

KWDI Issue Paper

Project name: Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women & Families

Changes in Women's Lives Revealed by Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women & Families

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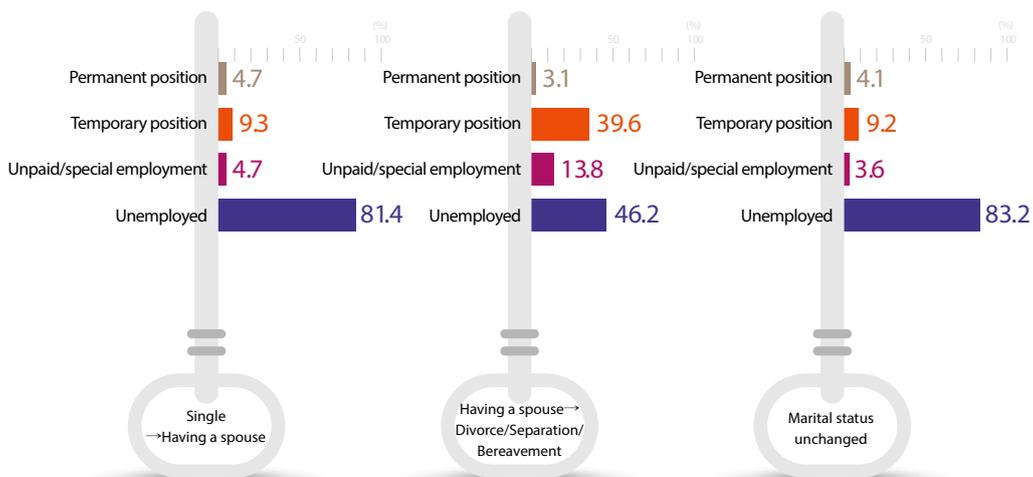
Abstract

- Korean Longitudinal Survey of women & Families (KLoWF) is a panel survey that has been conducted since 2006 to identify changes in women's lives, family structure and jobs. KLoWF, overcoming the limitations of already existing longitudinal surveys performed to figure out women's conditions, was designed to grasp the status of job-family balance amid increasing women's economic activities, put the present and future of our society and family into perspective, and respond to such changes as low birth, aging society, childcare, work-family balance, family-friendly social environment, which are all important social issues of our current society.
- Since the first survey was carried out in 2007 with 9,997 women aged 19~64 in full age (in Western age) in 9,068 households nationwide as a sample, KLoWF has completed the 6th Wave Survey as of 2017. The study this year is in the 12th year and main content of the study is as follows:
 - First, the main and additional surveys of the 6th wave were completed, and the characteristics of the panel of the 6th wave survey were analyzed. Second, an academic symposium of experts was held with the panels of the 1st~6th surveys as subjects to make diverse in-depth studies for development of policies for women. Third, to improve the representation and quality of panel, a new panel was added, and for panel management and the 7th wave survey, interim fieldwork was performed. Furthermore, to strengthen user-focused convenience, the structures of the 1st~6th wave data were unified, and promotion and utilization of the panel was enhanced through the publication of Women and Family Panel Brief (twice a year).

Transition rate of unemployed women to labor market by each wave



Job transition of unemployed women by type of change in marital status



Lives of women in this country, unlike those of men, are closely interrelated with many diverse realms of life. For instance, problems related to women's economic activities occur in many different forms, being connected not just to factors of the labor market but changes in the factors related to family structure, decision-making structure and relationships within family, sociocultural ceremonies and custom, etc.

