

Trends of Japanese Values and Behavioral Patterns based on JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003

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JGSS 累積データ 2000-2003 にみる日本人の意識と行動の変化

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Japanese General Social Surveys project (JGSS) has conducted a nationwide general social survey on a regular basis and provided its data for secondary analyses. This study examines trends of values and behavioral patterns of Japanese people over 20 years old based on JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003. We focused 127 basic questions which had been asked more than twice between 2000 and 2003. For each variable, we selected a focus category, recoded the variable into a dummy variable, weighted each data so that we could estimate the distribution in the population, restored the sample size and conducted χ^2 analyses. We could take a general view of trends from the end of the 20th century to the beginning of the 21st century in the following seven fields: (1) gender and family; (2) policy and politics; (3) economy, occupation and social stratification; (4) crime and law, (5) sense of trust; (6) everyday behavior; and (7) happiness and satisfaction. JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003 enables analyses on factors which caused the above changes.

Key Words : JGSS, time-series analysis, social change

Japanese General Social Surveys プロジェクトは、人々の意識や行動を総合的に調べる社会調査を継続的に実施し、データの公開を進めてきた。本稿では、2000年から2003年までに実施した4回の調査結果に基づいて、20歳以上の日本人の意識と行動の全般的な変化をみている。継続的に尋ねている127の基本項目は、以下の7分野に渡る：(1) 家族・ジェンダー、(2) 政治・政策、(3) 職業・経済・社会階層、(4) 犯罪・法律、(5) 信頼、(6) 日常生活行動、(7) 幸福感・満足感。各変数について注目するカテゴリーを定め、2値化し、母集団での推定ができるようにデータに重み付けをした後、元のサンプル・サイズに戻して²検定を行った。20世紀末から21世紀冒頭にかけての、各分野での変化をとらえることができた。JGSS 累積データ 2000-2003 は、変化の要因分析にも利用できる。

キーワード : JGSS、時系列分析、社会変動

1. Introduction

The Japanese General Social Surveys (JGSS) project conducts ongoing social surveys to comprehensively study the attitudes and behavior of people, and aims to construct data sets that can be analyzed in a time-series manner and to make these data available to those interested in secondary research. Since the implementation of the first survey in October, 2000, the JGSS project has conducted four main surveys during its first phase from 1999 to 2003: JGSS-2000, JGSS-2001, JGSS-2002, and JGSS-2003.

While partially inclined toward cross-national comparisons, the questions included in the JGSS questionnaires are basically focused on grasping the attitudes and behavior of Japanese people that are indispensable for understanding Japanese society. Like the GSS, it does not provide detailed information on singular items, but supplies a foundation of material for many areas of sociology, and enables analyses related to a diverse set of variables. Specifically, the survey covers a wide range of topics including the subjects' family structure, employment and financial situation, occupation of parents and spouse, political party supported, political consciousness, views of family, views of life, views on life and death, religion, leisure activities, and crime victimization. Table 1 is a list of survey

Table1 Core Replicating Questions and Topical Modules *

		JGSS-2000	JGSS-2001	JGSS-2002	JGSS-2003	
					Form A	Form B
INTERVIEW	Present job	X	X	X	X	X
	Side job	X	X	X	X	X
	First job	X	+channels	+channels	---	---
	Last job	X	X	X	---	---
	Education	X	X	X	X	X
	Income	X	X	X	X	X
	Marital status	X	X	X	X	X
	Spouse's job/education/income	X	X	X	X	X
	Father's/mother's education	X	X	X	X	X
	Household composition	X	X	X	X	X
	Sibling composition	X	+spouse's siblings	+spouse's siblings	---	---
	Political Party Supported	X	X	X	---	---
	Marital history	X	X	X	---	---
	Year of children's birth	X	X	X	---	---
	Parents' jobs at age 15	X	X	X	X	X
	Place of residence at age 15	X	X	X	X	X
	Residence: Type and Size	X	X	X	ownership	ownership
	Social status	X	X	X	X	X
	Labor union	X	X	X	membership	membership
	Job training	X	X	---	---	---
Topical Modules				Major, Housing costs School expenses	Time/means for commuting Holidays, Local characteristics	
SELF ADMINISTERED	Happiness/satisfaction	X	X	X	X	X
	Marital happiness	X	X	X	---	---
	Health condition/trauma	X	X	X	X	health only
	State of finances	X	X	X	X	X
	Social Stratification	X	X	X	X	X
	Religion	X	X	X	X	---
	Gender role attitudes	XX	XX	XX	XX	X
	Ideal no./sex of children	X	X	X	X	---
	Spouse's health/housework	X	X	X	---	---
	Family name of husband & wife	X	X	X	X	---
	Political opinions	X	X	X	X	X
	Group membership	X	X	X	X	X
	Trust in people/organizations	X	X	X	X	---
	Leisure activities	X	X	XX	XX	---
	Violence	X	X	X	X	---
	Drinking/smoking	X	X	X	X	---
	Reading books/newspaper	X	X	+which paper	+which paper	---
	Use of information technology	X	X	X	X	---
	Morality: sex behavior, porno	X	X	---	---	---
	Euthanasia	X	X	X	X	---
	Foreigners	X	X	X	XX	---
	Ecology	X	X	XX	XX	X
	Aging/social security	X	X	X	X	---
Topical Modules	Attitudes to grave, Pets Death penalty, Adolescent prostitution, Juveniles Act Court decision, Female governor, Donator of organ, Victimization of violence, Life after death	JGSS-2000 plus Care experiences (self/spouse), Japan Sports Advancement Lottery(toto)[except Juveniles Act]	Allergy disease Volunteer activity Ecology & consuming Meaning of schooling, English study Gamble/casino	Allergy disease English study Consuming, Com- munity, Bullying Juveniles Act Surrogate mom Casino, Female governor /Sumo	Social network (talk over trou- bles, work mat- ters, politics), Political opin- ions	

* X: related questions, XX: many questions, +: in addition to X, ---: not asked.

items from JGSS-2000 to JGSS-2003. The JGSS uses both an interview and a self-administered format. Survey questions on topics such as working conditions, political party supported, marital history, and family structure which are complicated or widely-branched are placed in the interview questionnaire. On the other hand, questions which are likely to evoke bias toward socially acceptable answers in an interview setting are placed in the self-administered questionnaire.

While JGSS necessarily incorporates fundamental questions into all surveys, additional modules with topical issues are created proactively, and were included as shown in Table 1. Consequently there were central questions that were asked every year (that appeared four times), questions that were asked in only one year (that appeared once), questions asked on both JGSS-2000 and JGSS-2001 with almost no change (that appeared twice), questions that were not asked in JGSS-2003 because the interview questionnaire was shortened (that appeared three times), and other patterns of questions.

The JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003 represents an arrangement and integration of the survey data from these four JGSS surveys. Though by no means is this data on the scale of⁽¹⁾ the 1972-2004 cumulative data of the General Social Survey (GSS) in America (after which the JGSS was modeled), it contains answers from a total of over 12,000 respondents with over 1,300 variables. Using the JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003, this study attempted to identify changes in the attitudes and behavior of Japanese from 2000 to 2003. This is not a long period of observation, but it provides a look at changes from the very end of the 20th century to the opening of the 21st.

2. Procedures of Analysis

2.1 Survey Items of Focus

As stated above, the JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003 includes over 1,300 variables. The study's analysis excluded those questions related to the respondents' family structure and affiliations (occupation, educational background, etc.), and narrowed the focus to questions about the respondents' attitudes and behavior. To enable the viewing of changes over time, variables were selected that met the following two criteria.

- 1) Included in at least two of the four surveys (JGSS-2000 through JGSS-2003)
- 2) Included only in non-consecutive years, if only included twice.

As a result, 127 variables were analyzed, including single variables for which two or more dummy variables were created. Most of these were questions asked in the self-administered questionnaire. When arranged by topic, these variables fall into the seven "fields" of: (1) gender and family; (2) policy and politics; (3) economy, occupation and social stratification; (4) crime and law, (5) sense of trust; (6) everyday behavior; and (7) happiness and satisfaction. Table 3-1 and 3-2(pp.30-33) list the variable groupings that were covered by this study⁽²⁾.

2.2 Creation of Target Categories

In the JGSS, various scales were used according to the contents of the questions. Thus, for the 127 variables that were selected as described above, there were various scales from nominal to ratio scales. In this study, it was decided to assign "target categories" in the same fashion to enable capturing of overall changes in the attitudes and behavior of Japanese and making of comparisons. For each variable, if the category to focus on was selected by the respondent (there were also cases in which multiple categories were combined) 1 was assigned, and if some other category was selected, 0 was assigned. With these assignments, it was possible to compare the ratio of respondents who selected the target category for each of the variables. Responses such as "No answer," "Not Applicable," and "Don't know" were excluded from the analysis. The Target Category column in

Table 3 lists the categories that were focused on for each of the variables.

