Producing Gender Statistics at Local Level: the Case of Mito-City

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About Us

Capital of Ibaraki Prefecture

Northeast of Tokyo

Population: 270,294
Area: 217.43 km²

Kairakuen Park
Kodo Kan
Art Tower Mito
Call for Gender Statistics at Mito City (1)

• Achieving gender equality in a society has long been a policy priority for Mito-city

• 3rd city in Japan which adopted the Declaration on Gender Equality at the City Council (in 1996)

• In 2016, preparation for the 5th Plan which paid particular attention to the promotion of women’s active participation in the workforce for the city

  first attempt to formulate evidence-based policy making
Call for Gender Statistics at Mito City (2)

- Gender statistics were scarce, in particular, those related to working lives of women.
- Explored 17 sets of data collected by different Departments of the city. But, none of them were adequate for gender analyses.

For the 6th Plan, the Department of Civic Cooperation decided to gather own data through:

- Interviews (2017)
- Citizen surveys (2018)
- Business Surveys (2018)

with particular focus on annual income, work-life balance and work patterns.
Women spend far more time in unpaid domestic and care work

Figure 1. Average time spent in unpaid domestic and care work by sex

Note: Liberal men refer to those who are supportive of the idea that women will continue working after child birth.
Low representation of women in managerial position!

Figure 2. Proportion of women and men in managerial position
• As seen in previous slides, the use of citizen survey showed the importance of having city-owned statistics to inform local policies and plans.

• It is ideal that such survey would be conducted annually at the city level.

However, ① Limited budget
② Additional workload to the office
③ Response burden of citizens

What can we do?
Data do exist, but not gender sensitive

* 59 Department-specific plans in 2018
* 17 citizen surveys being conducted
* but only 6 surveys allow data classification by sex

In addition.....
* Data not shared among Departments
* Raw data not accessible by other Departments

Waste of rich statistical resources!
Local cities are left behind in gender data collection.

Mito has only a half of national data.

Source: https://genderstats.un.org/#/data-availability
The Way Forward

1. Promote data sharing
   Create a data hub at the city and facilitate data exchange

2. Increase an access to data
   Allow an easy access to existing data, with necessary rules and procedures

3. Increase data literacy
   Appoint a “data concierge”, to guide proper use and understanding of data

Towards a data driven policy making!
New Data Strategy

Data Outreach

- Use data as communication tool
- Discuss and design together the future of Mito City
Summary and Conclusion

Think Globally, Act Locally

- A local government without data cannot depict its future. Need of locally owned data which directly guide local policy making.

- Promote fuller utilization of existing statistical resources. Statistically empower data producers and users at the local level.

- Data strategies of the local government should take into account the global development framework, such as SDGs.

No Local Left Behind
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Thank you!