

Research on gender and the process of making laws by comparing abortion laws in the US, Laos, and Japan.

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I Introduction

•Background

Some Japanese laws have not been revised for years even though the social needs have greatly changed. In Japan, since the Meiji era, Penal Code Article(212-216) has banned abortion. However, if certain conditions are met, abortion is permitted under the Maternal Protection Act. But consent from the spouse is required. And currently, only 11 countries require consent from spouse to have an abortion.



•Purpose

Examining the abortion system as an example of a law that may have a significant impact on women's rights, and considering how laws should be in modern society.

II Method

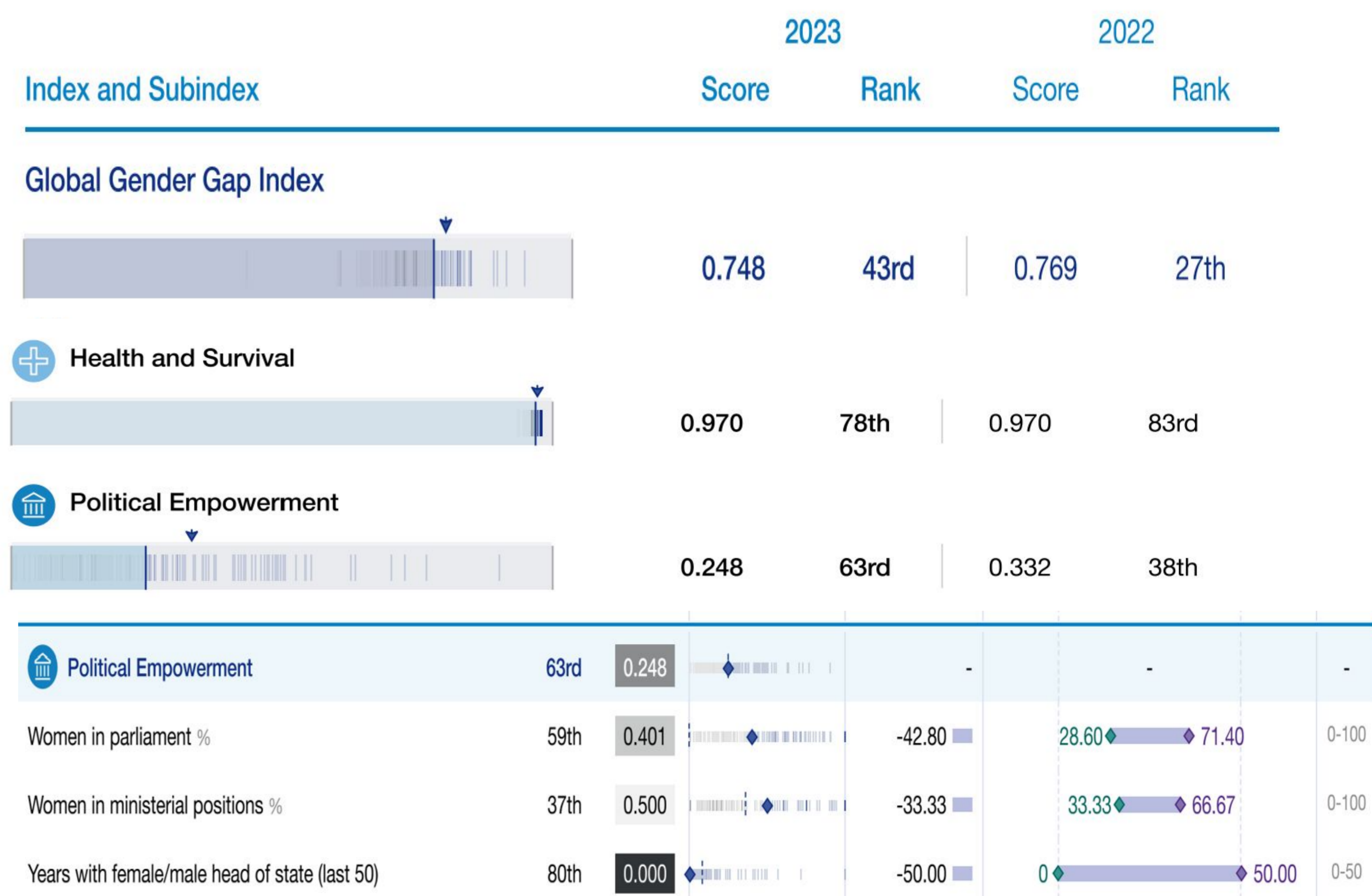
- Field survey in Laos (10/3~10/14,2023)
- Field survey in the U.S.(10/13~10/25,2023)
- Interview

