

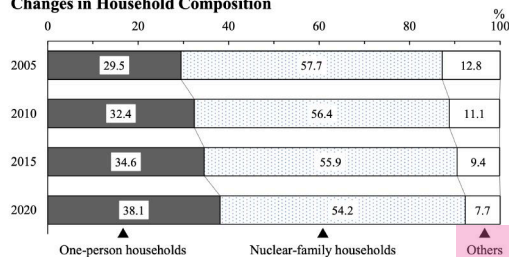


Example Households

- There are many types of household and family. Look again at Chapter 2, "Population", of the *Statistical Handbook of Japan*.
- Here are some of the recurrent patterns I have witnessed in real life and via news media. There are other patterns, too ...
- The housing situation varies a lot depending on rural/urban, metropolitan/regional situations ...
- **Discuss the implications of some of the households in a small group.**

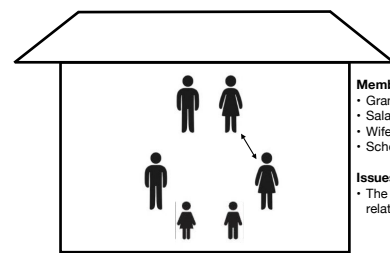
Group 1: Others

Figure 2.3
Changes in Household Composition



Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

The Extended Family



Members

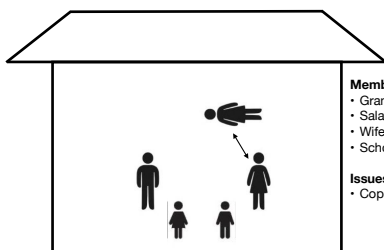
- Grandparents (pension)
- Salaryman breadwinner
- Wife active in the community
- School-age kids

Issues

- The wife and mother-in-law relationship

Housing Situation: Family home paid off. Comfortable middle-class lifestyle.

The Care-giving Family



Members

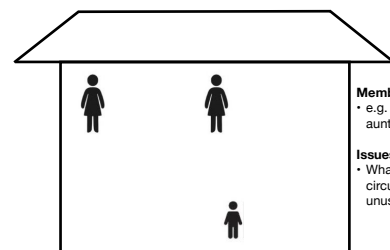
- Grandparent in need of care
- Salaryman breadwinner
- Wife the main care-giver
- School-age kids

Issues

- Coping with caring

Housing Situation: Family home probably paid off, but the pressure and expenses of caring.

The Irregular Extended Family



Members

- e.g. Grandmother, great aunt, school age grandchild

Issues

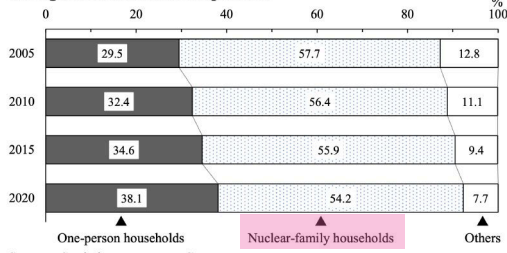
- Whatever personal circumstances caused the unusual arrangements ...

Housing Situation: Depends on the family situation.

Group 2: Nuclear-families

Figure 2.3

Changes in Household Composition



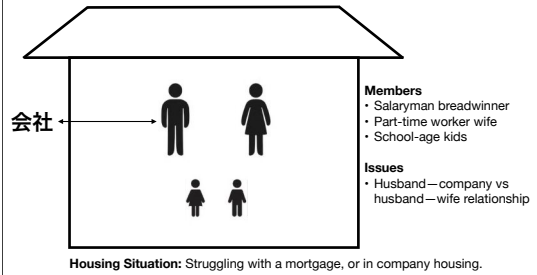
Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

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The Nuclear Family



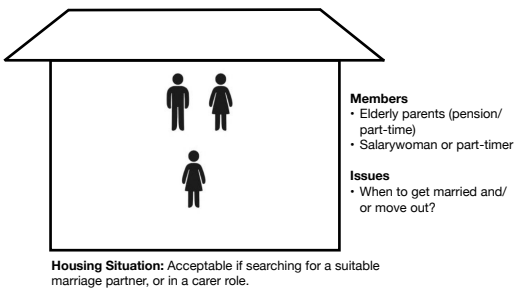
Housing Situation: Struggling with a mortgage, or in company housing.

