)

The Result of Ainu Woman Questionnaire Survey (Excerpt)

Survey conducted by Ainu Association of Hokkaido, Sapporo Branch

Duration of Survey : October 2004-February 2005

Most of the respondents of this survey were members of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido, with two hundred and forty-one women from 14 branches and one district being surveyed out of a total of fifty-four branches.

Your Age

	Number	%
18~19	6	2
20~29	15	6
30~39	23	10
40~49	43	18
50~59	68	28
60~69	52	22
Above 70	21	9
Other	0	
No answer	13	5

Because members of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido were the main targets of the survey, 77% of respondents were aged over 40 years. In seeking the cooperation of each branch, it was not communicated that they should consider reaching a wider age range.

1. Your level of education

Level of Education Completed		Number	%
Compulsory education	Elementary school	25	10
	Junior high school	118	50
Senior high school		61	26
Technical High school		1	0
Professional training college		15	6
College		7	3
Public university		0	0
Private university		3	1
Graduate school		1	0
Never been to school		1	0
No answer		9	4
Total		241	100

Given that 77% of respondents were over the age of 40 years, a majority of 60% had graduated elementary or junior high school. Thirty-six percent had finished at least high school, with 4% completing college or university. According to the 2006 Hokkaido Utari Survey on Living Conditions, 93.5% go on to attend senior high school (the average in municipalities where Ainu live).

2. Work

➤ Are you currently working?

	Number of respondents	%
Employed	137	56
Unemployed	88	37
No answer	16	7
Total	241	100

➤ What is your approximate income per year (including taxes)?

	Number of respondents	%
Under half a million yen	49	20
Half a million to 1 million yen	67	29
1 to 1.3 million yen	31	13
1.3 to 2 million yen	20	8
2 to 3 million yen	8	3
3 to 5 million yen	3	1
5 to 7 million yen	0	0
7 to 10 million yen	0	0
Over 10 million yen	0	0
No answer	63	26
Total	241	100

3. Welfare

➤ Public livelihood assistance (Social Security)

	Number of respondents	%
Currently receiving	29	12
Have received in the past	21	9
Have never received	158	65
No answer	33	14
Total	241	100

We learnt from the survey that about 20% of the women were receiving public assistance or had received it in the past.

According to the 2006 Hokkaido Ainu Survey on Living Conditions, 38.3 per mill (equivalent to 3.83%) lived on public assistance (out of 1000 Ainu

living in municipalities). Our survey methodology was different, so it is difficult to compare results, but the number of Ainu women depending on public assistance is clearly more.

4. Health

➤ Do you suffer from any chronic diseases?

	Number of respondents	%
Yes	75	31
No	147	61
Don't know	0	0
No answers	19	8
Total	241	100

Thirty-one percent answered positively, of which 14% said that they were not visiting the hospital for appropriate medical care. Regarding why, 20% raised financial reasons and, though few, some said that it was because they were not enrolled in a health insurance scheme.

➤ Do you go to the hospital when you need medical attention?

	Number of respondents	%
Yes	188	78
No	33	14
No answers	20	8
Total	241	100

When asked whether they had a health insurance card, 10% answered in the negative.

5. Violence

1) Experience of domestic violence

Seventeen percent of respondents said that they had been hit, kicked or beaten several times, and 20% admitted to once or twice. A total of 37% of the Ainu women who responded said that they had suffered some sort of spousal violence. We are unable to tell from our survey methodology whether this number is statistically high or low. We did, however, confirm that there definitely are women who are suffering from such violence.

➤ Chart 6-1 Have you experienced violence from your spouse or significant other?

	I have been hit, kicked or beaten		I have had things thrown at me		I have had things valuable to me destroyed or thrown away		I have been called "fool," useless" and told I should die	
	Number of respondents	%	Number of respondents	%	Number of respondents	%	Number of respondents	%
Many times	40	17	20	8	8	3	24	10
Once or twice	48	20	27	11	18	7	26	11
Never	133	55	105	44	137	58	119	49
No answer	20	8	89	37	78	32	72	30
Total	241	100	241	100	241	100	241	100
	Almost 40% answered "many times" or "once or twice"		About 20% answered "many times" or "once or twice"		10% answered "many times" or "once or twice"		About 20% have experienced verbal abuse from their spouse	

