

Sociology 102B (Research Methods)  
Fall 98

### Chapter One: Statement of the Problem

Does education level effect the way women view motherhood as a fulfilling role in the United States versus Japan?

Education Level----->Women View Motherhood  
independent variable----->dependent variable

There is no question that the way women view their life's potential has changed from the first part of this century. Women can, and do, choose to further their education beyond a high school diploma or even a college degree in Home Economics. No longer is a woman's career choice of being a housewife the norm, with the expectation that four or five children will soon follow. Not only has survival dictated that a woman must work, but women have found fulfillment in their work and a freedom in being economically independent. The more education a woman receives, the more she is qualified for a more challenging and rewarding job. This opens up doors for fulfillment that go beyond the role of mother. An analysis of the level of education a woman attains and her view towards motherhood may help determine if there is a relationship.

The traditional view of womanhood in the United States as well as Japan is that a woman will naturally want to have children to make herself whole. Indeed, a woman may feel the need to prove her femininity by having a child to offset the stigma that comes with being an aggressive, successful female. By taking two industrialized nations where women have made progress from the beginning of the twentieth century, this paper will focus on the concept that the more education a woman receives, the less she will feel she needs to have children to have a fulfillment in her life.

(end of excerpt)