

Abstract

Using data from the “Women’s Marriage, Fertility and Employment Survey”, this paper explores the transitional patterns of female employment after World War II in Taiwan. Results show that the patterns of female labor force participation have been quite stable. There is no significant change in conventional and interrupted employment patterns, while continuous participation in the labor force decreased in the past twenty years. That means married women in the present still value family more than work. Seeking employment before getting married is a must done affair and once a family is formed, personal career could be given up, or at least given up for a period. Regarding the impact of life courses on female employment, the major change is found within the category of interrupted employment, in which married women quit from the labor market later and re-entry earlier. The duration of employment interruption for married women is shortening.

Key Words: Patterns of female employment, interrupted employment, continuous employment, cohort

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