## Women's Wages and Work Skill Development\*

Japan Women's University

Hiromi Hara\*\*

April 20, 2013

## <Abstract>

This paper examines the relationship between women's wage profiles and skill development through a comparison with men. In addition, the current situation for women's skill development is examined. It is shown that the slope of the wage profile becomes steeper for both men and women when actual experience, not potential experience, is used to estimate wage profiles. The slope of the wage profile becomes more gradual when the number of times of Off-JT and self-development are controlled in the wage profile estimation than when only work experience is used. However, the wage differentials between men and women are not erased, even when differences in Off-JT and self-development implementation are controlled. It is also shown that both the quality and quantity of the opportunities for women to participate in firm-provided training are less than for men. These results suggest that women are seen as a labor force with low average tenure so there seems to be a tendency to withhold training that has a longer term horizon.

JEL: J24, J31, J16

Keywords: female labor; wage; training

<sup>\*</sup> I would also like to thank the following for their comments: Reiko Kosugi, Hiroki Sato, Yoshihide Sano, Yuzo Yamamoto, Mei Kagawa, and Daiji Kawaguchi. For this paper, I received Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Research Activity Start-up) from Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and editorial assistance was provided by Janet Abraham. This study uses the Survey of Working and Studying by JILPT. The data will be available from JILPT. (http://www.jil.go.jp/english/index.html)

<sup>\*\*</sup> Associate Professor, Department of Social and Family Economy, Faculty of Human Sciences and Design, Japan Women's University, 2-8-1, Mejirodai, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-8681, Japan. E-mail: harahiromi@fc.jwu.ac.jp