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“Parasite Single” (F)



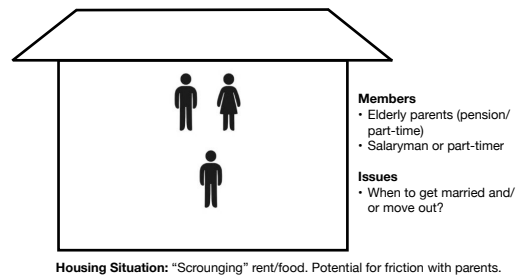
Housing Situation: Acceptable if searching for a suitable marriage partner, or in a carer role.

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“Parasite Single” (M)



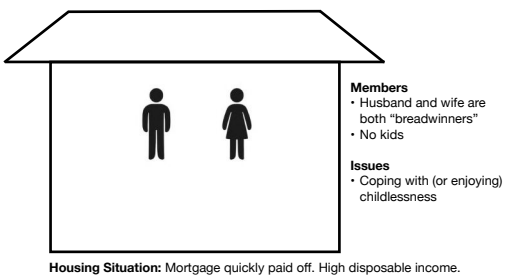
Housing Situation: “Scrounging” rent/food. Potential for friction with parents.

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DINK (Double Income No Kids)



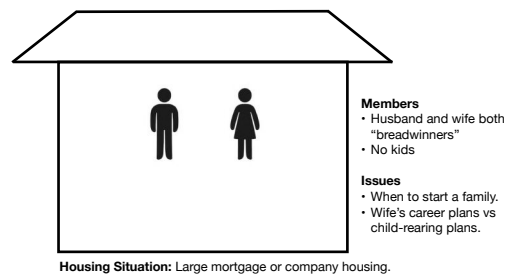
Housing Situation: Mortgage quickly paid off. High disposable income.

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Newly-weds



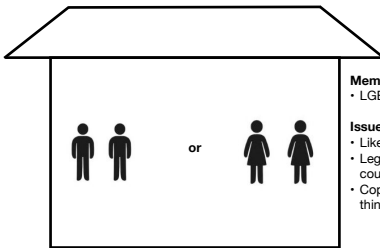
Housing Situation: Large mortgage or company housing. High disposable income.

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LGBT+



Members

- LGBT+ couple

Issues

- Like a DINK couple, but ...
- Legal rights as a married couple not recognized.
- Coping with "what others think".

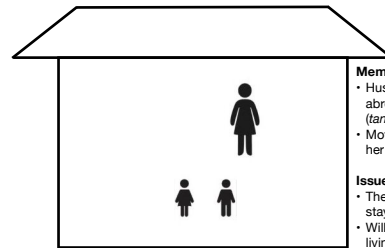
Housing Situation: Landlords, employers and banks probably do not recognize marital status (access to loans etc).

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Single Mother (Father Away)



Members

- Husband posted away/ abroad by his company (*tanshin funin*)
- Mother raising the kids on her own.

Issues

- The children's education vs staying together as a family.
- Will the couple adapt to living together again?

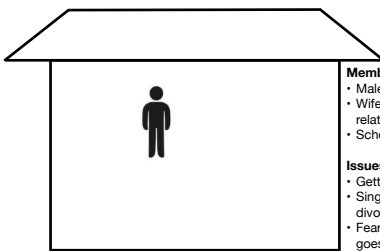
Housing Situation: The family home, or company housing.

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The Domestic Violence Scenario



Members

- Male breadwinner
- Wife fleeing an abusive relationship
- School-age kids

Issues

- Getting a divorce is difficult.
- Single mother precarity if a divorce is granted.
- Fear of more violence if she goes back.

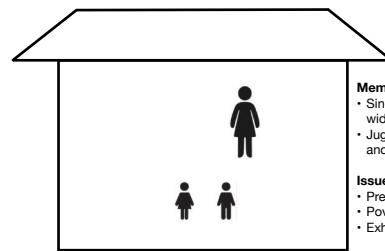
Housing Situation: The household head "occupies" the house during separation.