III Abortion laws in Laos

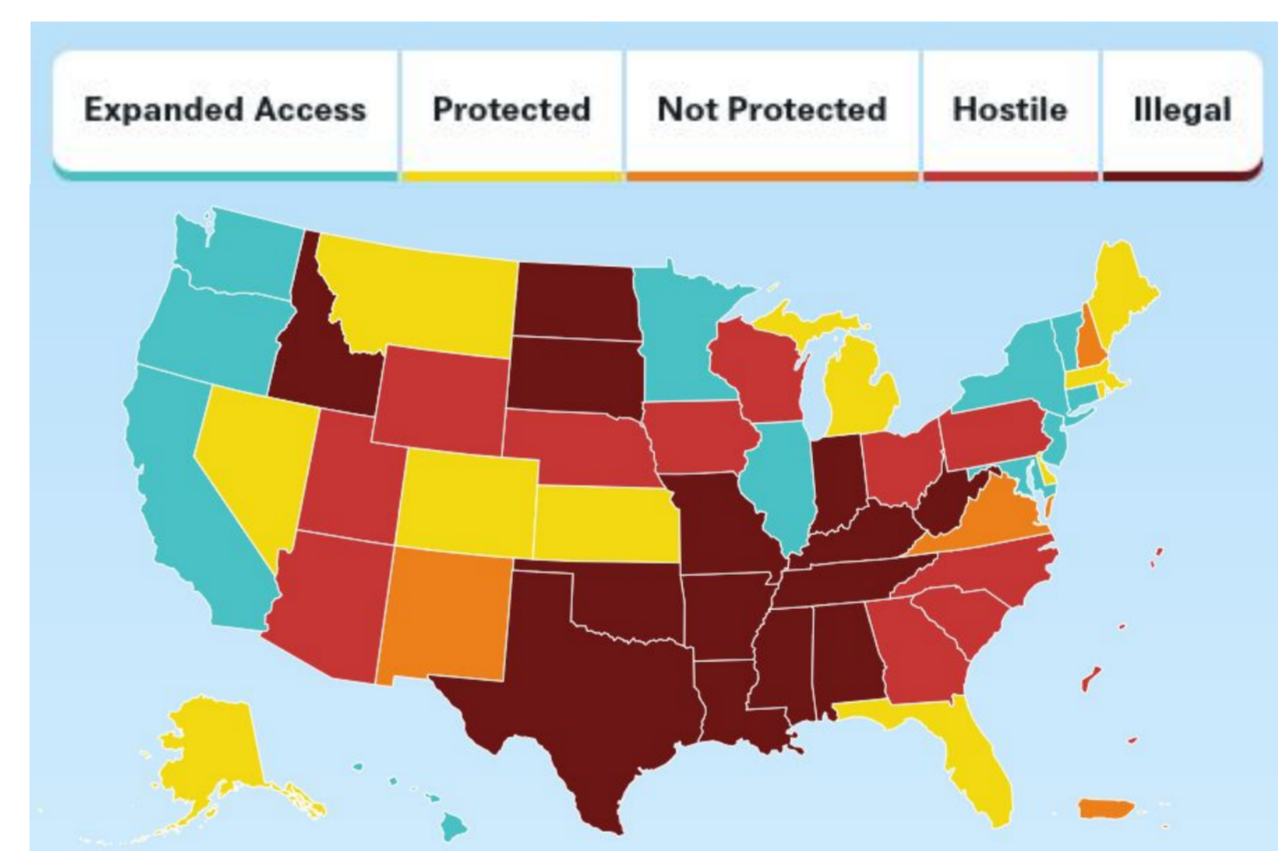


Laos has an abortion system similar to Japan, but spousal consent is not required. In the field survey, it seemed that there were fixed ideas regarding gender, and it was difficult to imagine that there was any diversity in ways of thinking.

IV Abortion laws in the



In June 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. As a result, in each U.S. state imposing its own state laws on abortion. While in office, Trump nominated three conservative judges to the Supreme Court. When Trump took office in 2016, the balance on the Supreme Court was equal with four liberals and four conservatives. However, by the time he retired, there were six conservatives and three liberals, consolidating the control of conservatives.



This case is controversial, but if the conservative Clinton had become president instead of Trump, this situation would not have happened. From this, we can see that the three powers of politics, administration, and judiciary need people who can think with diversity, because the ideas of those who decide on systems have a great impact on society.

V Successful case in France

A major turning point for France was "Parité Law,". Parite originally meant "equivalent". The law requires political parties to field an equal number of male and female candidates. The parite law is said to have made France a gender-advanced country. Since the enactment of the Parite Act, women have played an active role in politics. The proportion of women serving as Diet members exceeds 40%, and the proportion of men and women serving as ministers is almost equal.

VI Conclusion

From the comparison with abortion laws in Laos and the U.S., it seems that a diverse way of thinking is important in the three powers of Congress, judiciary and administration. As in France, the revision of laws and the establishment of new systems can greatly improve gender inequality. Japan currently has a very large gender gap in the political field. In order to create a system that meets the needs of society, Japan will also need to take the current situation of the gender gap seriously and first aim for gender equality in the three powers of justice, administration, and the Diet.

Reference

- "フランスのジェンダー平等への取り組み". <https://www.google.co.jp/>, (2023-12-5) 世界経済フォーラム.Global Gender Gap Report 2023.2023年.<https://jp.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/digest/>,(参照2023-12-5)"After Roe Fell: Abortion Laws by State". Center for Reproductive Rights.<https://reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state/>, (参照2023-12-5)