	I have been denied living expense allowance		My relations with family or friends are restricted or prohibited and my phone calls and mail are checked		I have been forced to have sex against my will	
	Number of respondents	%	Number of respondents	%	Number of respondents	%
Many times	19	8	25	17	48	20
Once or twice	10	4	19	20	33	14
Never	154	64	150	55	113	46
No answer	58	24	47	8	47	20
Total	241	100	241	100	241	100
	Over 10% said that they had been denied living expense allowance		Almost 40% had experienced such restrictions, bans and checks		Over 30% answered "many times" or "once or twice"	

2) Seeking help

Among those that confided in or consulted others regarding the violence they had suffered, 14% said they had approached doctors, rather than family or friends, perhaps because of the after effects of the physical or verbal abuse. In some cases, the spouse had verbally abused the woman by insulting all Ainu women, and that led to being hurt and feelings of self-contempt, as well as the loss of pride as a human being. This made us think about how much better it would be to have a shelter for women who suffer this violence, where they can feel safe and have people to consult for advice.

Sixty-four percent left this question blank, despite there being the choice “I did not consult anyone/anywhere.” We cannot be sure what this number represents, but it is important to consider the reasons for the respondents not answering this question.

➤ Have you consulted regarding the violence you have suffered from your spouse?

	Number of respondents	%
Yes	48	23
No	70	33
No answers	93	44
Total	211	100

Over 20% said that they had approached someone for advice and over 30% said that they did not consult anyone at all.

➤ For those who answered “Yes” above, who did you consult?

	Number of respondents	%
Police	0	0
Regional and District Legal Affairs Bureaus, Civil Liberties Commissioner	2	1.2
Consultation offices/consultant for women	0	0
General facilities for women (e.g. women’s centers, gender equality centers)	0	0
Offices of the administrative divisions of Japan	0	0
City hall/municipal office	1	1
Court	0	0
Private organizations (e.g. Bar Association, private shelter)	0	0
Doctor	21	14
Family/Relative	13	9
Friend/Acquaintance	2	1
Other	0	0
I didn’t consult anyone	3	2
No answer	97	64
Multiple answers	13	9
Total	150	100

Results of the Survey of Buraku Women (Excerpt)

Questionnaire conducted by Buraku Liberation League Central Women's Division

Duration of Survey: January 15, 2005

Your Age

	Number	%
18~19	0	0.0
20~29	23	1.6
30~39	67	4.8
40~49	309	22.0
50~59	504	35.9
60~69	393	28.0
Over 70	100	7.1
No Answer	9	0.6
Total	1405	100.0

the situation of Buraku women over the age of 40.

This survey does not reflect the situation of all Buraku women because the respondents were limited to women active in the Buraku Liberation Movement who were present at the Buraku Liberation League's 50th National Women's Rally held in Tottori prefecture in January 2005. We were still, however, able to learn about the situation of about 1,405 Buraku women because of this survey. Over 90% of the respondents were over the age of 40, so the survey results more or less reflect

1. Education and Literacy

At 44.7%, the highest level of education attained by most respondents was high school, followed by junior high school at 34%. Viewed by age group (see Chart 3-1), we can observe the effects of the scholarship system. Generally, the source for scholarships was the Japan Scholarship Foundation, but under the Dowa measures, a system began in Osaka City in 1956 providing scholarships and lump sum payments for those unable to attend school for economic reasons. Local governments and the State have provided scholarships since the Law on Special Measures for Dowa Projects was passed in 1969.

As a result of these scholarships, the education levels of women now in their 50s rose. Before this, women now between the ages of 60 and 69 only completed elementary school (8.4%) or junior high school (58.0%). Further, 3% of the total number of women dropped out of either elementary or junior high school.

