

# Marital Happiness and Children among Japanese Married Couples

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## Objectives

1. Examine the relationship between marital happiness and the probability of having a child/children.
2. Examine changes in the level of marital happiness before and after childbearing.

**Data Source:** The Generations and Gender Survey in Japan (JGGS)

## Work Data:

1. Drown from the JGGS-1 in 2004 to JGGS-4 in 2013.
2. Currently married women aged 20-39 in 2004, currently married men with wives aged 20-39 in 2004, and their follow-up data.

## Acknowledgement

I heartily thank the national JGGS committee for permission of using the JGGS data.

**Table 1 Ratios of Birth by Levels of Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness, Currently Married Women aged 20-39 and Men with Wives aged 20-39**

Percentile of marital happiness	Women			Men		
	Ratio of birth			Ratio of birth		
	2004-2007	2007-2010	2010-2013	2004-2007	2007-2010	2010-2013
Less than 25	0.118	0.067	0.019	0.121	0.030	0.013
25 – 49	0.137	0.028	0.000	0.148	0.068	0.030
50 – 74	0.149	0.098	0.018	0.162	0.075	0.043
75+	0.130	0.085	0.022	0.154	0.085	0.010
(N)	(918)	(596)	(454)	(809)	(481)	(358)

**Dependent variable:** probability of birth

**Independent variable:** Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness

- The high level of marital happiness hypothesizes to be associated with high degree of agreement between spouses.
- This indicator is based on respondents' self report about degree of agreement with their spouses about different aspects of family life.
- These aspects are 1) sharing of household chores, 2) money, 3) use of leisure/vacation time, 4) sex, 5) relations with friends, 6) relations with parents and in-laws, 7) having children, and 8) child-raising issues.