2.3 Weighting of Cases

When attempting to infer population trends from the survey results as in this study, consideration must be given to the divergence between the composition of the population versus that of the actual respondents. In JGSS, as in any kind of social survey, response rate of 100 percent is never obtained. As a consequence, discrepancies arise in the composition of the relevant survey population and the actual respondents. In particular, due to considerable concern about protection of personal information, and also low rates of being at home due to occupational and other considerations prevalent in recent years, there is a downward trend of response rate in social survey, and discrepancies are expanding. Table 2 shows the discrepancy between the JGSS target population of 20 to 89 year-old Japanese and the JGSS respondents by sex and age. Compared to the population, the JGSS respondents exhibited a higher ratio of females, a lower ratio of those in their 20s, 30s, and 80s, and a higher ratio of those in their 60s and 70s. Such tendencies are almost—but not completely—the same from year to year.

Table2 Population Ratio, Number of Collected Cases, Expected Value, and Residual: JGSS-2000 to 2003

		Population Ratio * (20-89) (N=1/1000)				Number of Collected Cases **			
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sex	Male	0.48497	0.48517	0.48493	0.48481	1318	1283	1367	1591
	Female	0.51502	0.51483	0.51512	0.51514	1575	1507	1586	2072
	N	98949	99732	100089	100542	2893	2790	2953	3663
Age	20-29	0.18082	0.17599	0.17049	0.16469	393	331	342	382
	30-39	0.16731	0.17030	0.17378	0.17709	416	394	428	547
	40-49	0.16696	0.16124	0.15724	0.15482	495	460	501	549
	50-59	0.19257	0.19272	0.19122	0.18952	634	615	653	705
	60-69	0.14936	0.15170	0.15394	0.15552	535	509	555	804
	70-79	0.10120	0.10482	0.10838	0.11159	332	362	366	534
	80-89	0.04177	0.04324	0.04495	0.04678	88	119	108	142
	N	98949	99732	100089	100542	2893	2790	2953	3663

		Expected Value				Residual ***			
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sex	Male	1403.02	1353.62	1432.00	1775.86	-2.27	-1.92	-1.72	-4.39
	Female	1489.95	1436.38	1521.15	1886.96	2.20	1.86	1.66	4.26
	N	2892.97	2790.00	2953.15	3662.82				
Age	20-29	523.11	491.01	503.46	603.26	-5.69	-7.22	-7.20	-9.01
	30-39	484.03	475.14	513.17	648.68	-3.09	-3.72	-3.76	-3.99
	40-49	483.02	449.86	464.33	567.11	0.55	0.48	1.70	-0.76
	50-59	557.11	537.69	564.67	694.21	3.26	3.33	3.72	0.41
	60-69	432.10	423.24	454.58	569.67	4.95	4.17	4.71	9.82
	70-79	292.77	292.45	320.05	408.75	2.29	4.07	2.57	6.19
	80-89	120.84	120.64	132.74	171.36	-2.99	-0.15	-2.15	-2.24
	N	2892.97	2790.03	2953.00	3663.04				

* Population for 2000 was from Census 2000. Population for 2001, 2002 and 2003 were estimated by Statistics Bureau of Ministry of Public Management. Japanese population only.

** Response rates are 64.9% (JGSS-2000), 63.1% (JGSS-2001), 62.3%(JGSS-2002), 51.5% (JGSS-2003).

*** Residual=(Number of Collected Cases-Expected Value)÷√Expected Value; if its absolute value exceeds 3, the sample is regarded as biased.

The JGSS examines the composition of the populations from year to year (by regional block, municipality, sex, and age cohort)⁽³⁾ and calculates a weighting to make each population statistically compatible, allowing the response trends of Japanese as a whole to be inferred from the JGSS samples. Thus, for this analysis, sample bias was corrected for each survey year, and this weighting was used to determine trends in the overall Japanese population. However, with weighting applied to the result of each year, significant results can be erroneously obtained from statistical tests due to the artificially enlarged sample sizes. Therefore weighted data were multiplied by [*number of survey year respondents divided by population*] to restore the year's original sample size.

3. Changes in Attitudes and Behavior from 2000 to 2003

3.1 Patterns of Change

Table 3 shows the results of calculations using the above procedure. One way of looking at the table, for example, is to note that the ratio of Japanese agreeing with the statement, "If a husband has sufficient income, it is better for his wife not to have a job" was 50.3 percent in 2000, 51.0 percent in 2001, 49.5 percent in 2002, and 49.0 percent in 2003—almost no change. The difference between the highest rate of agreement (51.0 percent in 2001) and the lowest (49.0 percent in 2003) did not exceed 2.0 percent. The result of chi-squared test of the distribution across 2000 to 2003 is 2.7 and is insignificant. A chi-squared test applied to between-year changes yields insignificant results as well. It can be said that the pattern for this focused item is "No change." Similarly, regarding attitudes on "Gender/Family," the percentage of Japanese agreeing with the statement, "Without a doubt, a woman's happiness lies in a marriage" was 62.8 in 2000 but decreased to 51.4 in 2003. The "range" of difference between the maximum and minimum values was 12.5 percent, and the χ^2 value for the distribution across 2000 to 2003 was 142.0 which is significant at the 0.1 percent level. Most of the between-year changes in this focused item which were significant can be said to show a pattern of "Decrease."

In this manner, the study examined the following points: transitions and ranges of the percentages of target category in each year from 2000 to 2003, a chi-squared test of the distribution from 2000 to 2003, and the between-year changes and directions of those changes. The results in each of the focused item were categorized into the following four patterns.

- 1) **No change:** Significant change in distribution across 2000 to 2003 was not found, and significant change between 2000 and 2003 was not found (significance level of chi-squared tests at .05).
- 2) **Increase:** Significant change in distribution across 2000 to 2003 was found, and significant increase was found between 2000 and 2003 (including cases in which there were merely tendencies of gradual increase across 2000 to 2003 but significant increase was found between years from 2000 and 2003).
- 3) **Decrease:** Significant change in distribution across 2000 to 2003 was found, and significant decrease was found between 2000 and 2003 (including cases in which there were merely tendencies of gradual decrease across 2000 to 2003 but significant decrease was found between years from 2000 and 2003).
- 4) **Not constant:** Significant change in distribution across 2000 to 2003 was found, but: 1) significant change was not found between 2000 and 2003; or 2) significant change (either increase or decrease) was found between 2000 and 2003 but the direction of significant change was not constant among years.

Table3-1 Indicators and Patterns of their Changes
based on JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003 (corrected by weight)

