

Single female workers want spouse who shares values: poll

Kyodo News

About 62 percent of single Japanese working women aged 25 to 44 want to marry someone who likes what they like, according to an online survey by a French insurance company.

The poll, conducted in late February by AXA Life Insurance Co., a unit of the AXA financial group of France, also found that 27.0 percent of the 600 women polled want their potential marriage partners to have the same spending habits.

It found that 26.3 percent of these women want to marry someone with a steady job, such as full-time workers.

The poll found those three traits to be the most highly valued in a potential spouse, the insurer said.

The three features contrast sharply with the three most highly valued qualifications among women of the late 1980s and early 1990s bubble era of soaring land and stock prices, namely, high income, high educational background and high height — the features dubbed the "three highs" in those days.

The latest poll found that only 12.3 percent said they want to marry men with a big income, moving the income dimension down to ninth place among various desirable qualifications they want their partners to have.

Educational background dived to 19th place, while the high height qualification plummeted to 20th place, according to the poll.

Responding to the question on what "ideal annual incomes" of their marriage partners would be, the women said an average ¥5.52 million would be enough.

But they said if they really love the men, ¥2.71 million would be enough.

The survey also determined that 96.8 percent of the single female workers acknowledged having felt angst about their future.

The average age at which they developed such anxieties for the first time was 28.7 years old, while the average age at which they thought they might not be able to ever find a marriage partner was 28.6 years old, according to the poll.

The survey was conducted Feb. 20 and 21.

Of the 600 who gave valid responses, 300 came from women aged 25 to 34 with the remainder between 35 and 44 years of age.

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