**Control variables:** Number of children, wives' birth year month, wives' education, and husbands' education

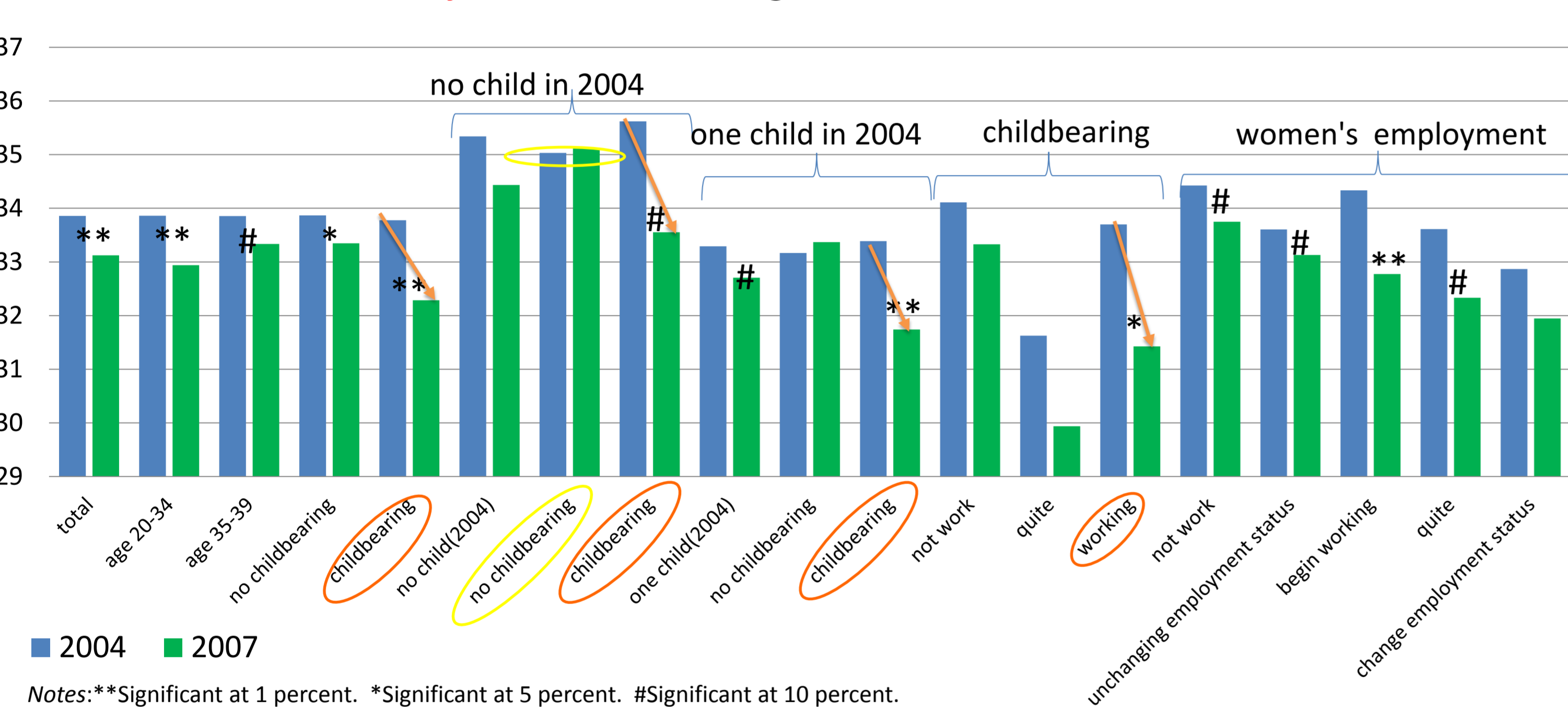
**Model:** Logit model

**Table 2 Estimated Coefficients of the Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness about the Probabilities of Birth: Japanese Currently Married Women aged 20-39 and Men with wives aged 20-39 in 2004**

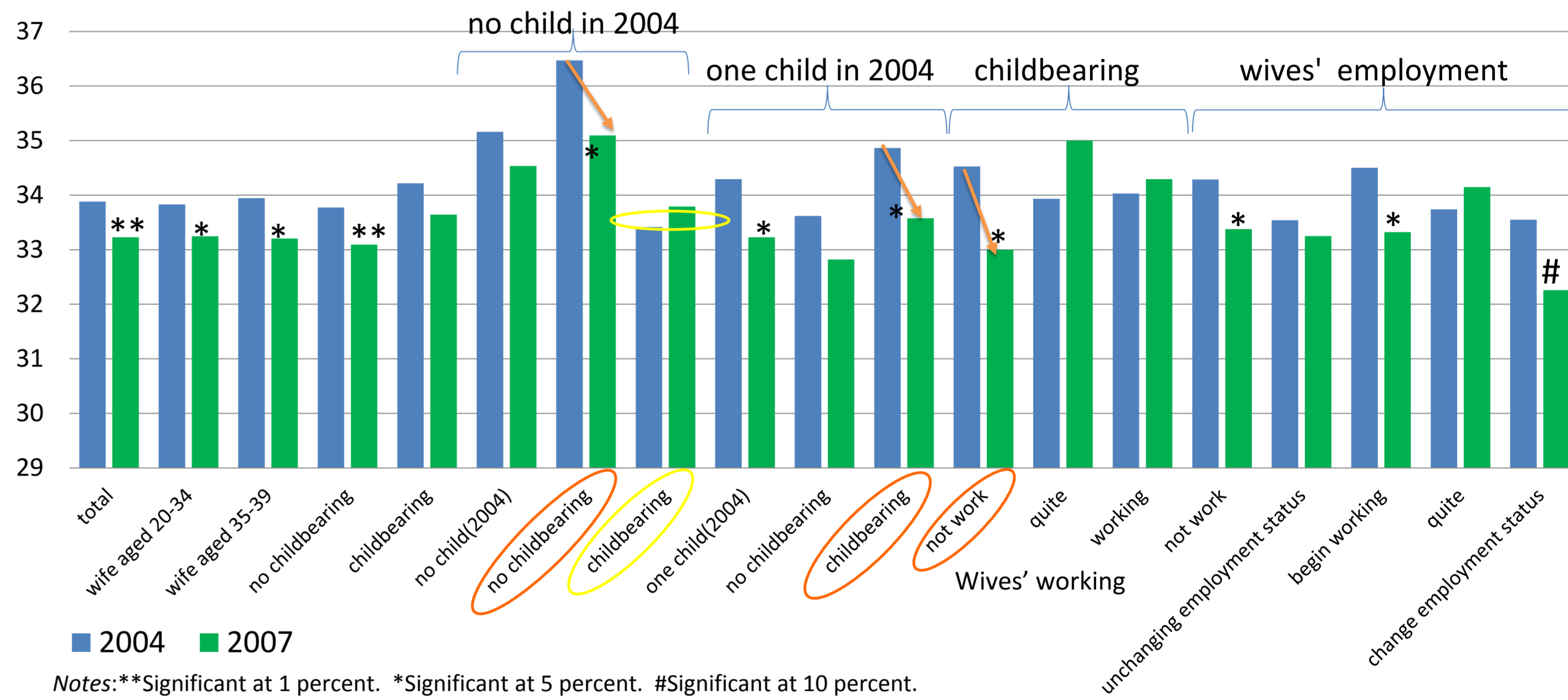
Variables	Women	Men
Composite indicator of marital happiness	0.037	-0.093
Number of children: 0	reference	reference
1	0.671	-3.669#
2	1.158	-5.209*
3 or more	-8.740**	-8.496*
Interactions: Composite indicator*one child	-0.006	0.131*
Composite indicator*two children	-0.063	0.135*
Composite indicator*three or more children	0.152*	0.187#
Log pseudolikelihood	-448.63	-405.94
Wald chi2(13)	168.26	150.77
Prob. > chi2	0.00	0.00
N	1941	1625