1) Highest Level of Education Attained, by age group (lower tier = percentage)

	Compulsory education		High School	College	Technical College ¹	University (Public)	University (Private)	Graduate School	Did not go to school	No answer	Total
	Elementary School	Junior High School									
20-29 years	—	1	9	6	2	1	3	1	—	—	23
		4.3	39.1	26.1	8.7	4.3	13.0	4.3			100.0
30-39 years	—	5	40	9	7	—	4	—	—	2	67
		7.5	59.7	13.4	10.4		6.0			3.0	100.0
40-49 years	1	12	190	52	26	3	21	—	—	4	309
	0.3	3.9	61.5	16.8	8.4	1.0	6.8			1.3	100.0
50-59 years	8	173	253	30	18	5	11	—	—	6	504
	1.6	34.3	50.2	6.0	3.6	1.0	2.2			1.2	100.0
60-69 years	33	228	114	1	5	2	—	—	2	8	393
	8.4	58.0	29.0	0.3	1.3	0.5			0.5	2.0	100.0
Over 70 years	16	57	19	—	1	1	1	—	2	3	100
	16.0	57.0	19.0		1.0	1.0	1.0		2.0	3.0	100.0
No answer	2	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	9
	22.2	22.2	33.3	11.1						11.1	100.0
Total	60	478	628	99	59	12	40	1	4	24	1405
	4.3	34.0	44.7	7.0	4.2	0.9	2.8	0.1	0.3	1.7	100.0

Reference: 2000 National Census - Academic Background of Women (excluding current school goers) (Unit: %)

	Elementary/Junior High School	High School/Junior High School under old education system	College/Technical College	University/Graduate School	Unknown	Did not go to school
20s	5.7	41.8	33.7	14.2	3.3	1.3
30s	5.0	48.9	29.6	13.1	3.3	0.1
40s	10.6	54.2	21.5	10.7	3.0	0.1
50s	26.4	54.3	10.4	5.0	3.8	0.1
60s	43.9	45.2	4.7	2.2	3.8	0.2
70s+	58.3	32.7	3.3	1.0	4.1	0.7

Compared to the 2000 National Census on the academic background of women in Japan (see Chart 3-2), we can see that the percentage of respondents in our survey over the age of 50 whose highest education level attained is elementary or junior high school is higher, and that the number of years attending school is less. Also, asked whether they had ever received a scholarship, because most

¹ Vocational schools where junior-high school graduates are trained mainly in technology and engineering.

respondents were elderly, 43.8% said that they did not avail of any because there was no scholarship system back then. Viewed by age, the ratio of women receiving scholarships increases as the age group becomes younger.

2) Reading

	Number of respondents	%
I have no trouble reading	1208	86.0
I can read some Kanji	153	10.9
I can only read Hiragana and Katakana	23	1.6
I can't read at all	4	0.3
No answer	17	1.2
Total	1405	100.0

Asked how well they can read a newspaper, 10.9% said that they could read some Kanji, 1.6% said that they could only read Hiragana and Katakana and 0.3% said that they cannot read at all.²

3) Writing

	Number of respondents	%
I have no trouble writing	1111	79.1
I can write some Kanji	236	16.8
I can only write Hiragana and Katakana	33	2.3
I can't write at all	2	0.1
Other	1	0.1
No answer	22	1.6
Total	1405	100.0

² The Japanese writing system contains three different types of characters: Kanji (Chinese characters), Hiragana (Japanese characters) and Katakana (characters adapted from Kanji). Among them, Kanji is far more difficult in writing and reading.

2. Work

1) Work Situation, by age group (lower tier = percentage)

	Working	Not working	No answer	Total
20-29 years	23 100.0			23 100.0
30-39 years	61 91.0	6 9.0		67 100.0
40-49 years	287 92.9	22 7.1		309 100.0
50-59 years	412 81.7	89 17.7	3 0.6	504 100.0
60-69 years	199 50.6	174 44.3	20 5.1	393 100.0
Over 70 years	28 28.0	66 66.0	6 6.0	100 100.0
No answer	3 33.3	5 55.6	1 11.1	9 100.0
Total	1013 72.1	362 25.8	30 2.1	1405 100.0

★ Reference: Work Situation (2000 National Census) (Unit: %)

	Working	Not working	Unknown
Total Number	45.6	53.4	1.0
15 to 19 years	13.5	85.9	0.6
20 to 29 years	64.0	34.2	1.8
30 to 39 years	54.4	44.6	0.9
40 to 49 years	66.9	32.5	0.6
50 to 59 years	59.9	39.5	0.6
60 to 69 years	30.6	68.6	0.8
70 years+	9.8	88.7	1.5

According to Chart 4-1, 72.1% of respondents are currently working. Viewed by age group, 91% of those in their 30s (54.4% according to the 2000 National Census, Chart 4-2), 92.9% of those in their 40s (66.9% in National Census), 81.7% of those in their 50s (59.9% in National Census), 50.6% of those in their 60s (30.6% in National Census) and 28% of those in their 70s (9.8% in National Census) are working women. It is generally said that the labor curve for women in Japan forms an “M” shape, recently coming to resemble a trapezoid, but Buraku women work throughout their lives, regardless of age, and their labor structure is not M-shaped.

