PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN SPOUSES IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR OF TAIWAN

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Starting from 1992, intermarriage between Taiwan and China became well accepted after others between Taiwan and Vietnam, Indonesia or Thailand.

In year 2002, among over 173,000 married couples, 11.7% were intermarried couple.

In year 2008, among over 154,868 married couples, 13.6% were intermarried couple.
Percent of Intermarriage Couples in Taiwan

Year

Percentage

Introduction 2

- Using self-designed questionnaire to interview foreign spouses living in Taiwanese fishery villages of Taipei, Yilan, Tainan, Kaohsiung, Pingtung, and Penghu.

- Getting a picture of how they earn their living when they help their husbands or work for their employers in the field of fisheries.

- The interviewed foreign spouses in fishery sector of Taiwan are open minded, diligent and self-motive.
Aa and Bb work happily for green algae cultivation at single-spat oyster hatchery in Penghu
Cc and Dd works for small abalone hatchery
Ee is teaching other foreign spouses how to cook Taiwanese cuisine
Ff and her husband share with other foreign spouses their experience to get along with family members in a weekend party.
Gg enjoys company of her husband and happiness of fruit-picking in Lychee garden
Hh at Taiwanese dress on a happy salon photo with her beloved husband
Age Distribution (N=48)

- 31-35: 40%
- 36-40: 17%
- 40-45: 6%
- 21-25 yr-old: 10%
- 26-30: 27%
Length of Staying in Taiwan (years)

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Years of Receiving Citizenship

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Age Distribution of Sons (yr-old)

- 7-9: 31%
- 10-12: 20%
- 13-15: 3%
- 16-19: 2%
- 1-3: 22%
- 4-6: 22%
Age Distribution of Daughters (yr-old)

- 13-15: 8%
- 16-19: 8%
- 10-12: 27%
- 20-24: 4%
- 25-: 4%
- 1-3: 7%
- 7-9: 27%
- 4-6: 15%
Income Allocation

- Refuse to Answer: 58%
- Sending to parents: 15%
- Saving: 19%
- Living allowance: 8%
Work Motivation

- boredomness
- increase income
- learn new technique
- make new friends
- children's education fee
- send to natal parents
Work Achievement

- Avoid boredom
- Increase living allowance
- Learn new techniques
- Make friends
- Increase saving
- Other

percentage(%)
Future Plan of These Work Related with Fishery

- Want to recommend friends to join working: 36%
- No desire to work any more: 43%
- Strong desire to work continuously: 13%
- Uncertainty: 8%
Expectation of Increasing Salary

- 150%: 47%
- 160%: 3%
- 200%: 3%
- 110%: 10%
- 120%: 3%
- 130%: 20%
- 140%: 14%
Things to be Improved on their Working Place

- None: 5%
- Sun-cutting shading: 26%
- Anti-wind facility: 24%
- Rest room: 11%
- Washing facility: 21%
- Nap period: 13%
Summary 1

- Age of interviewee ranges from 20 to 45-year-old.

- They have lived in Taiwan for 1 to 22 years respectively.

- Country of origin includes Vietnam, China, Indonesia and Thailand (in order of greatest number to least).

- Most have become citizen for 1 to 12 years respectively.

- Some are still waiting for the result of their citizenship application.
Summary 2

- All live with children who accept free education and husband who has routine or non-routine work (4:1).

- Less than half of the foreign spouses live with father-in-law or/and mother-in-law but only a few live with young brother-in-law and sister-in-law.

- Each family has one to four children at age ranging from 1 to 25-yr-old.
Summary 3

- **Priority of work motivation:**
  1. children education expense,
  2. additional living allowance,
  3. learning new skills,
  4. making new friends, and
  5. boredomes

- **Type of work:**
  1. propagation of sweet fish, grouper, small abalone, marine and freshwater prawns, oyster and algae,
  2. cultivation for sweet fish, small abalone, marine and freshwater prawns, oyster and algae,
  3. collection of fry of milkfish, eel, crab from coast,
  4. processing of squid balls, fish fillet, and
  5. small business such as selling crabs and importation or exportation of fish fry.
Summary 4

- Their income from work of full or part time employee ranges from NT$ 3,000 (US$ 100 to 25,000 (US$ 100 to 830) per month.

- Income of the family business with proper assistance of foreign spouses reaches up to NT$160,000 (US$ 5,333).

Re: NT $30 = US$ 1
Summary 5

- Most cases (70%): income is used 100% for living allowance.

- Some cases (20%): 50~90% for household with rest for saving account.

- A few exception cases (10%) sending 10% to 100% back to their country of origin.
Summary 6

- **Work achievement:**
  - improving living allowance,
  - saving for children education,
  - learning new skills, and
  - making new friends

- **Therefore,** they are eager to continue fishery work, introducing friends to join them to work rather than do not care if they are not offered any more job opportunity.
Summary 7

- Most of them desire for 150% pay than before.

- They ask for work environment improvement mainly in terms of sun screen and wind-resistant shading.

- None asks for improvement of working tools.
It is hoped that output of this interview and analysis work become a reference for
(1) practical assistance to promote foreign spouses’ adaptability to the society of Taiwan, especially with their nature of maternal parent
(2) policy making related with immigration regulation after knowing more about their situation, attitude and dream
(3) improved strategies to help all intermarriage families in fishery villages in Taiwan and other countries
Acknowledgement

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  - S. M. Chang, Graduate Institute of Development Studies, NCCU
  - L. Huang, National Training Institute for Farmers Organizations
  - J. J. Ma, Fishermen Association, ChaiYi

- **Foreign spouses and families**
Thank you for attention

Happy intermarried couples in fishery towns