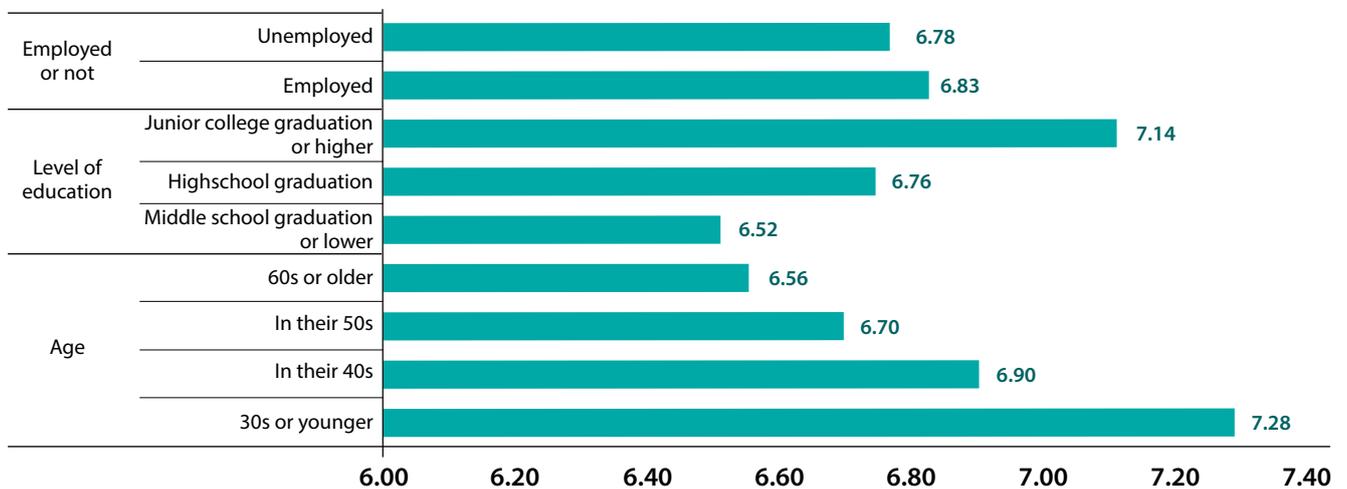
A longitudinal survey of such changes in women's lives needs to be built. Although it can be built to some degree through existing panel surveys such as the labor panel survey, they had limits in performing a significant analysis of female subgroups since most of these panel surveys were not designed taking different characteristics of men and women into consideration, or the number of women's cases in them was insufficient. More than that, it was difficult for them to provide multi-faceted and comprehensive data because they did not have a survey tool optimized for analyzing women's lives.

In this context, Korean Women's Development Institute planned a nationwide large-scale panel survey, Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women & Families in 2006 to identify status of changes happening in women's lives, family structure, job, etc., and conducted the 1st year survey in 2007.

Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women and Families began in 2007 with the sample of 9,997 women aged 19~64 in Western age in 9,068 household nationwide, and completed the 6th wave survey in 2017.

Family life and values

- ▶ Intention for marriage is highest among the subjects in their 30s with 56.9% of them having intention to marry and the lowest among those in their 50s.
- ▶ Level of satisfaction with marital life was 6.81 points out of 10 on average. By age, those aged 30 or younger gave the highest score of 7.28 points, followed by those in their 40s (6.90 points), and those in their 50s (6.70 points). Employed women showed higher satisfaction with marital life than unemployed women, and the higher educated subjects showed higher satisfaction with marital life.



<Figure: Women's Satisfaction Level about Marital Life>

- ▶ Regarding the marital relationship, although 9 out of 10 answered that they trusted their husband, the ratio of those who experience plenty of conversation or communication within the couple was 7 out of 10, which shows the reality that there is not much conversation or communication between marital partners. Activities such as 'community service or participation in community affairs' and 'going out together to watch a movie, performance, or sports event' were most cited as those that couples did not do together often. Overall, domestic work is performed by wives, and even if husbands do domestic work, the frequency of such cases is much lower compared to that of wives.
- ▶ The ratio of subjects who answered 'I rarely talk with my child in elementary, middle or high school' was 1.1%. The ratio of subjects who answered that they rarely talked with their single adult child was 6.3%, and that who answered that they rarely talked with their married adult child was 2.9%.

- ▶ As to offering economic support to an 'adult child,' 43.7% said they did so to their single adult child, and 17.7% to a married adult child. The amount of support was 575.2 thousand won to a single child and 285.8 thousand won to a married adult child. Conversely, the ratio of subjects who received economic support from a married adult child was 38.3%, while the ratio from a single adult child was 14.5%. The amount from a single adult child was 433.5 thousand won, and that from a married adult child was 360.3 thousand won.