Field	Question	Item	No.	Target Category	Excepted Category	
Gender/Family	View on Family and Gender	View on Wife Working	1	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Connection between Women Happiness and Marriage	2	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Housework of Men	3	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Gender Role	4	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Connection between Men Happiness and Marriage	5	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Mother Working Influence on Child	6	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Obligation to Have Children	7	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Role of Wife to Help Husband	8	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
	View on Three Generations Living Together	View on Three Generations Living Together	9	Desirable	No answer	
	Ideal Number of Children	Ideal Number of Children	10	Three or more children	No answer	
	Desired Sex of Child	Desired Sex of Child	11	Boy	No answer	
	View on Change of Surname at Marriage	View on Change of Family Name at Marriage	12	Husbands Family Name(Without question+Under current conditions)	No answer	
	View on Voting for Female Governor Candidate	View on Voting for Female Governor Candidate	13	Yes	No answer / Don't know	
Policy/Politics	Political Party Supported	Political Party Supported1	14	Liberal Democratic	No answer / Don't know	
		Political Party Supported2	15	Democratic	No answer / Don't know	
		Political Party Supported3	16	Other Party(All party except Liberal Democratic, Democratic)	No answer / Don't know	
		Political Party Supported4	17	No Party	No answer / Don't know	
	Political Party Able to Run Country	Political Party Able to Run Country: Liberal Democratic	18	Chosen		
		Political Party Able to Run Country: Democratic	19	Chosen		
		Political Party Able to Run Country: No Party	20	Chosen		
	View on Politics	View on Citizens Influence on Politics	21	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Complication of Politics	22	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Voting Duty	23	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
		View on Election Promises	24	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer	
	Political Position	Political Position (5 Grades)	25	Progressive(5+4)	No answer	
	Responsibility(individuals,families/Governments)	Responsibility of Livelihood of Elderly	26	Governments(5+4)	No answer	
		Responsibility of Care for Elderly	27	Governments(5+4)	No answer	
	Government Expenditure	Government Expenditure on Environmental Issue	28	Too little	No answer / Don't know	
		Government Expenditure on Crackdown of Crime	29	Too little	No answer / Don't know	
		Government Expenditure on Education	30	Too little	No answer / Don't know	
		Government Expenditure on National Security	31	Too little	No answer / Don't know	
		Government Expenditure on Foreign Aid	32	Too little	No answer / Don't know	
		Government Expenditure on Public Works Project	33	Too little	No answer / Don't know	
	Income Tax Burden	Government Expenditure on Social Security	34	Too little	No answer / Don't know	
		Government Expenditure on Employment Measures	35	Too little	No answer / Don't know	
	Expected Pension You Will Get	Income Tax Burden	36	High(Too high+Somewhat high)	No answer / Pay no tax/Don't know	
	View on Government Re-distributional Policy	Expected Pension You Will Get	37	Worse(Much worse+Somewhat worse)	No answer / On pension now/Don't know	
	View on Government Re-distributional Policy	38	Agree(Agree+Somewhat agree)	No answer		
Economy/Occupation/Social stratification	Work Hours	Work Hours1(only employed)	39	Less than 35 hours per Week	Not applicable/No answer	
		Work Hours2(only employed)	40	More than 60 hours per Week	Not applicable/No answer	
	Joining Labor Union	Joining Labor Union(only employed)	41	Member of a labor union(Workplace+Outside of workplace)	Don't know/Not applicable/No answer	
	Possibility of Losing Your Job	Possibility of Losing Your Job(only employed)	42	Likely(Very likely+Fairly likely)	Don't know/Not applicable/No answer	
	Ease of Finding the Similar Job	Degree of Ease of Finding the Similar Job(only employed)	43	Easy(Very easy+Somewhat easy)	Don't know/Not applicable/No answer	
	Satisfaction with Your Job	Satisfaction with Your Job(only employed)	44	Satisfied (Satisfied+Somewhat satisfied)	Don't know/Not applicable/No answer	
	Intention to Keep Working in Present Workplace	Intention to Keep Working in Present Workplace(only employed)	45	Quitting in the near future	Don't know/Not applicable/No answer	
	Employment Status	Employment Status 1 (only employed)	46	Regular employee(Executive+Regular employee)	Don't know/Not applicable/No answer	
		Employment Status 2 (only employed)	47	Irregular employee(Temporary+Dispatched+Piecework at home)	Don't know/Not applicable/No answer	
	Household Annual Income	Household Annual Income 1	48	Under 5.5 million yen	Don't want to state/Don't know/No answer	
		Household Annual Income 2	49	Under 3.5 million yen	Don't want to state/Don't know/No answer	
	Position in the Society	Position in the Society in 10 Level	50	Bottom(10+9+8+7+6)	No answer	
		Position in the Society in 5 Strata	51	Lower(Lower+Lower middle)	No answer	
	Change in Household Budget Situation	Change in Household Budget Situation	52	Getting worse	No answer	
	Comparison of Household Income with Others	Comparison of Household Income with Others	53	Below(Far below average+Below average)	No answer	
	Opportunities to Improve Living Standard	Opportunities to Improve Living Standard	54	Not sufficient(Not sufficient at all+Not very sufficient)	No answer	
Everyday behavior	Frequency of Reading Newspaper	Frequency of Reading Newspaper	55	Almost everyday	No answer	
	Hours of Watching TV	Hours of Watching TV	56	More than 4 hours	No answer	
	Number of Books You Read a Month	Number of Books You Read a Month	57	More than one	No answer	
	Frequency of Trips More Than 2 Days	Frequency of Trips More Than 2 Days	58	More than several times a year	No answer	
	Frequency of Family Dinner	Frequency of Family Dinner	59	More than several times a week	No answer	
	Frequency of Meals with Friends	Frequency of Meals with Friends	60	More than once a month	No answer	
	Housework	Frequency of Preparing Dinner	Frequency of Preparing Dinner	61	More than several times a week	No answer
		Frequency of Doing Laundry	Frequency of Doing Laundry	62	More than several times a week	No answer
Frequency of Grocery Shopping		Frequency of Grocery Shopping	63	More than several times a week	No answer	
Frequency of Cleaning House		Frequency of Cleaning House	64	More than several times a week	No answer	

Table3-2 Indicators and Patterns of their Changes
based on JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003 (corrected by weight)

Field	Question	Item	No.	Target Category	Excepted Category
Everyday behavior	Frequency of Amusement	Frequency of Playing Shogi	65	Not at all/Don't know about the activity	No answer
		Frequency of Playing Go	66	Not at all/Don't know about the activity	No answer
		Frequency of Playing Mahjong	67	Not at all/Don't know about the activity	No answer
		Frequency of Buying Numbers/Mini-lotto	68	Not at all/Don't know about the activity	No answer
		Frequency of Buying Lottery	69	Not at all/Don't know about the activity	No answer
		Frequency of Playing Pachinko	70	Not at all/Don't know about the activity	No answer
		Frequency of Enjoying Karaoke	71	Not at all/Don't know about the activity	No answer
	Use of Communication Media	Use of Communication Media: E-Mail for Work	72	Use	
		Use of Communication Media: E-Mail for Private	73	Use	
		Use of Communication Media: PC at Workplace	74	Use	
		Use of Communication Media: PC at Home	75	Use	
		Use of Communication Media: Internet Shopping	76	Use	
		Use of Communication Media: Internet Stock Trading	77	Use	
		Use of Communication Media: Cellular Phone	78	Use	
	Membership	Use of Communication Media: Fax	79	Use	
		Membership of Political Associations	80	Yes	No answer
		Membership of Trade Associations	81	Yes	No answer
		Membership of Social Service Groups	82	Yes	No answer
		Membership of Citizens Movement	83	Yes	No answer
		Membership of Religious Groups	84	Yes	No answer
		Membership of Sports Groups	85	Yes	No answer
Religion	Membership of Hobby Groups	86	Yes	No answer	
	Practice Religion	87	No	No answer	
Smoking Habit	Degree of Faith in the Religion(only have faith and have family religion)	88	Devoted(Very+certain degree)	Not applicable/No answer	
	Smoking Habit	89	Yes(I am a smoke)	No answer	
	Try to Quit Smoking	90	Yes(I tried to quit smoking)	Not applicable/No answer	
Frequency of Drinking	Frequency of Drinking	91	More than several times a week	No answer	
Happiness/Satisfaction	Satisfaction	Satisfaction with Area of Residence	92	Satisfied(1+2)	No answer
		Satisfaction with Leisure Activities	93	Satisfied(1+2)	No answer
		Satisfaction with Family Life	94	Satisfied(1+2)	No answer
		Satisfaction with Household Budget Situation	95	Satisfied(1+2)	No answer
		Satisfaction with Friendship	96	Satisfied(1+2)	No answer
	Happiness	Satisfaction with Health Condition	97	Satisfied(1+2)	No answer
		Degree of Marital Happiness	98	Happy(1+2)	No answer
	Health Condition	Degree of Happiness	99	Happy(1+2)	No answer
		Health Condition	100	Good(1+2)	No answer
Frequency of Traumatic Events	Spouse Health Condition	101	Good(1+2)	Not applicable/No answer	
	Frequency of Traumatic Events	102	More than once	No answer	
Sense of trust	Trust in People	View on Trust in People 1	103	Yes(Trust)	No answer
		View on Trust in People 2	104	No(Distrust)	No answer
		View on Trust in People 3	105	Depends on the situation	No answer
	View on Human Nature	View on Human Nature	106	Human nature is basically good(7+6+5)	No answer
	Trust in Organization	Trust in Major Companies	107	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Religious Organizations	108	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Schools	109	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Ministries and Government Agencies	110	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Labor Unions	111	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Newspapers	112	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Hospitals	113	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in TV	114	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Courts	115	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Scholars	116	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
		Trust in Diet Members	117	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know
Trust in Members of Municipal Councils		118	Trust(Very much+Some)	No answer / Don't know	
Crime/Law	Dangerous Place near Home	Dangerous Place near Home	122	Yes	No answer
	Victim of Crime	Experience of Being Victim of Sneak-thievery	123	Yes	No answer
		Experience of Being Victim of Burglary	124	Yes	No answer
	View on Revision of Juvenile Law	View on Revision of Juvenile Law	125	Should be revised for harsher punishment	No answer / Don't know
	View on Increasing Foreign Population	View on Increasing Foreign Population	126	Agree	No answer
View on Legalization of Euthanasia	View on Legalization of Euthanasia	127	Yes	No answer / Don't know	