2) Work position

	Number	%
Self-employed	67	6.6
Family Business	45	4.4
Company manager/executive	29	2.9
Full-time/company employee	355	35.0
Contracted or temporary employee	56	5.5
Part-timer	328	32.4
Homemaker	24	2.4
Other	83	8.2
No answer	26	2.6
Total	1013	100.0

Above chart shows that 35% of respondents are full-time or company employees and 32.4% are engaged in part-time work. A large number of respondents said they worked in small places employing only 1-4 people and earn a pre-tax income of around 2 million yen a year. The majority worked an average of 40 hours a week. It is clear from the survey that despite being part-time workers, there are women who are working practically in the same conditions as those who work fulltime.

3. Discrimination in Marriage

Most women were married, at 72.2%, followed by widowed, at 13.8%, or divorced, at 9.1%. Of those married, 80% were in their 50s, 83.5% in their 40s, and 64.9% in their 60s. Of those divorced, 12.3% were in their 40s, 7.9% in their 50s, and 6.9% in their 60s. Of those widowed, age was a factor, with women in their 60s the majority.

1) Experience of Discrimination in Marriage

	Number of respondents	%
Yes	407	29.0
No	979	69.7
No answer	19	1.4
Total	1405	100.0

Asked whether they had ever experienced discrimination in marriage (see Chart 2-1), 29% answered affirmatively.

4. Discrimination in marriage refers to the non-Buraku partner breaking off the engagement or the partner's parents or relatives opposing the marriage on the grounds of the person being of Buraku origin.

2) Experience of Discrimination in Marriage, by age group (lower tier = percentage)

	Have Experienced	Have Not Experienced	No Answer	Total
20-29 years	5 21.7	18 78.3	—	23 100.0
30-39 years	23 34.3	43 64.2	1 1.5	67 100.0
40-49 years	109 35.3	196 63.4	4 1.3	309 100.0
50-59 years	153 30.4	345 68.5	6 1.2	504 100.0
60-69 years	97 24.7	292 74.3	4 1.0	393 100.0
Over 70 years	17 17.0	80 80.0	3 3.0	100 100.0
No answer	3 33.3	5 55.6	1 11.1	9 100.0
Total	407 29.0	979 69.7	19 1.4	1405 100.0

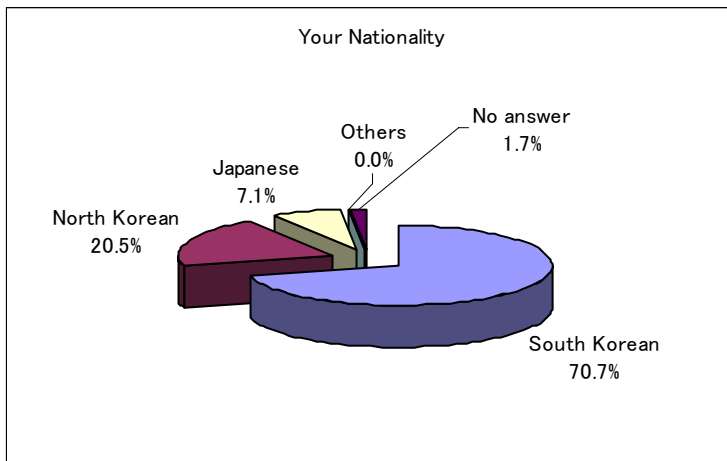
If we look at experiences of marriage discrimination according to age group (see Chart 2-2), over 30% of women in each of the groups have suffered - 34.3% in their 30s, 35.3% in their 40s and 30.4% in their 50s, as well as 21.7% in their 20s. Respondents in their 60s and 70s have not experienced much marriage discrimination, but this is thought to be because arranged marriages were common at the time, particularly among Buraku people. Incidents of discrimination in marriage have increased together with the number of love marriages between Buraku and on-Buraku people.