Notes:\*\*Significant at 1 percent. \*Significant at 5 percent. #Significant at 10 percent. Control variables are not shown on Table 2.

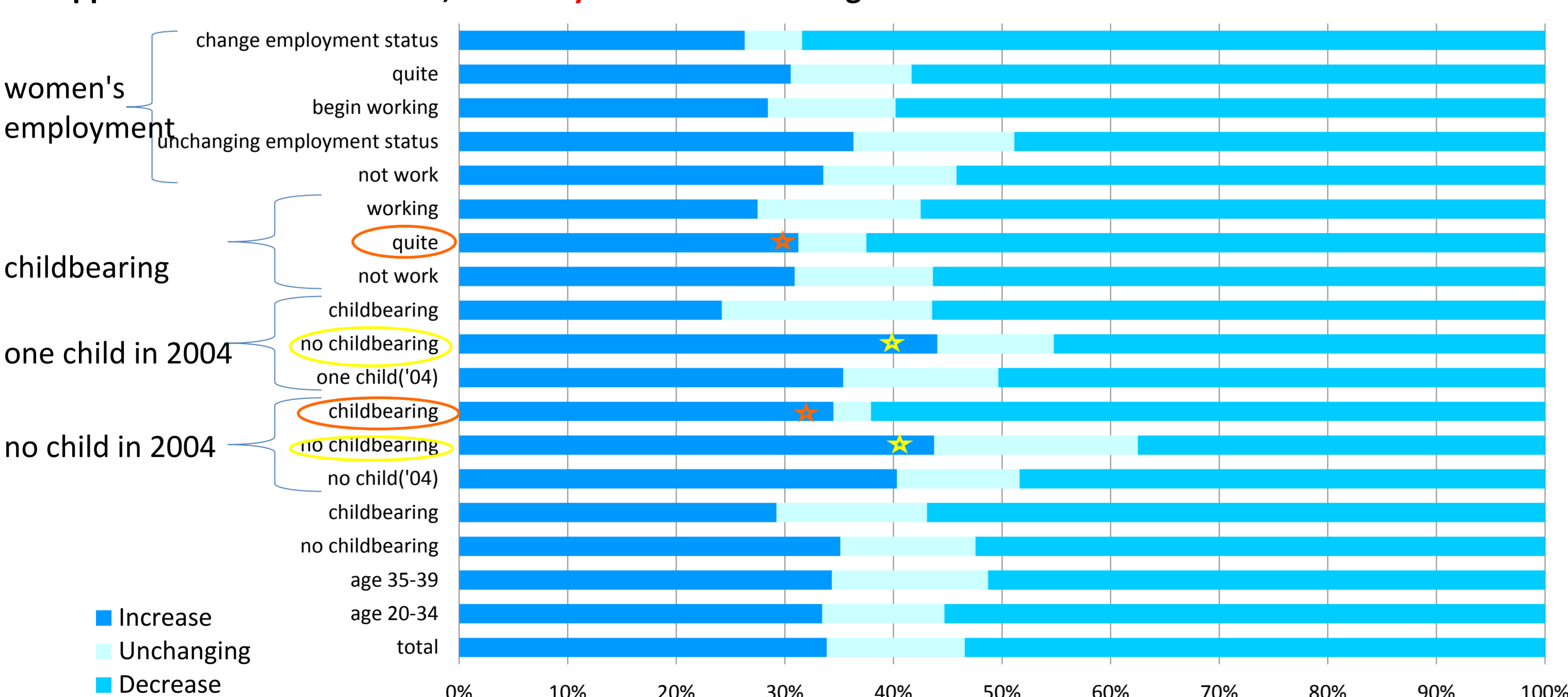
**Figure 3 Comparison between Averages of the Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness in 2004 and Ones in 2007, Currently Married Women aged 20-39 in 2004**