No.	Item	Target Category	Weighted Percentage (%)				Range	χ^2 -test: 2000 to 2003			Change between two time-points						Pattern of Change		
			2000	2001	2002	2003		χ^2	p	df	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2000-2002	2001-2003	2000-2003			
65	Frequency of Playing Shogi	Not at all/Dont know about the activity	72.7	73.1	81.8	80.9	9.1	108.4	0.00	***	3		***		***	***	***	Increase	
66	Frequency of Playing Go	Not at all/Dont know about the activity	86.7	86.7	88.0	88.5	1.8	5.6	0.13		3							No change	
67	Frequency of Playing Mahjong	Not at all/Dont know about the activity	75.2	76.2	81.9	80.4	6.7	51.4	0.00	***	3		***		***	***	***	Increase	
68	Frequency of Buying Numbers/Mini-lotto	Not at all/Dont know about the activity	80.1	77.7	82.1	79.1	4.4	17.7	0.00	***	3	-	***	-				Not constant	
69	Frequency of Buying Lottery	Not at all/Dont know about the activity	45.9	44.7		46.5	1.8	1.7	0.44		2							No change	
70	Frequency of Playing Pachinko	Not at all/Dont know about the activity	68.8	71.9		75.1	6.3	23.0	0.00	***	2	+				+	***	Increase	
71	Frequency of Enjoying Karaoke	Not at all/Dont know about the activity	34.5	39.7	35.2	35.1	5.2	20.5	0.00	***	3	***	-			-		Not constant	
72	Use of Communication Media: E-Mail for Work	Use	12.2	14.7	16.2	19.0	6.8	45.1	0.00	***	3	**		+	***	***	***	Increase	
73	Use of Communication Media: E-Mail for Private	Use	19.3	24.3	26.8	30.7	11.4	90.9	0.00	***	3	***	+	**	***	***	***	Increase	
74	Use of Communication Media: PC at Workplace	Use	25.5	26.3	27.2	28.7	3.2	6.7	0.08		3						+	Increase	
75	Use of Communication Media: PC at Home	Use	24.6	30.9	32.1	33.6	9.0	59.0	0.00	***	3	***			***	+	***	Increase	
76	Use of Communication Media: Internet Shopping	Use	5.8	8.6	9.8	11.9	6.1	60.2	0.00	***	3	***		+	***	***	***	Increase	
77	Use of Communication Media: Internet Stock Trading	Use	1.0	1.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	11.1	0.01	*	3	+	-			-		Not constant	
78	Use of Communication Media: Cellular Phone	Use	51.5	57.5	60.3	64.0	12.5	88.9	0.00	***	3	***	+	**	***	***	***	Increase	
79	Use of Communication Media: Fax	Use	38.0	40.8	40.9	42.1	4.1	9.7	0.02	*	3	+			+		**	Increase	
80	Membership of Political Associations	Yes	3.6	3.6	4.9	4.2	1.3	8.4	0.04	*	3		+		+			Not constant	
81	Membership of Trade Associations	Yes	8.0	7.6	9.4	9.0	1.8	7.5	0.06		3		+		+			No change	
82	Membership of Social Service Groups	Yes	7.2	7.6	7.9	7.8	0.7	1.1	0.78		3							No change	
83	Membership of Citizens Movement	Yes	2.4	2.4	3.1	2.9	0.7	3.3	0.35		3							No change	
84	Membership of Religious Groups	Yes	6.4	6.9	7.8	8.0	1.6	7.2	0.07		3						+	Increase	
85	Membership of Sports Groups	Yes	16.0	14.4	18.8	18.4	4.4	24.1	0.00	***	3		***		**	***	+	Increase	
86	Membership of Hobby Groups	Yes	12.5	12.5	15.5	16.9	4.4	36.3	0.00	***	3		**		**	***	***	Increase	
87	Practice Religion	No	67.2	67.1	72.8	70.1	5.7	30.1	0.00	***	3		***	-	***	+	+	Increase	
88	Degree of Faith in the Religion(only have faith and have family religion)	Devoted	35.2	33.1	34.0	38.4	5.3	4.6	0.20		3					+		No change	
89	Smoking Habit	Yes(I am a smoke)	33.8	32.1	30.5	30.0	3.8	10.8	0.01	*	3				-	-	-	Decrease	
90	Try to Quit Smoking(only smoker)	Yes(I tried to quit smoking)	52.1	49.7	51.1	52.9	3.2	1.9	0.60		3							No change	
91	Frequency of Drinking	More than several times a week	38.2	36.8	34.8	38.5	3.7	9.9	0.02	*	3			**	-	-		Not constant	
92	Satisfaction with Area of Residence	Satisfied	53.7	51.9	52.5	54.7	2.8	6.0	0.11		3					+		No change	
93	Satisfaction with Leisure Activities	Satisfied	42.3	41.7	42.6	45.8	4.1	14.0	0.00	***	3			**		**	**	Increase	
94	Satisfaction with Family Life	Satisfied	49.2	47.9	48.9	53.4	5.5	23.1	0.00	***	3			***		***	***	Increase	
95	Satisfaction with Household Budget Situation	Satisfied	20.6	27.1	27.2	20.6	1.5	3.4	0.34		3							No change	
96	Satisfaction with Friendship	Satisfied	51.6	50.7	51.3	55.0	4.3	15.5	0.00	**	3			**		***	**	Increase	
97	Satisfaction with Health Condition	Satisfied	44.8	46.5	44.1	49.6	5.5	23.8	0.00	***	3			***		+	***	Increase	
98	Degree of Marital Happiness	Happy	67.7	69.2	72.6		4.9	12.4	0.00	**	2		+		***			Increase	
99	Degree of Happiness	Happy	61.9	61.4	61.4	59.5	2.4	3.3	0.35		3							No change	
100	Health Condition	Good	46.4	47.4	47.4	53.9	7.5	48.1	0.00	***	3			***		***	***	Increase	
101	Spouse Health Condition	Good	58.5	59.3	63.9		5.4	14.5	0.00	***	2		**		***			Increase	
102	Frequency of Traumatic Events	More than once	62.7	57.4	59.1	62.9	5.5	23.7	0.00	***	3	-		**	-	***		Not constant	
103	View on Trust in People 1	Yes(Trust)	22.1	23.6	19.9	20.9	3.7	12.4	0.01	**	3		-		-	-		Decrease	
104	View on Trust in People 2	No(Distrust)	14.8	14.1	9.8	11.6	5.0	41.0	0.00	***	3		-	+	-	-	-	Decrease	
105	View on Trust in People 3	Depends on the situation	63.1	62.4	70.3	67.5	7.9	53.0	0.00	***	3		***	-	***	***	**	Increase	
106	View on Human Nature	Human nature is basically good	48.0	48.9	48.5	48.2	0.9	0.6	0.90		3							No change	
107	Trust in Major Companies	Trust	67.1	69.1	67.3	71.3	4.2	9.3	0.03	*	3			**			**	Increase	
108	Trust in Religious Organizations	Trust	14.8	14.9	16.2	18.8	4.0	14.0	0.00	**	3			+		**	***	Increase	
109	Trust in Schools	Trust	84.7	86.4	88.5	85.6	3.8	17.0	0.00	***	3		+	-	***			Not constant	
110	Trust in Ministries and Government Agencies	Trust	57.8	54.8	59.4	55.7	4.6	10.7	0.01	*	3		**	-				Not constant	
111	Trust in Labor Unions	Trust	64.7	60.1	61.0	58.5	6.2	14.4	0.00	**	3	-			-	-	-	Decrease	
112	Trust in Newspapers	Trust	94.6	95.0	95.2	94.2	1.0	2.8	0.42		3							No change	
113	Trust in Hospitals	Trust	91.0	94.0	92.5	90.3	3.7	26.7	0.00	***	3	***	-	-	+	-	-	Not constant	
114	Trust in TV	Trust	82.5	85.7	85.2	84.8	3.2	11.9	0.01	**	3	**			**		+	Increase	
115	Trust in Courts	Trust	90.1	90.7	92.3	91.4	2.2	7.1	0.07		3				+			No change	
116	Trust in Scholars	Trust	88.8	87.3	90.8	87.8	3.5	14.2	0.00	**	3		***	-	+			Not constant	
117	Trust in Diet Members	Trust	33.9	38.1	33.4	33.2	4.9	15.1	0.00	**	3	**	-		-	-		Not constant	
118	Trust in Members of Municipal Councils	Trust	47.5	49.0	43.9	46.3	5.1	12.9	0.00	**	3		-		-	-		Not constant	
119	Trust in Self-Defense Forces	Trust	79.7	78.0	74.4	76.3	5.3	18.3	0.00	***	3		-		-	-	-	Decrease	
120	Trust in Police	Trust	74.9	79.4	78.0	78.0	4.5	16.1	0.00	**	3	***			**		+	Increase	
121	Trust in Financial Institutions	Trust	67.7	64.9	62.9	63.1	4.8	14.8	0.00	**	3	-		-	-	-	-	Decrease	
122	Dangerous Place near Home	Yes	52.3	50.3	53.5	60.0	9.7	47.2	0.00	***	3		+	***		***	***	Increase	
123	Experience of Being Victim of Sneak-thievery	Yes	3.1	3.5	2.8	3.6	0.8	3.4	0.34		3							No change	
124	Experience of Being Victim of Burglary	Yes	0.9	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.4	2.8	0.42		3							No change	
125	View on Revision of Juvenile Law	Should be revised for harsher punishment	79.0			83.2	4.2	12.2	0.00	***	1							***	Increase
126	View on Increasing Foreign Population	Agree	41.6	39.5	41.4	43.2	3.7	6.6	0.09		3					+		No change	
127	View on Legalization of Euthanasia	Yes	90.7	92.7	89.8	89.6	3.1	13.9	0.00	**	3	+	-		-	-		Not constant	

p < .001 ***(+++/-), .001 < p < .01 **(++/-), .01 < p < .05 *(+/-)

Figure 1 Patterns of Changes based on JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003