<Table: Whether giving or receiving economic support with adult children>

(Unit : person (%), 10 thousand won)

Classification		Giving economic support		Receiving economic support	
		Giving help	Not giving help	Receiving help	Not receiving help
Single	Giving or receiving help	1,284(43.7)	1,654(56.3)	427(14.5)	2,511(85.5)
	Amount	57.52	-	43.35	-
Married	Giving or receiving help	471(17.7)	2,193(82.3)	1,021(38.3)	1,643(61.7)
	Amount	28.58	-	36.03	-

Source: Korean Women's Development Institute (2016). Analysis of the source material, Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women & Families (not weighted)

- ▶ Regarding values on marriage, the highest number of subjects agreed with the statement 'sexual satisfaction is important in a married life (78.1%), followed by 'it is good to marry someone whose family background is on a similar level (77.9%),' and 'there has to be a child between a couple (76.4%).' In general, the number of subjects who had unfavorable views about living together or having a child without getting married was high.
- ▶ Regarding overall health condition of the panel of KLoWF, 51.2% answered they were in good condition. Meanwhile, 14.2% of subjects reported that they experienced feeling depressed.
- ▶ As to their sense of safety about residential areas, more than 80% gave positive responses to most of the relevant propositions. But to the proposition, 'it is safe even if I wander around late at night,' a rather high ratio, or 27.4%, of subjects gave negative answers.
- ▶ Regarding whether they had experienced violence by a family member in the previous year, the ratio of subjects who reported being subjected to psychological or economic violence was 3.0%, physical violence 1.3%, sexual harassment 0.8%, and sexual offense 0.5%.

Women's economic activity

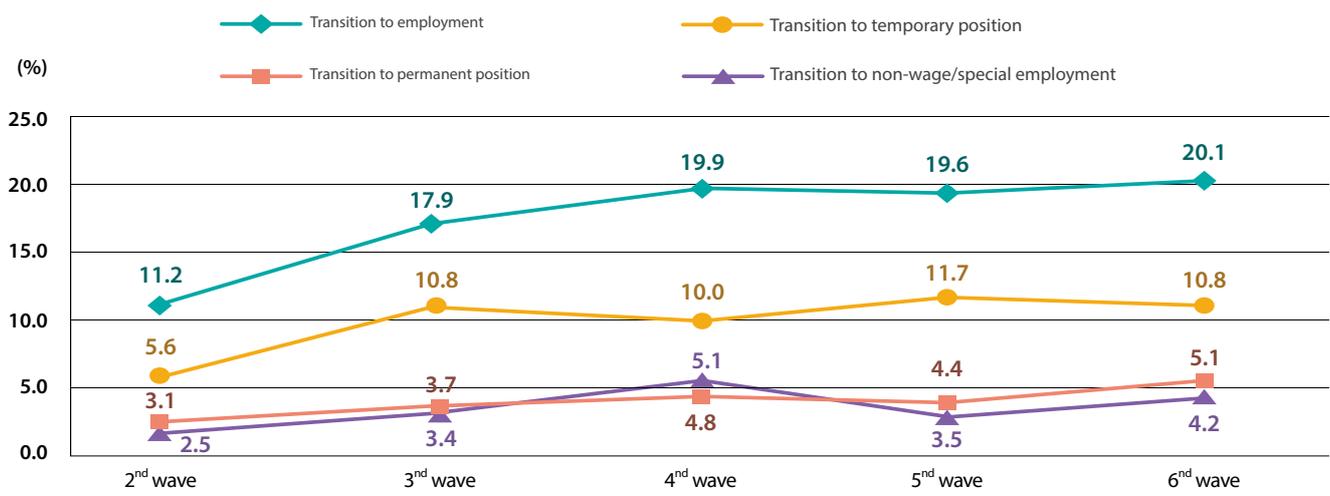
- ▶ The number of employed women responded to the 6th wave was 4,267, of whom 19.3% were employers or self-employed; 18.6% of them were unpaid homeworkers working more than 18 hours; 1.3% were unpaid homeworkers working less 18 hours; and 3.7% were working in special forms.
- ▶ In terms of average monthly income, workers working in special forms earned the highest income of 1.8064 million won in average, followed by non-wage workers earning 1.7269 million won, and wage workers earning 1.6753 million won in that order. When viewed by job position, wage workers' wage level was the lowest. This is due to the fact that as the panel of KLoWF were aging, the number of them working in temporary positions grew higher than that in permanent positions.
- ▶ Average weekly working hours was the longest among non-wage workers, who work 43.91 hours a week, followed by wage workers working 39.42 hours, and workers in special working forms 36.05 hours. Commuting time was similar between wage workers and workers in special working forms. Both these groups are employed workers, and spent 44.70 minutes and 40.09 minutes commuting, respectively. But non-wager workers of whom the percentage of self-employed was high spent a comparatively short time of 19.73 minutes in commute.
- ▶ Of wage workers, 44.6% were in permanent positions, and 55.4% in temporary positions. The ratio of wage workers who were working full time was 8 out of 10.
- ▶ 61.9% of employers and the self-employed of non-wage workers cited 'sales or profit is too small,' as the greatest difficulty they face in running a business, followed by 43.1% 'my work is not much rewarding,' 42.4% 'prospect of my work is not bright,' 40.2% 'working hours are too long,' etc. This shows that more than 40% felt difficulty in running a business in terms of the abovementioned propositions.
- ▶ To the proposition 'working makes my life rewarding and vitalizes me,' 91.2% of employed women gave positive responses. They were also positive about 'family life becomes even more satisfactory by working (86.3%),' and 'I think I can be more recognized by my family members by working (85.1%).' On the other hand, 73.2% of employed women responded 'since my family members appreciate my work, I get to work harder.'