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Single Mother (Divorced)



Members

- Single mother (divorced or widowed)
- Juggling (part-time) work and raising school-age kids

Issues

- Precarity
- Poverty
- Exhaustion

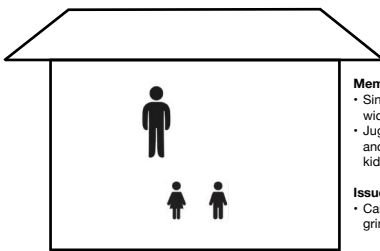
Housing Situation: Often in public housing, constantly worrying about money.

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Single Father



Members

- Single father (usually a widower)
- Juggling (full-time) work and raising school-age kids

Issues

- Career advancement grinds to a halt

Housing Situation: In company/private housing, but worrying about for how much longer.

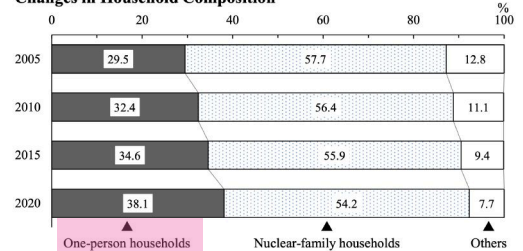
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Group 3: One-person households

Figure 2.3
Changes in Household Composition



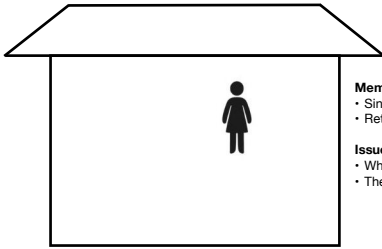
Source: Statistics Bureau, MIC.

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Single Retiree (F)



Member

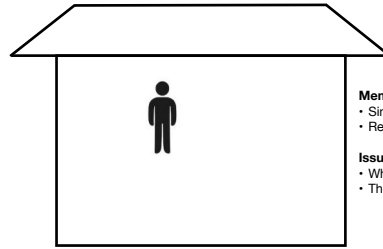
- Single woman
- Retiree

Issues

- Who will care for her?
- The risk of solitary death.

Housing Situation: Financial circumstances vary from wealthy to destitute.

Single Retiree (M)



Member

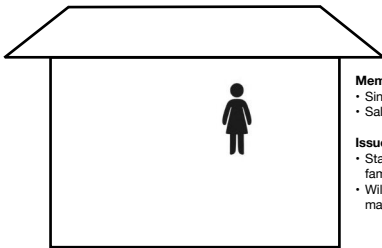
- Single man
- Retiree

Issues

- Who will care for him?
- The risk of solitary death.

Housing Situation: Financial circumstances vary from wealthy to destitute.

“Eligible Spinster”



Member

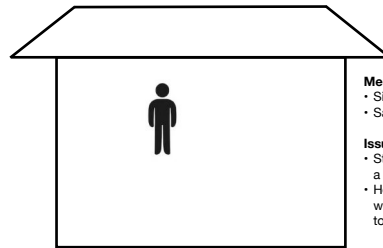
- Single woman
- Salarywoman

Issues

- Stay single, or start a family?
- Will she quit work to marry?

Housing Situation: Rental property or company housing.
High disposable income.

“Eligible Bachelor”



Member

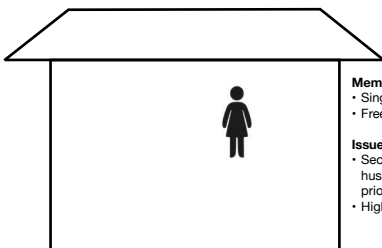
- Single man
- Salaryman

Issues

- Stay single, or start a family?
- How to find a wife when he is “married to work”.

Housing Situation: Rental property or company housing.
High disposable income.

Freeter (F)



Member

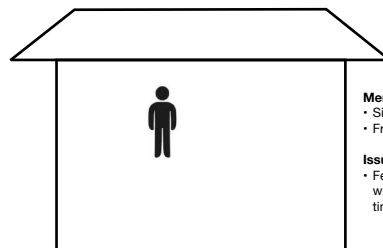
- Single woman
- Freeter

Issues

- Securing a salaried husband is an economic priority.
- High risk of exploitation.

Housing Situation: Rental property. Low disposable income.

Freeter (M)



Member

- Single man
- Freeter

Issues

- Feels unable to marry without secure full-time employment

Housing Situation: Rental property. Low disposable income.