Results of the Survey of Zainichi Korean Women (Excerpt)

Questionnaire conducted by the Apeuro Women's Survey Project
Duration of Survey: July 2004-May 2005

The Apeuro Women's Survey Project is the group that decided to survey the situation of Zainichi Korean women, being women with roots in the Korean peninsula, regardless of whether their nationality is North Korean, South Korean or Japanese. Members participating in the project numbered 42. The survey was conducted mainly in the Kansai area, where there is a relatively greater concentration of Zainichi Koreans. The questionnaires were disseminated through the women's networks, and 818 women responded. The results show that there are people in Japan who maintain their ethnic characteristics, contradicting the true state of affairs of the entire Zainichi Koreans. We await a comprehensive government-conducted survey on this issue.

Your Nationality



North Korean 578 (70.6%)

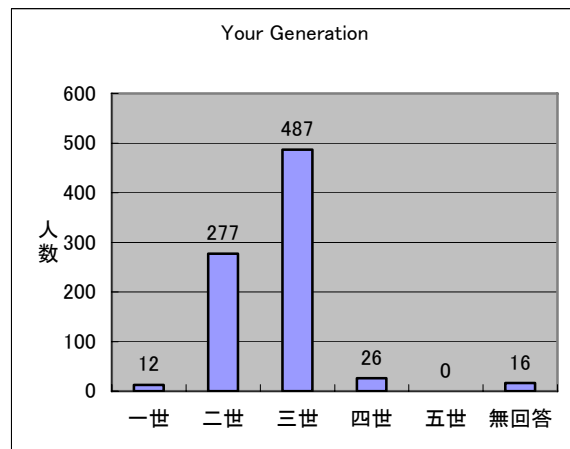
South Korean 168 (21%)

Japanese 58 (7%)

No Answer 14 (2%)

Your Age

No.	Age	No	%
1	18 to 19 years	96	11.7%
2	19 to 29 years	191	23.3%
3	30 to 39 years	145	17.7%
4	40 to 49 years	223	27.3%
5	50 to 59 years	109	13.3%
6	60 to 69 years	34	4.2%
7	Over 70 years	10	1.2%
0	No answer	10	1.2%
	Total	818	100.0%



Replace in Chart→Number of Women, First generation, Second generation, Third generation, Fourth generation, Fifth generation, No answer

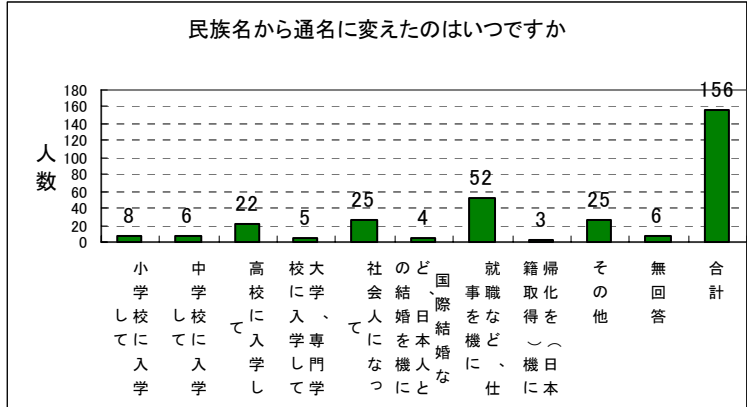
The generation of women born on the Korean Peninsula are referred to as “first generation,” with those born in Japan as “second generation” and their children as “third generation.” With Japan's forced assimilation policies, these terms are important keywords in analyzing the background of the women surveyed.

1. Changing their ethnic name

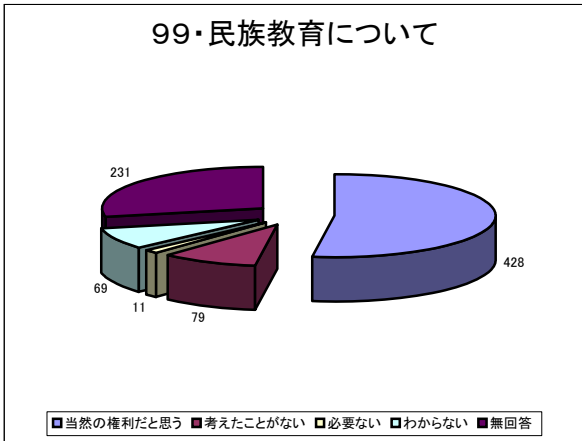
Regarding changing their ethnic name to a Japanese name, 156 women responded in the affirmative. Whether to use a Japanese name or an ethnic Korean name is a critical turning point for Zainichi Koreans.

