

## The effect of Family Policy on Reducing Inequality of Social Capital in Childbirth

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This paper examines whether the family policy by municipal governments contribute to leveling off the inequality of opportunity for childbirth due to the uneven distribution of social and financial capital among households. Theoretical models that include these factors are tested using 2011 data collected from young and middle-aged residents in Tokyo metropolitan area (n = 1,059). Our results indicate firstly that on the number of children family policy has negative effect, while social capital (support network size) and financial capital (household income) have positive effects. Secondly, a multinomial logit model shows that in case of having the first child social capital has no significant effect, but in case of delivering the second child social capital solely has significant (positive) effect. Thirdly, a multinomial logit model including interaction terms between family policy and social and financial capital indicates that in case of having the first child there exists negative interaction between family policy and social capital (i.e. under substantial family policy personal support network is not so important for the decision on giving birth) while in case of delivering the second child there exists negative interaction between family policy and financial capital (i.e. under affluent family policy household income is not so critical for childbirth). These findings advance our understanding of how family policy compensates for the unequal distribution of support network among households.

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