

# Sibling Structure, Family Background, and Socio-economic Outcomes in Japan

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## **Abstract**

This paper has examined the impact of family background and sibling composition on education, employment, marriage, fertility, and wages among Japanese women. The number of brothers and of sisters equally decreases years of education. Paternal and maternal education equally increases years of education. The eldest daughter tends to have higher education. Maternal age at birth also increases education. Apart from birth order, sibling structure and family background has little impact on employment. The number of sisters and of brothers increases the probability of being married and fertility. The IV estimate of the return to education becomes slightly smaller than the OLS estimate when parental education is used as instrument, whereas it is larger when the number of siblings is used as instrument.

*Keywords:* Sibling composition, Birth order, Family size, Family background, Returns to education

*JEL Classification:* J12, J21, J22, J24