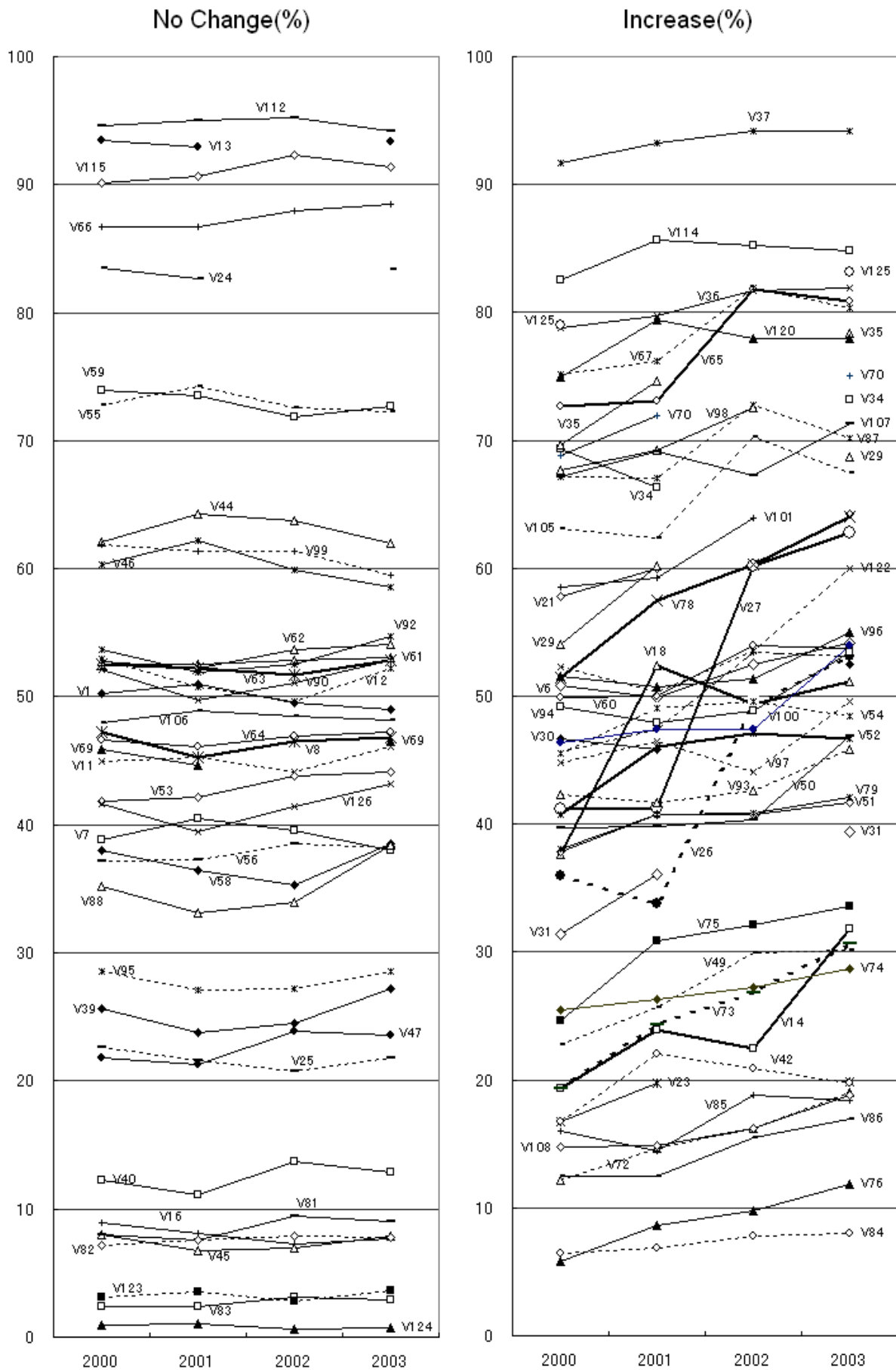
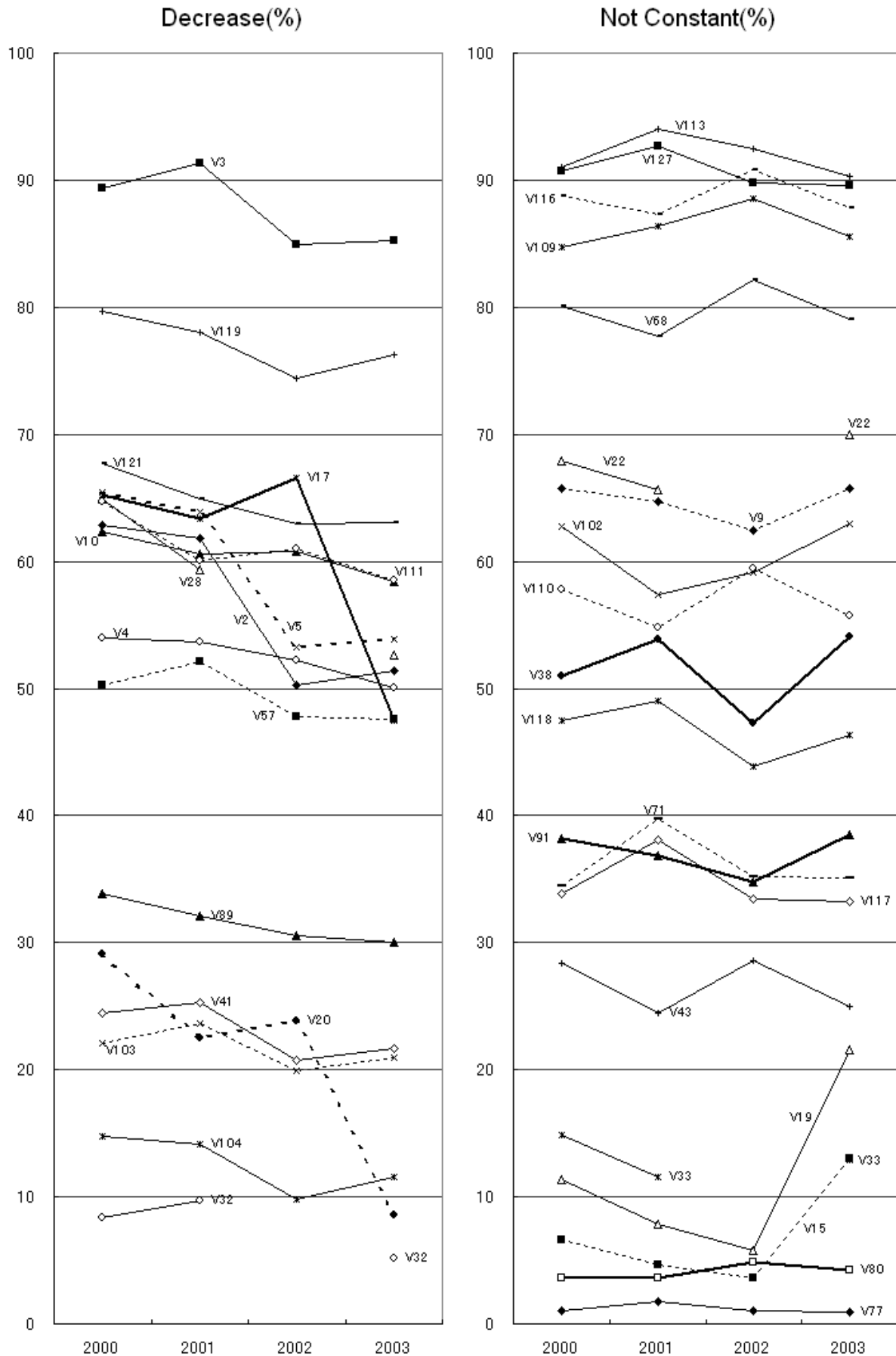


Figure2 Patterns of Changes based on JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003



The last column of Table 3 shows to which pattern of change each focused item conforms. For cases where the target category showed an increase or decrease, the largest numbers of the percentages from 2000 to 2003 were indicated with a colored background. If the change of the target category is not constant, a colored background was applied when the number in a year was particularly large. Figures 1 and 2 graphically represent the changes in focused items by the above groups. Patterns of changes in focused items are assembled by field in Table 4. In the next section, interpretations are given for the changes in Japanese people's attitudes and behaviors from 2000 to 2003 in each field.