Transition in unemployed women's working form and analysis of determinants

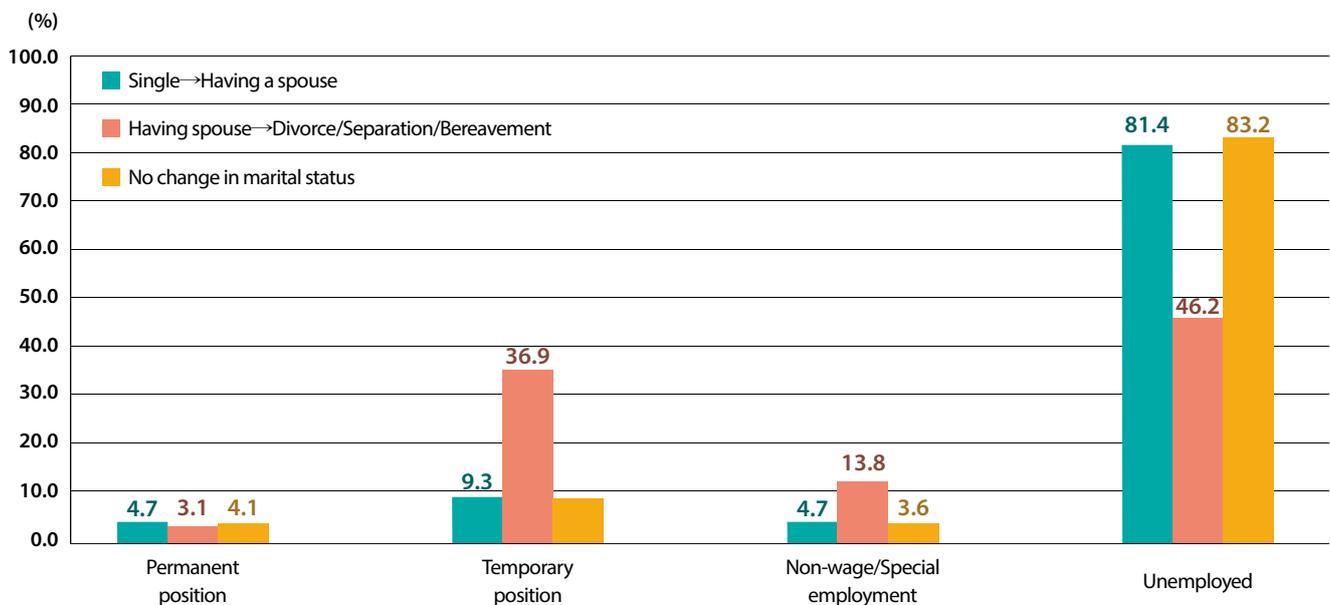
- ▶ Utilizing the 1st~6th wave Korean Longitudinal Survey of Women & Families, this study grasps the transition ratio of unemployed women to the labor market, and analyzes determinants of their transition to employment. Of the determinants of transition, the factor of children utilized in existing studies was subdivided into preschool child, child in elementary school, middle school, and high school, so that the characteristics in the entry into economic activities of those women who reenter the labor market after experiencing a career interruption as well as the effects of marital status on the transition can be determined. In addition, in cases where they enter into the labor market, the factors that determine their form of working was analyzed as well.
- ▶ Main results of analyses are as follows: First, transition of working form happens the most among women in their 20s, followed by women in their 40s, the age band where reentrance into the labor market peaks. However, among subjects in their 20s the rate of transition to permanent positions was higher in comparison, while the rate of transition into temporary positions was higher among subjects in their 40s. Second, among the subjects with higher level of education, the rate of transition to the labor market was higher. However, among those whose educational background was college graduation or higher, the rate of transition to permanent positions and non-wage/special employment was comparatively high, and among those whose education background was high school graduation the rate of transition to temporary positions was rather high. When this was viewed according to the results of analyzing determinants of entry into the labor market by type of job, unemployed women with educational backgrounds of college graduation or higher did not show significant probability of transition to temporary positions compared to unemployed women with educational backgrounds of middle school graduation or lower. On the other hand, the subjects with educational backgrounds of high school graduation showed significant characteristics in their transition to temporary positions compared to the groups with educational backgrounds of middle school graduation or lower. Third, with regard to marital status, the results were the same as those of existing studies. According to the results of this study looking into whether change in marital status affects the transition to the labor market, the change from being single to having a spouse did not have significant effect on the entry into the labor market, but the change from having a spouse to bereavement/divorce/separation had a significant effect. Even in this case, however, transition to the labor market of unemployed married women who had experienced a career interruption was significantly affected only in the case of transition to temporary positions or non-wage/special employment. Fourth, the higher household income was, the more positive effect it had on the entry into the labor market. By type of job position, with the higher household income, the rate of transition to permanent, non-wage/special employment rose significantly higher. On the other hand the higher the husband's income

