
Family Structure in Japan

— JAPN 306 —
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Introduction

Understanding how the system works is key to understanding the Japanese mind

Social norms are learned in the home

Traditional vs. Modern

Traditional: 2 parents, gender division of chores

Preserve household resources and pass them on

Modern: father is still head of the family but presence is rarely seen, still strong gender division

Parent social circles rarely overlap

Education

Japanese parents hold high expectations for their children

Children's education is a type of investment

Mothers are expected to participate in their children's school activities

Religion

Most religious activities take place in the family

Traditional families took care of the Buddhist altars where dead relatives were honored

Conclusion

What is Japanese mind?