Table4 Patterns of Changes in Seven Fields

Field	Pattern of Change	No.	Item
Gender/Family	No change	1	View on Wife Working
		7	View on Obligation to Have Children
		8	View on Role of Wife to Help Husband
		11	Desired Sex of Child(Boy)
		12	View on Change of Family Name at Marriage
	13	View on Voting for Female Governor Candidate(Yes)	
	Increase	6	View on Mother Working Influence on Child
	Decrease	2	View on Connection between Women Happiness and Marriage
		3	View on Housework of Men
		4	View on Gender Role
5		View on Connection between Men Happiness and Marriage	
10	Ideal Number of Children(Three or more children)		
9	View on Three Generations Living Together		
Policy/Politics	No change	16	Political Support(Other Party)
		24	View on Election Promises
		25	Political Position: 5 Grades(Progressive)
		14	Political Party Supported(Liberal Democratic)
		18	Political Party Able to Run Country (Liberal Democratic)
	Increase	21	View on Citizens Influence on Politics
		23	View on Voting Duty
		26	Responsibility of Livelihood of Elderly(Governments)
		27	Responsibility of Care for Elderly(Governments)
		29	Governments Expenditure on Crackdown on Crime(Too little)
		30	Governments Expenditure on Education(Too little)
		31	Governments Expenditure on National Security (Too little)
		34	Governments Expenditure on Social Security(Too little)
		35	Governments Expenditure on Employment Measures(Too little)
		36	Income Tax Burden(Hight)
	37	Expected Pension You Will Get(Worse)	
	Decrease	17	Political Party Supported(No Party)
		20	Political Party Able to Run Country(No Party)
		20	Government Expenditure on Environmental Issue(Too little)
		32	Government Expenditure on Foreign Aid(Too little)
15		Political Party Supported(Democratic)	
Not constant	19	Political Party Able to Run Country(Democratic)	
	22	View on Complication of Politics	
	33	Government Expenditure on Public Works Project(Too little)	
	38	View on Government Re-distributional Policy	
Economy/Occupation/Social stratification	No change	39	Short-time Worker:Less than 35 hours (only employed)
		40	Long-time Worker:More than 60 hours (only employed)
		44	Satisfaction with Your Job (only employed)
		45	Intention to Keep Working in Present Workplace (only employed)
		46	Employment Status:Regular employee (only employed)
	Increase	47	Employment Status:Irregular employee (only employed)
		53	Comparison of Household Income with Others(Below)
		42	Possibility of Losing Your Job (only employed)
		48	Household Annual Income:Under 5.5 million yen
		49	Household Annual Income:Under 3.5 million yen
	Decrease	50	Position in the Society in 10 Level(Bottom)
		51	Position in the Society in 5 Strata(Lower)
		52	Change in Household Budget Situation(Getting worse)
		54	Opportunities to Improve Living Standard(Not sufficient)
		41	Joining Labor Union (only employed)
43	Degree of Ease of Finding the Similar Job (only employed)		
Happiness/Satisfaction	No change	92	Satisfaction with Area of Residence
		95	Satisfaction with Household Budget Situation
		99	Degree of Happiness
		93	Satisfaction with Leisure Activities
	Increase	94	Satisfaction with Family Life
		96	Satisfaction with Friendship
		97	Satisfaction with Health Condition
		98	Degree of Marital Happiness
		100	Health Condition
		101	Spouse Health Condition
102	Frequency of Traumatic Events(More than one)		
Everyday behavior	No change	55	Frequency of Reading Newspaper
		56	Hours of Watching TV
		58	Frequency of Trips More Than 2 Days
		59	Frequency of Family Dinner
		61	Frequency of Preparing Dinner
		62	Frequency of Doing Laundry
		63	Frequency of Grocery Shopping
		64	Frequency of Cleaning House
		66	Frequency of Playing Go(Not at all/Dont know)
		69	Frequency of Buying Lottery(Not at all/Dont know)
	Increase	81	Membership of Trade Associations(Yes)
		82	Membership of Social Service Groups(Yes)
		83	Membership of Citizens Movement(Yes)
		88	Degree of Faith in the Religion(only have faith and have family religion)
		90	Try to Quit Smoking(only smoker)
		60	Frequency of Meals with Friends
		65	Frequency of Playing Shogi(Not at all/Dont know)
		67	Frequency of Playing Mahjong(Not at all/Dont know)
	70	Frequency of Playing Pachinko(Not at all/Dont know)	
	Decrease	72	Use of Communication Media: E-Mail for Work
73		Use of Communication Media: E-Mail for Private	
74		Use of Communication Media: PC at Workplace	
75		Use of Communication Media: PC at Home	
76		Use of Communication Media: Internet Shopping	
78		Use of Communication Media: Cellular Phone	
79		Use of Communication Media: Internet Stock Trading	
84		Membership of Religious Groups(Yes)	
85		Membership of Sports Groups(Yes)	
86		Membership of Hobby Groups(Yes)	
87	Practice Religion		
Not constant	57	Number of Books You Read a Month	
	09	Smoking Habit	
	68	Frequency of Buying Numbers/Mini-lotto(Not at all/Dont know)	
71	Frequency of Enjoying Karaoke(Not at all/Dont know)		
77	Use of Communication Media: Internet Stock Trading		
80	Membership of Political Associations(Yes)		
91	Frequency of Drinking		
Sense of trust	No change	106	View on Human Nature(Human nature is basically good)
		112	Trust in Newspapers(Trust)
		115	Trust in Courts(Trust)
	Increase	105	View on Trust in People:Depends on the situation
		107	Trust in Major Companies(Trust)
		108	Trust in Religious Organizations(Trust)
		114	Trust in TV(Trust)
		120	Trust in Police(Trust)
	Decrease	103	View on Trust in People:Yes
		104	View on Trust in People:No
111		Trust in Labor Unions(Trust)	
119	Trust in Self-Defense Forces(Trust)		
121	Trust in Financial Institutions(Trust)		
Not constant	109	Trust in Schools(Trust)	
	110	Trust in Ministries and Government Agencies(Trust)	
	113	Trust in Hospitals(Trust)	
	116	Trust in Scholars(Trust)	
	117	Trust in Diet Members(Trust)	
118	Trust in Members of Municipal Councils(Trust)		
Crime/Law	No change	123	Experience of Being Victim of Sneak-thievery
		124	Experience of Being Victim of Burglary
		126	View on Increasing Foreign Population
	Increase	122	Dangerous Place near Home
		125	View on Revision of Juvenile Law
127	View on Legalization of Euthanasia		

3.2 Trends in Changes by Field

3.2.1 Gender/Family

In this field, the item that demonstrated the biggest change was view of marriage. People who agreed that "Without a doubt, a woman's happiness lies in a marriage (V2)." or "Without a doubt, a man's happiness lies in a marriage (V5)." decreased by 10 percent or more over the 3 year period. There has been much discussion about "View on Connection between Women Happiness and Marriage" since the publication of *Makeinu no Tooboe* (grumbling of the loser) (Sakai Junko) in October, 2003. Contrary to the labeling of the unwed as "losers," the opinions among people that "happiness does not necessarily lie in marriage," and "that goes for men as well as women" may have already been in the process of becoming commonplace. Also, the norm of gender role-based division of labor in which "A husband's job is to earn money; a wife's job is to look after the home and family (V4)" is slowly on the decline; people who agreed with this once overwhelmingly-supported custom dropped to just half in 2003. Similar trends were confirmed by the Cabinet Office's "Public Opinion Poll on a Gender-equal Society."

On the other hand, the thinking that "A preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works(V6)" has shown a gradual increasing trend. Given that societal scrutiny of working mothers is becoming rather severe, the percentage of people thinking that the "Ideal Number of Children" is "Three or more children (V10)" is gradually sinking. However, the just under 40 percent of people who think that "It is not necessary to have children in a marriage (V7)" has not changed, though this is not because people have become negative about having children. Although the percentage of people thinking that "Men should cook and look after themselves (V3)" was declining in 2002, still 85 percent agreed with the statement in 2003. Furthermore, according to NHK's "National Time Use Survey" men in their fifties and sixties who "do some housework on weekdays" are increasing.

In these ways, in the field of Gender/Family, while changes toward living life more freely were found regardless of sex, the percentage of people who said that their "View on Three Generations Living Together" was "Desirable (V9)" decreased then swung back upward slightly.

3.2.2 Policy/Politics

In the field of politics, Japan can be seen to be progressing rapidly toward the two major political party system after entering 2003. The approval rating of the Liberal Democratic Party (Political Party Supported 1:V14) increased in 2001 with the inauguration of the Koizumi cabinet, and further increased in 2003 when Prime Minister Koizumi was reelected as the President of the Liberal Democratic Party. Also, although the approval rating of the Democratic Party of Japan (Political Party Supported 2:V15) fell once during 2001, it grew substantially when it merged with the former Liberal Party in 2003, and its reputation for competence ("Political Party Able to Run Country: Democratic":V19) rose. The percentage supporting no party (Political Party Supported 4:V17) shrunk in 2003 for that, but even so, approximately half of the respondents still did not support any party. The sense of the efficacy of politics is in a downward trend, and in 2003, those who thought that "People like me don't have any say about what the government does (V21)" exceeded 60 percent, and those who thought that "Politics and government are too complicated for me to understand what is going on (V22)." reached 70 percent. Above all, it may be of concern that people thinking that "Many people vote at elections, so it doesn't matter if I don't (V23)" is approaching 20 percent.