was, the lower the probability of transition to the labor market. Fifth, in terms of the effect of a child, a preschool child was found to be a factor decreasing the probability of married women's transition to employment, as in the results of existing studies. But a child in elementary, middle, or high school was revealed to have a positive effect on their transition to employment. If looked upon by type of job position, a child in elementary, middle and high school had effect only on the transition to temporary positions, having no significant effect of boosting the transition to permanent or non-wage/special employment positions.

<Figure: Unemployed women's transition to labor market by wave of survey>



<Figure: Status of unemployed women's transition to employment by type of change in marital status>



Characteristics of the group of women who went through transition in marital status from single to married, and change in their values on marriage

- ▶ In this study, characteristics of the group who went through the transition in marital status from single to married and the group who remained single, of the panel of KLoWF, have been compared to identify the factors that affect transition to marriage, and change in values on marriage that the transition group experienced has been examined. With the subjects who were single at the time of the 1st wave, division between those who are now married and those who remain single was made to compare characteristics and determine the factors that affect transition to marriage, and the change in values on marriage that those who went through the transition experience has been analyzed.
- ▶ The results of comparing characteristics between the married transition group and the remaining single group revealed that with higher age, the probability of transition to marriage was reduced in the case of both groups. Women with high educational background and women who are financially stable had the high probability to fall under these two groups. In terms of growth process, including parent's level of education, their economic condition, marital relationship, attitude to discipline, etc., no difference was found between the two groups. The results of Logistic Regression of the possibility of transition to marriage revealed that age, level of education, economic status, and values on marriage are significant factors. The probability of transition is found to increase with younger age, junior college graduation compared to college graduation in terms of education level, when financially more unstable in terms of economic condition, and when having a more positive view on marriage in terms of values on marriage.

Factors affecting menopause of Korean Women

- ▶ In this study, the effects of sociodemographic factors, health, and health behavior of Korean women on their menopause was identified to seek measures for their healthy lives. Of the KLoWF data, the form of the cross-sectional data of the 4th, 5th, and 6th wave survey, which contain questions about women's health and menopause, was restructured into longitudinal data of subjects' experience, and Kaplan-Meier analysis and Cox regression were applied to them.
- ▶ The results confirmed that women's menopause is affected by sociodemographic factors, health and health behavior. With regard to sociodemographic factors, the statistical probability to experience menopause significantly increases with such women's cases as being single, highly educated, and working in managerial/professional/office-working positions. In terms of health, the same applies to women who experience depression, think their body shape as 'obese,' or 'seriously obese,' and in terms of health behavior the same applies to women who drink

and smoke. As women's menopause is a serious event for middle-aged women that gravely affects their physical, social and mental health, the subjects who have been identified to be highly likely to experience menopause due to the sociodemographic factors, health, and health behavior determined in this survey should be provided with customized care.

