

## Report

Policy Research Center  
Research Project Accomplishment Report

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ 2019/2/19

**Project Leader:** Title : Associate Professor Name : Dainn Wie

**Research Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ Missing Women in STEM

**Duration (yyyy/mm/dd):** 2017/4/1 ~ 2019/3/31 2-year

<b>Co-Investigator:</b>	Title	Name	Affiliation	(Remarks)
Co-Investigator 1	Mrs.	Tomoe Naito	GRIPS	
Co-Investigator 2				
Co-Investigator 3				
Co-Investigator 4				
Co-Investigator 5				

### **Project aims and goals:**

Originally, the goal of the project was to examine the relationship between college major choice and gender wage gap. Due to data limitation, I changed the research question to examine women's work-life conflicts and missing married women in Japan's labor market. In this project, we aim to show existence of "first-grade shock" mentioned by Japan's media and government these days. We aim to show the existence of first-grade shock in various aspects of married women's life: labor market participation, perception of work-life conflict, emotional distress, and the share of housework.

### **Accomplishment(s) of Project (400 words):**

The phenomenon of "first grade shock" is first appeared in the Japanese magazine named Asahi Shimbun weekly AERA October 17 issue in 2005 as an adversity of mothers who find it difficult to balance child rearing and career once their children enter first grade. The term, started to receive public attention in 2014 when Prime Minister Shinzo Abe mentioned it in his policy speech. Other NPO, pressure groups, and media use the terminology as more comprehensive concept implying work-life conflict of mothers with school-aged children. Japan's primary schools request considerable amount of responsibility and tasks to parents (mostly mothers), thereby exacerbate mother's physical and mental burden.

In this paper, we employ very unique data which contains detailed information about mother's employment, work-life conflict, and emotional distress to examine existence of first-grade shock in various aspects of mothers' lives. Our empirical investigation shows that the share of mothers' employment as a part time worker increases when their children in the first grade, but declines back to previous level from next year. At the same time, women's perception about work-life conflict and unequal share of housework increases when their children are in the first grade, and decrease back to previous level from next year. The results imply that mothers come back to labor market as a part time worker in the year their youngest child enters elementary school. However, they also perceive difficulty in getting support from husbands and managing work-life conflict. Finally, we examined mother's level of distress and found out clear existence of increase in mother's emotional burden when their child is in the first year in school. We further explored mothers concerns about their children's various aspects. We found out evidence to suggest that mothers' concern about their children's behavior and achievement in school could be partly the source of emotional burden.

Our empirical evidence provides strong and consistent story about first-grade shock in Japan. The wall of first-grade shock and its emotional burden is serious enough to discourage women's labor market participation in later years. To prevent mother's career interruption the paper calls for immediate policies to smooth out first grade shock. After-school childcare program can loosen tight time constraint mothers face and support their work-life balance. Mothers with no previous experience in child rearing would experience less concern if they can receive proper mentoring or guidance about their children's first year. Finally, yet importantly, child rearing and housework burden should be equally distributed within family.

Accomplishments:

[Please fill in \[the list of Accomplishment\]](#)

**Other things to report:**

I and RA (Mrs. Tomoe Naito) recently published our results as a GRIPS discussin paper series. Link (<http://doi.org/10.24545/00001659>)

List of Accomplishment

List of Accomplishment

(including forthcoming )

(If the description exceeds five in each item, please add a line as necessary.)

**Article**

Academic papers (including those published in general journals)

\*For collaboratively authored papers, please underline your name.

\*Please report "Peer-reviewed academic conference papers" as well.

	Author	Title	Publisher	Date of Publications	Pages (from)	Pages (to)	Referee Report (yes=1)	International coauthors (yes=1)	DOI	Open Access (yes=1)
1	NAITO Tomoe, <u>WIE Dainn</u>	First-Grade Shock: Women's Work-Life Conflict in Japan	GRIPS DP	2019/1/9	-	-	-	-	<a href="http://doi.org/10.24545/00001659">http://doi.org/10.24545/00001659</a>	-
2	OISHI Yoko, <u>WIE Dainn</u>	Importing Inequality: Trade Liberalization, Technology, and Women's Employment	GRIPS DP	2019/11/14	-	-	-	-	<a href="http://doi.org/10.24545/00001646">http://doi.org/10.24545/00001646</a>	-
3										
4										
5										

**Book**

\*For collaboratively edited or authored books, please underline your name.

\*If you are an author of a chapter in a book, please report in "Article" category.

	Author	Title	Publisher	Date of Publications	Total pages
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

**Verbal report / Conference presentation**

\*Here please report "Non-peer-reviewed academic conference papers".

\*When you or co-investigator had a lecture/presentation as invitees, please specify "(invited lecture)" after Event Title.

	Presenter	Title	Event Title	Venue	Date
1	Mrs. Tomoe Naito	"First Grade Shock: Women's Work-Life Conflict in Japan"	Japan-Korea Young Labor Researchers Forum 2018	Saitama University	October 6th, 2018
2					
3					
4					
5					