

Determinants of Islamic Beliefs and Practices among Muslim Migrants in Japan

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This study analyzes the determinants of Islamic beliefs and practices of (male) Muslim migrants in Tokyo Metropolitan Area, applying logit models to the micro-data (149 cases) from the Social Survey of Muslim Population in Japan conducted in 2005 and 2006 by the Waseda University Survey Team (PI: Hirofumi TANADA). The preliminary analysis shows that the religious faith significantly became both stronger and weaker in Japan among different parts of Muslim migrants having entered Japan between 2000 and 2004. It became also stronger among managers and employees while it became weaker among high-school graduates and inhabitants of public housing.

The Islamic rules are very strictly observed among Muslim migrants in their 30s and those who entered Japan between 1990 and 1994 and between 2005 and 2006. The frequency of prayer services in Mosque/prayer room is significantly more likely to be once or twice or more per week among Muslim migrants in their 30s and twice or more per week among inhabitants of public housing, while it is less likely to be twice or more per week among Indonesians, the self-employed and employees. The frequency of dawah/tabligh is more likely to be once a week among junior-college graduates, inhabitants of public housing, but it is more likely to be twice or less per month among Indonesians, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and inhabitants of public housing while it is less likely among high-school graduates. The Islamic beliefs and practices do not seem to be consistent among inhabitants of public housing, but they are actually divided into two heterogeneous groups of Muslim migrants.

Table 1 Religious Beliefs and Practices of Foreign Muslims by the Year of First Entry to Japan

Year of Entry	Faith	Observance	Mosque	Dawah	Newspaper	Hajj/Shop	Hajj/Rest.	Study Gr.
	Stronger	Very Strict	2+/wk	2+/wk	2+/wk	2+/wk	2+/wk	2+/wk
Total	53.0%	31.5%	26.8%	24.8%	36.9%	15.4%	8.1%	33.6%
Before 1990	47.1%	5.9%	17.6%	11.8%	11.8%	5.9%	11.8%	17.6%
1990-1994	53.3%	26.7%	26.7%	20.0%	53.3%	13.3%	0.0%	40.0%
1995-1999	47.8%	43.5%	39.1%	30.4%	34.8%	17.4%	4.3%	60.9%
2000-2004	56.9%	21.5%	23.1%	27.7%	41.5%	16.9%	7.7%	26.2%
2005-2006	50.0%	61.5%	26.9%	19.2%	34.6%	15.4%	11.5%	34.6%
	Weaker	Strict	1/wk	1/wk	1/wk	1/wk	1/wk	1/wk
Total	12.1%	46.3%	43.0%	24.8%	9.4%	18.8%	10.7%	27.5%
Before 1990	5.9%	47.1%	52.9%	23.5%	0.0%	17.6%	5.9%	23.5%
1990-1994	20.0%	60.0%	46.7%	33.3%	6.7%	33.3%	13.3%	26.7%
1995-1999	4.3%	34.8%	34.8%	26.1%	8.7%	17.4%	13.0%	21.7%
2000-2004	16.9%	55.4%	40.0%	23.1%	12.3%	15.4%	12.3%	33.8%
2005-2006	7.7%	26.9%	26.9%	23.1%	7.7%	23.1%	7.7%	19.2%
	Stable	Others	Others	Others	Others	Others	Others	Others
Total	34.9%	22.1%	30.2%	50.3%	53.7%	65.8%	81.2%	38.9%
Before 1990	47.1%	47.1%	29.4%	64.7%	88.2%	76.5%	82.4%	58.8%
1990-1994	26.7%	13.3%	26.7%	46.7%	40.0%	53.3%	86.7%	33.3%
1995-1999	47.8%	21.7%	26.1%	43.5%	56.5%	65.2%	82.6%	17.4%
2000-2004	26.2%	23.1%	36.9%	49.2%	46.2%	67.7%	80.0%	40.0%
2005-2006	42.3%	11.5%	19.2%	57.7%	57.7%	61.5%	80.8%	46.2%

(Source) Author's Tabulation Using Microdata from the Social Survey on Muslim Population in Japan

Table 2 Determinants of Religious Beliefs and Practices by Foreign Muslims: Multinomial Logit Analysis