Discrimination on a daily basis can be evaded by taking on a Japanese name.

Replace in Chart→When did you change your name?, Number of Women, When I entered elementary school, When I entered junior high school, When I entered senior high school, When I entered university/vocational college, When I started working, When I married someone of another nationality/Upon marrying a Japanese man, Upon taking a job, Upon becoming naturalized and acquiring Japanese nationality, Other, No answer, Total



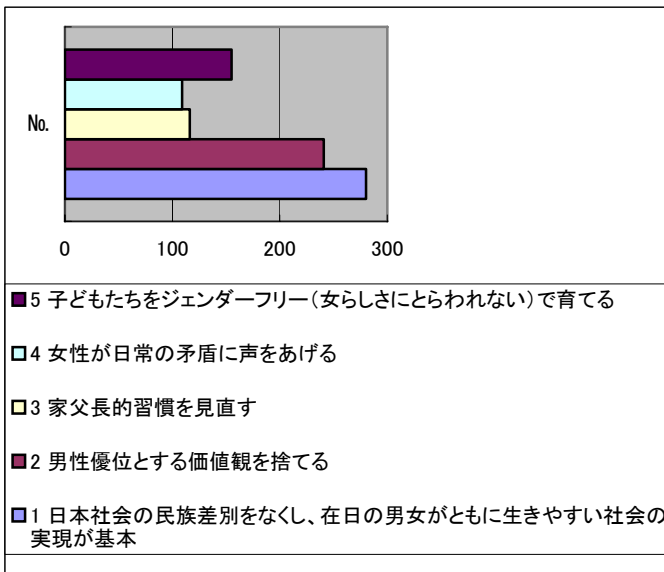
2. Ethnic Education



Regarding ethnic education, most respondents (426) answered that it is a definite right.

Replace in Chart→Ethnic education, It is a definite right, I've never thought about it, It isn't necessary, I don't know, No answer

3. On the most effective way to eliminate discrimination against women in Zainichi Korean society



Two-hundred and eighty women (34.2%) responded that to eliminate discrimination against women, it is necessary to eliminate ethnic discrimination in Japanese society.

Replace in Chart→Raising children in a gender-free way (without emphasizing femininity), Women protesting contradictions regarding gender in everyday life, Reconsidering patriarchal customs, Getting rid of the sense of value that holds men superior to women, It is fundamental to eliminate ethnic discrimination in Japanese society and make it an easier place to live for both Zainichi Korean men and women.

4. Work

How are Zainichi Korean women being oppressed in the workplace, with multiple forms of discrimination based on ethnicity, nationality and gender? Can their labor curve be interpreted to form an M-shape³?

The chart below shows survey results based on age and employment status, subtracting respondents who left this question blank.

Age range	Employed	%	Unemployed	%
18-19	13	43.3	17	56.7
20-29	146	79.8	37	20.2
30-39	111	79.9	28	20.1
40-49	186	89	23	11
50-59	82	85.4	14	14.6
60-69	18	62.1	11	37.9
Over 70	4	50	4	50

These results show that their labor curve is different from that of Japanese women in general, which forms an M-shape.

Have you ever been discriminated against based on nationality and origin when looking for a job?

No.	Item	Number	%
1	I have been rejected based on nationality or origin	34	4.1
2	I have felt discrimination	86	10.9
3	I haven't been discriminated against in particular	290	34.8
4	I don't know	113	13.6
5	I have been rejected for using my ethnic name	14	2.6
6	Other	29	3.7
0	No answer	252	30.3
	Total	818	100

About 30% responded that they had not been discriminated against in particular, and over 10% each answered that they did not know or that they had felt discriminated against.

³ A term coined to express the character of the labor rate of Japanese women over different age groups. The rate is high until their mid-20s. They leave the workforce between ages 25 and 34 for marriage and childrearing, then return from age 35 until their 50s, the rate decreasing as with age. This curve forms the shape of the letter M.