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Policy suggestions

Policy suggestions based on the results of analyzing transition in unemployed women's working form

- ▶ First, wage improvement is required for temporary positions. The probability of transition from unemployment to temporary positions increases among women in such cases as having a child in elementary, middle, or high school, seeing a change in marital status from having a spouse to divorce/bereavement/separation, and having a working husband (wage or non-wage). Nevertheless, when looked into by type of job position, the household income of the group that enters into temporary positions was the lowest. This can be the case where women who used to have a spouse went through a change in marital status, thus income from the husband has disappeared, but also can be a characteristic in the situation of such women whose income level is so low after their transition to temporary positions despite the fact that their husbands are still working. According to the survey on labor conditions by employment type in 2016 prepared by the Ministry of Employment and Labor, wage by hour was 10,008 won for female temporary employees, 13,719 won for female regular employees, 14,189 won for male temporary employees, and 20,815 won for male regular employees. That is, regardless of permanent or temporary position, women's wage is lower than that of men, and women in temporary positions earn 3,711 won less than women in permanent positions. What is notable is when unemployed women who went through a change in marital status due to divorce/bereavement/separation enter the labor market, in most cases they are employed in temporary positions. Therefore, low income for women in such a case can be a factor that plunges them into the low-income class. Now that the current government promotes turning temporary positions into regular positions as a major state affair, inspections to improve the working conditions of temporary workers need to be promoted at the same time.

- ▶ Second, building an environment for supporting work-family balance should be applied to temporary positions as well. The rate of married women's transition to employment was lower than that of single women, and change in marital status from single to having a spouse itself did not affect the entry or breakaway from the labor market. But having a preschool child effected a lower rate of entry into the labor market. Such a situation is being gradually improved with vitalization of childbirth leave and childcare leave. Still, having a preschool child affects adversely on women's entry into the labor market. Furthermore, for most career-interrupted women with a preschool child, this factor has significant negative effects on transition not only to permanent positions but temporary positions as well. The reality is that transition to a temporary position is set as one of the passageways for reentry of career-interrupted married women into the labor market. The analysis of this study reveals that the number of cases of transition to temporary positions is 2.5 times bigger than that to regular positions. In this respect, diverse policies that will enable the building of an environment for work-family balance that takes temporary positions into consideration need to be developed.

Policy implications based on the results of analyzing factors affecting menopause of Korean women

- ▶ Women's menopause is confirmed to be affected by sociodemographic factors, health and health behavior. Therefore, given that menopause is an event of a lifetime that has grave effects on physical, social and mental health of middle-aged women, customized care for subjects who are identified to have high probability of experiencing menopause due to sociodemographic factors, health and health behavior as determined in this survey need to be offered. For instance, the Ministry of Health and Welfare provides diverse information about quitting smoking through the site named 'a guide to quitting smoking', and categorizes users into men, women, youths, and children, offering customized information about quitting smoking for each segment of the population. Through the operation of a such a site that offers information about preparing for and handling menopause, which has a grave influence on women's lives, customized information, taking into account the factors affecting menopause determined in this study, can be provided.

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Expected benefits

Utilization as basic data for the establishment of policies concerning the facilitation of women's participation in economic activities and promotion of economic independence, work-family balance assistance, and prevention of women's impoverishment, etc., the core issues of policies for women.

By grasping the direction of changes happening in families, make the establishment of family policies based on objective facts possible. Preparation of the basis for the establishment of policies for gender-equal family, detection of problems in childcare, divorce, living together, diversified family forms, low birth, support for older persons, poverty, etc., and provision of appropriate support.

Utilization by diverse groups henceforth as basic data that help identify all sorts of problems related to fostering and utilization of female human resources, thereby contributing to the establishment of systematic human resources policies.

Relevant authorities: The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, the Ministry of Employment and Labor