Independent Variable Category	Dependent Variable							
	Islamic Faith		Rule Observance		Prayer at Mosque		Dawah/Tabligh	
	Stronger Stable	Weaker Stable	V. Strict Others	Strict Others	2+/wk Others	1/wk Others	2+/wk Others	1/wk Others
Constant	-0.9992	-5.5752 **	-1.8893	-0.6127	0.0166	1.3416	-0.7839	-2.0665 #
<u>Age</u>								
15-24	0.8047	1.2481	1.4285	0.2034	-0.2439	-0.2669	0.1321	0.9457
25-29	0.7843	0.9587	1.4940	0.4049	0.8162	-0.4192	0.0148	0.2503
30-34	-0.6992	0.3875	1.9716 #	2.1915 *	2.0081 #	1.8281 *	-0.2284	0.0946
35-39	0.2735	0.4629	0.6312	0.7147	0.1449	-0.4330	-0.6516	-1.0080
<u>Marital Status</u>								
Married (Japanese)	0.8882	1.5169	-0.6749	-0.5989	-0.0152	0.1783	-0.5062	-1.0595
Married (Compatriot)	-0.0485	0.7386	1.0305	0.7385	0.8534	-0.2168	-0.2730	0.1388
<u>Year of First Entry</u>								
1990-1994	0.6234	2.0701	2.2321 #	1.4270	-0.3463	-0.8216	0.2016	1.2496
1995-1999	0.1135	-0.1077	1.4986	0.2907	0.1369	0.1369	0.7781	0.7781
2000-2004	1.2738 #	2.3738	0.5296	0.4828	-0.8145	-1.0322	0.1217	-0.2416
2005-2006	0.6097	1.4020	2.0585 #	0.3512	-0.0057	-0.1057	-0.4427	-0.1190
<u>Nationality</u>								
Indonesian	-0.6233	1.0341	-0.5448	-0.0339	-1.3983 *	-0.0606	0.4972	1.4690 *
Bangladeshi	0.1923	1.3488	-0.2131	0.1246	0.1747	-0.2578	1.3880 #	1.4761 #
Pakistani	-0.3120	-0.1157	-0.8401	-0.0275	0.9071	0.0067	1.0726	1.8584 *
<u>Education</u>								
High School	-0.9121	-0.6001	0.1476	-0.3261	0.1177	-0.6957	-1.4418 #	-0.9916
Junior College	0.7652	0.0408	1.1656	-0.2460	-0.9844	0.2899	1.3727	-0.0608
<u>Employment Status</u>								
Self-Employed	0.5158	1.5788	0.1123	0.4841	-1.9852 #	-1.3508	-11.5414	-0.2607
Manager	1.2292 *	1.0292	-0.4132	0.0695	-0.6001	-0.4541	-0.2360	0.1783
Employee	1.0918 #	0.5531	0.1351	0.3415	-1.9485 *	-1.3360 #	-0.4410	1.0456
<u>Housing Type</u>								
Own	0.0754	1.2304	0.6257	0.0031	1.2253	1.6339 *	0.6857	-1.1330
Public	0.9790	1.5215 #	-0.7408	-0.2464	1.7864 *	1.2572	1.3052 #	1.3376 *
N		149		149		149		149
Chi-square		211.50		236.57		230.47		227.22

Independent Variable Category	Dependent Variable							
	Newspaper in Mother Tongue		Halal Shop		Halal Restaurant		Study Group Meeting	
	2+/wk Others	1/wk Others	2+/wk Others	1/wk Others	2+/wk Others	1/wk Others	2+/wk Others	1/wk Others
Constant	-1.8211 #	-11.6086 ***	-2.1479 #	-3.9761 *	-0.3913	-4.7285 **	-1.7764	-0.4863
<u>Age</u>								
15-24	0.3685	10.3956	-0.3787	3.5503 *	0.0381	0.4705	-0.0635	0.4648
25-29	-0.1135	8.4617	-0.4011	0.6310	-1.8899	1.8795	0.8287	0.2673
30-34	-0.0685	10.3633	-0.8423	1.9414 #	-1.1119	1.3093	0.4848	0.4815
35-39	-0.5472	9.8875	-0.4608	1.6536	-0.7824	0.8537	-0.0375	-0.1237
<u>Marital Status</u>								
Married (Japanese)	0.2107	-1.0052	-0.5690	2.1789 #	-0.2761	-0.5925	-0.0333	-1.6586 #
Married (Compatriot)	0.1256	-0.7918	-0.1854	1.9629 #	0.4220	-0.5320	0.2136	0.0523
<u>Year of First Entry</u>								
1990-1994	1.8519 #	-0.7736	0.6039	1.1799	-9.5771	0.9594	1.5291	0.8444
1995-1999	1.4093	-0.3709	1.1799	0.4310	-1.5694	0.9182	2.7823 **	1.2068
2000-2004	1.4087 #	-0.4195	0.4310	-0.1659	-1.2866	1.2505	0.4248	0.0867
2005-2006	1.0038	-0.8542	0.7404	-0.0220	-0.9443	1.0151	0.7242	-0.9196
<u>Nationality</u>								
Indonesian	0.9942 #	0.4850	0.7374	-0.9944	0.6626	-0.3911	0.9058	0.8053
Bangladeshi	0.7985	-1.0499	-0.6682	-2.1151 #	0.0130	-10.4080	1.6645 *	0.4816
Pakistani	0.2438	0.2438	-0.2596	1.6074 #	-9.5239	0.4221	1.6662 #	-0.0361
<u>Education</u>								
High School	-1.3707 *	0.7083	-1.5835 #	2.0330 *	-9.9452	1.0437	-0.8246	-1.9566 *
Junior College	-1.4935 #	0.5685	-1.2770	0.5568	-0.9211	2.2403 *	0.7119	0.2715
<u>Employment Status</u>								
Self-Employed	-0.1539	0.8642	1.6488	1.6488 *	0.3562	1.6846	-2.4652 *	-0.5442
Manager	0.5047	1.3175	1.1635	1.0154	-0.3761	1.2511	-0.1361	-0.4107
Employee	-0.6993	0.4744	1.0154 #	-2.4670 #	-1.2630	-0.5304	-0.9011	0.3306
<u>Housing Type</u>								
Own	0.4744	1.2315	-0.7919	-1.8781 #	0.7801	-0.3331	-0.2176	0.0881
Public	0.4957	0.4957	-0.1369	-1.8192 *	0.0171	0.6174	0.9047	0.5830
N		149		149		149		149
Chi-square		191.29		183.51		120.43		235.85

(Note) # p < 0.10, * p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001

(Source)

Author's Estimation Using Microdata from the Social Survey on Muslim Population in Japan