On the other hand, these same people had opinions concerning government expenditures during the three years. Rather than issues of global scale such as "Government Expenditure on Environmental Issue (V28)" and "Government Expenditure on Foreign Aid (V32)," there were calls for expenditures

on issues close to home and an increased feeling that “Government Expenditure on Crackdown on Crime (V29),” “Government Expenditure on Education (V30),” “Government Expenditure on Employment Measures (V35),” and “Government Expenditure on Social Security (V34)” fell short. As for an increase in the opinion that “Government Expenditures on National Security (V31)” were too few, this may not have been unrelated to outbreaks of terrorism sparked by the “9/11” terrorist attacks in the US in 2001. While the “Income Tax Burden (V36)” increased, the percentage of people who responded “Worse” when asked, “How much old age pension do you think you will receive? Do you think it will be much better than those paid now? (V37)” reached 94 percent. Even so, people who think that the “Responsibility of Livelihood of Elderly/Responsibility of Care for Elderly (V26/27)” is no longer with Individuals and families but rather with governments have greatly increased to become a majority. The widening of the income gap was one of the topics under discussion at the opening of the 164th session of the Diet on January 20, 2006, but the rate of agreement among people with the opinion that “It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between families with high incomes and those with low incomes (V38)” fluctuated during these three years between 47 and 54 percent.

As such, in the field of Policy/Politics, while the two major party system advances, the public is finding participation in politics less appealing, there is a sense of social unrest, and their attention is turned inward. Even so, they by no means think that a wide income gap is a positive development.

3.2.3 Economy/Occupation/Social Stratification

Did the income gap actually grow? In this study we have not yet pursued whether the top and bottom have widened, but in these three years the domestic financial situation has surely worsened, and the lower class has grown. The percentage of those who responded “Getting worse (V52)” when asked “During the last few years, has your financial situation been getting better, worse, or has it stayed the same?” increased notably in 2001, and in 2003 approached half. The percentage of people whose yearly household income (Household Annual Income 1:V48) was under 5.5 million yen (the average household income in 2003 was 5.8 million) exceeded 50 percent in 2002, and people making under 3.5 million (Household Annual Income 2:V49) in 2003 exceeded 30 percent. In these terms, financial situations, in both objective numbers and subjective appraisal, have clearly worsened in these three years. Interestingly, however, when asked, “Compared with Japanese families in general, what would you say about your family income?(V53)” the percentage of people responding “Below average” was not found to have changed significantly (although it crept up over the three years). Namely, their own financial situation worsened, but when they considered the overall worsening in society, some people felt that they could not answer “Below average,” and only went so far as to call it a “Decrease” in the “Relative evaluation of annual household income.”

Still, it is not only the flow of funds such as annual household income, but rather also if subjects considered inheritances and savings accumulated up to the present, when asked “If we were to divide the contemporary Japanese society into the following five strata, which would you say you belong to?” (about their “Position in the Society 5 Strata (V51),” in 2001), the responses were progressively and significantly lower. In 2001, the people who marked “Lower middle” or “Lower” on the self-administered questionnaire exceeded 40 percent. The percentage of people who answered “Not sufficient” when asked, “In your opinion, how much opportunity would you say there is in the Japanese society to improve the standard of living for you and/or for your family? (V54)” had climbed to nearly 50, perhaps indicating a process of shifting to a society without possibility for upward mobility. Still, as soon as 2003 began, there was a dramatic rise in people who ranked themselves as

“Below middle” when asked to do so directly by a researcher under “Position in the Society in 10 Level (V50).” Up to then, one would hesitate to rank oneself as “Low class” relative to other people, but around that time it seems this hesitation was rapidly disappearing. “The Economics of the Age of Surviving on 3 Million Yen a Year” (Morinaga Takuro) was published in March of 2003, and around that time it may have been more and more acceptable for one to admit to being “lower class.”

As to the question of whether the percentage of regular employees (Employment Status 1:V46 (only employed)) decreased, and that of the irregular workers (Employment Status 2:V47 (only employed)) increased, it appears to be heading in that direction, but the change is not definite. The JGSS results differ slightly from the Ministry of Internal Affairs’ “Labour Force Survey” and the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare’s “Monthly Labour Survey” as it does not survey people under 20 years old. In 2003, regular employees (Employment Status 1 (only employed)) constituted less than 60 percent, and irregular employees (Employment Status 2 (only employed)) reached slightly over 20 percent. The percentage of people finding “Satisfaction with Your Job:V44 (only employed)” remained around 63, and people having no “Intention to Keep Working in Present Workplace:V45 (only employed)” also hardly changed (7-8 percent). However, people who thought the “Possibility of Losing Your Job:V42(only employed)” to be “Likely” in the coming year grew markedly in 2001 to exceed 20 percent, and the percentage of people who answered that the “Degree of Ease of Finding the Similar Job:V43 (only employed)” if they were to quit their current job was “Easy” varied between 25 and 29. As confirmed even by the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare’s “Basic Survey on Labour Unions” rates of membership in labor unions(V41) is declining. The percentage of workers whose weekly work hours are less than 35 (Work Hours 1:V39 (only employed)) shifted around 25, and the percentage of those working 60 or more hours per week (Work Hours 2:V40(only employed)) shifted around 12, and in both cases no significant change was identified.

3.2.4 Crime/Law

As was seen in the Policies/Politics field, there was a sharp increase in the number of people who think that “Governments Expenditure on Crime Control (V29)” is “Too little,” and in 2003 the ratio exceeded two-thirds. But was there actually an increase in people who were victims of crime? People responding “Yes” to the question, “During the past year, did anyone break into your home? (V123)” increased minutely from the 3 percent level of 2000, but did not change significantly. Also, people responding “Yes” to the question, “During the past year, did anyone take something directly from you by using force such as a stickup, mugging, or by threat? (V124)” shifted between 0.6 and 1.0 percent, but that shift was also not found to be significant. In either case, as these events have extremely small occurrence rates in the overall population, it may be difficult to accurately discern any changes in a social survey. Further, according to the “White Paper on Crime” from the Ministry of Justice, recognized cases of burglaries grew from 118 thousand in 2000 to 148 thousand in 2003. In the same manner, purse-snatchings are also increasing rapidly along with muggings, and a thirty-year high of 53 thousand was recorded in 2002. The National Police Agency uses the four major larcenies of break-ins, pick-pocketing, purse-snatching, and auto theft as one of the indices for observations about the state of public security. After the increase in recognized cases from 423 thousand in 2000 to 478 thousand in 2002, there was a decrease to 469 thousand in 2003 but this was still a high level as before. Such deterioration of public safety is reflected in people’s daily perceptions, and the percentage of people answering “Yes” when asked, “Is there any area within 1 km (15-minutes’ walk) of your home where you would be afraid to walk alone at night? (V122)” increased dramatically in 2003 to 60.

As stated previously, as muggings sharply increased, cases of youth who committed theft and

were arrested have trended upward since 1990. Arrests on murder have moved around 100 since 1998. All arrests on infractions of the juvenile law including the heinous crimes that grab the public's attention increased from 193 thousand in 2000 to 204 thousand in 2003, and arrests per 100,000 in the teenage population has also risen since 2001 to 1552.9 in 2003. Given this background, people whose "View on Revision of Juvenile Law" was that it "Should be revised for harsher punishment (V125)" occupied almost 80 percent in 2000. As if pressed by public opinion, the first broad reforms since the end of World War II were implemented in November of this year. There are currently attempts to review the juvenile law for further reforms. The rate of support for "harsher punishment" increased further in 2003 to 83.2 percent.

Also, a bill has not even been conceived yet, but there is the issue of a majority of people who support the creation of laws that recognize euthanasia, and usually about 90 percent of subjects answer "Yes" when asked, "When a person has a fatal disease (that cannot be cured), do you think doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his/her family request it? (V127)"

One of the problems under long term investigation by the government from the middle of the bubble economy to the present has been the acceptance of foreign workers. Although there are policies for hiring people of Japanese descent as employees or trainees, there is not a high degree of readiness to hire immigrants, yet the numbers of foreigners living in Japan continues to increase. While seeing such a situation on a daily basis, when asked "Are you for or against an increase in the number of foreigners in your community? (V126)," the percentage shifted to about 40 answering "Agree."

3.2.5 Sense of Trust

What sorts of changes were revealed during this period regarding feelings of trust toward the average person or organization? To the question, "Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted? (V103-105)," the percentage of people answering "Yes" and "No" both decreased. There was an increasing trend in people who answered "Depends" (from 63 to 68 percent). On the other hand, for "Estimation of Human Nature (V106)," the percentage of people who think that "Human nature is basically good" remained at 48, absolutely no change. Therefore while it cannot be said that people's sense of trust dropped, still, people can be swayed by circumstances to do bad things, and it may be that one cannot automatically trust just anyone at any time.

Regarding trust in organizations, several changes could be confirmed. Raised levels of "Trust in Major Companies (V107)" (67%→71%), "Trust in Religious Organizations (V108)" (15%→19%), "Trust in TV (V114)" (83%→85%), and "Trust in Police (V120)" (75%→78%) were experienced during this period. Concerning "Trust in Major Companies," it was reported that Toyota's current profits broke through the 1 trillion yen mark in May, 2002, and feelings of trust that had fallen during the bubble may have found some traction from major corporations. Hence, trust was thought to be gradually recovering during this period. "Trust in Religious Organizations" declined considerably following the sarin gas subway attack by the newly-formed religious cult, "Aum Shinrikyo" in March, 1995. Though it gradually increased, the percentage of people trusting religious groups cut off at 20, which was the lowest level of trust toward any of the sixteen different agencies inquired about. "Trust in Police" increased, as seen in the Crime/Law field. Whether based on the numbers or "gut" feeling, with public security degenerating, it may be that more and more people felt that the police were the ones to be depended upon. The remarkable rise in 2001 is decidedly related to the 9/11 terrorism incident.