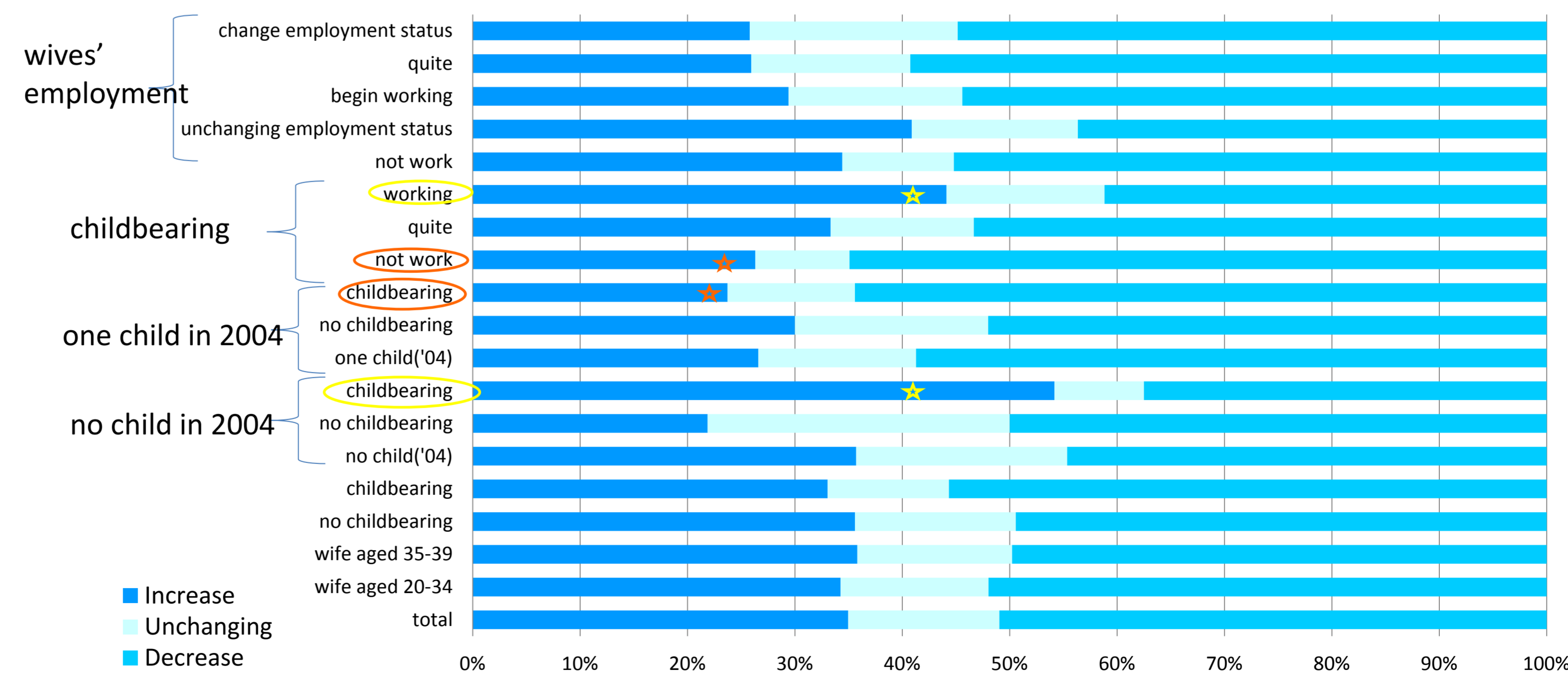
**Figure 4 Comparison between Averages of the Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness in 2004 and Ones in 2007, Currently Married Men with Wives aged 20-39 in 2004**



**Figure 5 Percentage Distribution of Increases, Unchanging, and Decreases in Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness from 2004 to 2007, Currently Married Women aged 20-39 in 2004**



**Figure 6 Percentage Distribution of Increases, Unchanging, and Decreases in Composite Indicator of Marital Happiness from 2004 to 2007, Currently Married Men with wives aged 20-39 in 2004**



## CONCLUSION

1. The relationship between a Japanese woman's marital happiness and probability of having a child/children is not significant on the first, the second, and the third birth.
2. The relationship between a Japanese man's marital happiness and probability of having a child/children is significant on the first, the second, and the third birth. The higher the birth order is, the larger the positive relation is.

3. The average of Japanese women's marital happiness decreases after the first or the second birth, especially when they are working.
4. The average of Japanese men's marital happiness doesn't change after first birth, and decreases after second birth, especially when their wives do not work.
5. From the first childbearing, a Japanese man gets happiness, but a Japanese woman does not.