

Women's Way of Life

Kiyori Fujikawa (NIT (KOSEN), Tomakomai College)

When I was a child, I thought that I would feel the happiest if I marry someone I love because my parents always told me that it was the greatest happiness for women. I believed it without a doubt.

However, since I entered Tomakomai Kosen, I have met many friends who have various ideas and values. They have been studying with a positive spirit and trying to improve themselves to become a great engineer. Furthermore, my female friends say they would like to continue working even after getting married. In such environments, my idea that marriage is the greatest happiness for women was changed. Marriage is not the goal. Now I am interested in a life without marriage.

So today, I am going to talk about women living independently.

In order to let you know their advantages, I will paradoxically show you three points that limit women's way of life.

The first one is "time." When women get married and live with their husbands, they must spend time with them. It becomes hard to use their time freely. They would not be able to have enough time for their hobbies or for hanging out with their friends. I think that women want to keep having time for themselves. Many of my female friends are also saying a thing like that.

The second one is "men." Nowadays, Japan still has a male-dominated society. Will a woman be able to be happy with a man who looks down on women? I am sorry if my words annoyed you. Of course, I do not think that all men do or say awful things, but, indeed, some women are suspicious of or not good at men because of the male-dominated society.

The third one is "money." When women marry, they make a living on their and their husband's incomes. If they have children, they will need a lot of money for them. In this situation, it is difficult for women to change their jobs or start a business as they want. Therefore, the tendency to keep doing a job by which they can obtain a steady income becomes stronger. That limits women's possibilities to choose a job.

In this way, these three points, time, men, and money, could limit the women's way of life when they get married.

On the other hand, women living independently can live freely without being bound by them. They can live as they like.

Lately, women's empowerment has advanced little by little in Japan. Compared with the past, women can easily get a job, and the number of women who choose not to marry is increasing because they can obtain enough income to live on their own.

Of course, this is one of the various ways of life for women, and there is no superiority or inferiority in how to live. As for me, however, I am longing to lead an independent life.

I respect all women who live on their own. I hope that more and more women will make advances in society and that every woman can choose a way of life they like.