By contrast, declines in trust during this period were experienced in terms of "Trust in Labor

Unions (V111),” (65%→59%), “Trust in Financial Institutions” (V121) (68%→63%), and “Trust in Self Defense Forces (V119)” (80%→76%). With regards to “Trust in Labor Unions,” when a decrease in rates of membership occurred, trust in both the image and reality of unions was starting to decrease. Concerning “Trust in Financial Institutions,” in December, 2000 the Kansai Kogyo Bank and Tokyo Commercial Credit Union failed. In March of 2002 it was reported that the twelve major banks had total deficits of 2.5 trillion yen, and in May, 2003 the government decided to invest public funds in Resona Bank. It can be said that this state of affairs shook people’s trust in financial institutions. “Trust in Self-Defense Forces” dropped significantly in 2002. This may have been affected by the “Anti-Terrorism Special measures Law” enacted on November 29, 2001 for the purpose of allowing the self-defense forces to support anti-terror military operations conducted by the United States military and others, and the subsequent dispatch of self-defense force troops starting with the marine self-defense force vessels. During the time until 2003, the form of trust in the self-defense forces and police changed.

Consistent, solid trust appeared as “Trust in Newspapers (V112)” (about 95 percent) and “Trust in Courts (V115)” (about 91 percent). “Trust in Hospitals (V113)” also exceeded 90 percent, but fluctuated due to occurrences of medical errors. Items in which there were similar changes in sense of trust included “Trust in Scholars (V116)” (87%–91%), “Trust in Schools (V109)” (85%–89%), “Trust in Ministries and Government Agencies (V110)” (55%–60%), “Trust in Members of Municipal Councils (V118)” (44%–49%), and “Trust in Diet Members (V117)” (33%–38%).

3.2.6 Everyday Behavior

Changes in everyday behavior that will have to be given attention are the accelerating transitions to a networked society. “Use of Communication Media: E-Mail for Work (V72),” and “Use of Communication Media: E-Mail for Private (V73),” is increasing, and not only “Use of Communication Media: PC at Workplace (V74),” but also “Use of Communication Media: PC at Home (V75)” are rapidly being widespread. People who have “Use of Communication Media: Internet Shopping (V76)” doubled from six percent, and is likely to increase more and more in the future. On the other hand, people who have “Use of Communication Media: Internet Stock Trading (V77)” stopped at 1 percent and stayed at that level even in 2003. The percentage of subjects who have “Use of Communication Media: Cellular Phone (V78)” had already surpassed half in 2000, and neared two-thirds in 2003. For “Use of Communications Media: Fax (V79),” the fax machine is considered to be a previous-generation device relative to other devices, but usage has only increased rather than weakened. People probably select from a variety of media depending on the person with whom they are communicating, and the contents that they wish to communicate.

Behavior requiring not only contact through the internet but also face-to-face communication increased slowly. There was an increase in “Frequency of Meals with Friends (V60),” and trends of increased “Membership of Sports Groups (V85)” and “Membership of Hobby Groups (V86).” However, there were large age differences in “net behavior” and hobbies, making it necessary to carefully investigate which generations increased which behaviors.

On the other hand, for entertainment there was reduced “Frequency of Playing Shogi(V65),” “Frequency of Playing Mahjong(V67),” and “Frequency of Playing Pachinko(V70),” and more than 80 percent reported “Not at all/Don’t know about the activity” on the items of “Frequency of Playing Shogi” and “Frequency of Playing Mahjong.” Although there was low “Frequency of Playing Go(V66),” a definite echelon of enthusiasts is maintained. There is movement in the “Frequency of Enjoying Karaoke(V71).” In terms of gambling, the “Frequency of Buying Numbers/Mini-lotto(V68)”

does not exceed more than about 20 percent of subjects, but the “Frequency of Buying Lottery [tickets](V69)” consistently exceeds half.

As shown previously, people have a solid “Trust in Newspapers” and “Trust in TV,” and most people have daily contact with these two media. More than 70 percent of people read a newspaper (V55) almost every day, and nearly 40 percent watch television (V56) 4 or more hours per day. Indications are that time for reading newspapers is being overtaken by usage of the Internet to check news, but in 2003 at least, there was no change in the behavior itself of reading a newspaper “Almost everyday.” On the other hand, as for questions about a “separation from books,” answers can only be affirmative. Even when the “Number of Books You Read a Month (V57)” (aside from comics and magazines) is only 1, the percentage in 2001 tops out at 50.

The effects that smoking and second-hand smoking have on health have continued to be indicated for a quite a while. Moreover, lawsuits in which tobacco companies and countries are the defendants appeared even in Japan starting in 1999. As if linked with these kinds of movements, the percentage with a “Smoking Habit (V89)” gradually decreased from 34 to 30 percent. Regarding the question, “Do you follow a religion? (V87),” while more than 70 percent said “No,” there is a trend toward an increased percentage of “Membership of Religious Groups.”

No changes could be ascertained in indices regarding family life. 70 percent of people or more kept a “Frequency of Family Dinner (V59)” of more than several times a week. 52 percent reported a “Frequency of Doing Laundry (V62),” “Frequency of Grocery Shopping (V63),” and “Frequency of Preparing Dinner (V61)” of several times a week or more, and this overlaps almost exactly with Japanese women 20 years of age or older.

3.2.7 Happiness/Satisfaction

Finally, let us summarize the changes in people’s level of satisfaction with life and sense of happiness. As we have seen up to now, overall public security has deteriorated, and incomes are falling. However, more than half reported “Satisfaction with Area of Residence (V92),” just under 30 percent had “Satisfaction with Household Budget Situation (V95),” and 60 percent felt generally “Happy (V99).” At least up until 2003, this did not change.

However, the percentage of people that were “Satisfied” in terms of “Satisfaction with Leisure Activities (V93),” “Satisfaction with Friendship (V96),” and “Satisfaction with Health Condition (V97).” increased notably in 2003. This may indicate a full life outside of work centered on relationship with friends, such as “Frequency of Meals with Friends,” “Membership of Sports Groups,” and “Membership of Hobby Groups.” In 2003, people whose “Health Conditions (V100)” were favorable increased significantly, and along with fulfilling leisure activities, this may be linked to the rising satisfaction concerning health. As Japan faces the aging of the overall population, increased numbers of healthy people and rising satisfaction with health are positive phenomena.

Why did the people who responded “Happy” when asked, “Would you say that your marriage is happy or unhappy? (V98)” increase slowly until 2002 (was not asked in 2003), and why did “Satisfaction with Family Life (V94)” increase in 2003? To answer these questions will require more detailed analysis.

4. Conclusion

The results of this study based on JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003 are summarized as follows:

- 1) Decrease of income and increase of lower class identification
- 2) Inward-looking orientation of people in government policy

- 3) Emerging "Two major political party system" and declining sense of political efficacy
- 4) Increasing demands on government's care for elderly
- 5) Mixed change of radicalism and conservatism in gender and family
- 6) Deteriorating public peace and order leads to support of harsher punishment
- 7) Sense of trust fluctuates under the influence of current affairs
- 8) Information technology penetrates deeply to everyday life
- 9) Satisfactions in leisure, friendship and health increased, despite flagging economic conditions

As described above, this study examines changes in overall trends primarily among Japanese of 20 years of age and above. The direction and extent of changes in attitudes and behavior differ quite often according to attributes such as sex, age, and educational background. In this study, these differences were set aside for the time being in an attempt to get an overall view of the changes. JGSS Cumulative Data 2000-2003 is data that will make analysis in the future possible, namely detailed analysis on factors that give shape to general trends. It is hoped that researchers in and outside of Japan will challenge further analyses.

The JGSS project conducted the fifth survey in 2005 and the sixth survey in 2006. On and after 2006, there are plans to conduct the survey every two years. By accumulating surveys now and in the future, we will continue to track changes in Japanese attitudes and behavior, and attempt to investigate the background of those changes.

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[Footnotes]

- (1) In 25 surveys, approximately 45,000 people responded, and over 4,200 variables were constructed.
- (2) You can view the JGSS questionnaire on the JGSS Web site at: <http://jgss.daishodai.ac.jp>.
- (3) The six regional blocks are Hokkaido/Tohoku, Kanto, Chubu, Kinki, Chugoku/Shikoku, and Kyushu. Metropolitan areas are cities and districts including major cities. Sex is male and female. The six age brackets are 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s/80s. The population in each year is categorized by regional block, municipality, sex, and age bracket (6x2x2x6=144), and the population of each category is divided by the number of respondents in the category to determine the weighting value. For details on the weighting calculation, see the "Japanese General Social Surveys, JGSS Cumulative Code Book 2000-2003" Also, the criterion population used in the weighting calculation was the total population of respondents, not the Japanese population.