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Religious Attendance and Social Participation in Japan: Analyses of Nation-wide Sampling Data

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Outline

1. Research Background
2. Analytical Framework
3. Data and Methods
4. Results
5. Summary and Discussion

1 Research Background

Research Question

- Do religious organizations such as shrines, temples and churches foster Japanese to participate in social activities in Japan ?

Research Background

- Religions as a base of social activities(Tocqueville; Wuthnow 1995 ; Curtis et al.2001)
- Religion as social capital(Putnam 2000)
- The importance of church
  - long history of being a mobilization resource for community welfare, political action etc
- Correlation between religious attendance and participation to various social activities(Ruiter & De Graaf 2006 ; Norris & Inglehart 2011)

Research Background

1. Few literatures focuses on East Asian countries where Eastern non-institutional religions are popular (Lam 2006;Ruiter & De Graaf 2006; Jeong 2010).
2. Although sociologists of religion in Japan in these days are conducting some case studies on social activities carried out by religious organizations, nation-wide and individual tendencies are not yet sufficiently examined(Terazawa 2012).

Research Background

This study contributes to literatures by :

1. focusing on contemporary Japan which is an East Asian and non-Christian society.
2. examining nation-wide individual tendencies from the analyses of nation-wide sampling data.

2 Analytical Framework

Religious Network Effect

- Tight networks embedded in religious groups, such as regular religious attendance and social support in churches, promote mobilization for social activities. Those who are religious also have interactions with other religious people in churches and gain mobilization through these interactions (Ruiter & De Graaf 2006)
- Religious organizations such as churches and temples promote believers to volunteering
- Those who attend churches tend to participate in various secular volunteering(Ruiter & De Graaf 2006,Norris & Inglehart 2011)

Religions and Social Activities in Japan

Shintoism (shrines)	Shinto priests as key person in local community. Holding of various local activities in shrines such as meeting of community organizations(Fujimoto 2009; Yoshino & Terazawa 2009; Itai 2011)
Buddhism (temples)	The role Buddhist monks and temples play in local community is almost the same as Shintoism(Terazawa 2012).”Danka system”(檀家制度) -established in Edo era(江戸時代) in 17th -19th century Japan-,in which Japanese belong to one Buddhist sect and one temple of that sect for conducting funeral.
Christianity (churches)	Long history of welfare activities, educational activities and political actions from the Meiji era 19th century. Sections for promoting social Activities in contemporary churches. Tight network among church members(Sakurai et al. 2011).
New Religions (branches)	Pro-social activities such as Sokagakkai(創価学会)’s political action ,Tenrikyo(天理教)‘s volunteering in the time of natural disasters and Rissho-kosei-kai(立正佼成会)’s clean up volunteering. Mobilization of members to social activities in whole organizational level.(Kisala 1992; Inaba 1998; Mukhopadyaya 2000)

Three Types of Religious Attender in Japan

Types	Contents	Contact with religious network
Regular Attender	Those who visit shrines and temples not only on special days such as new year ceremony and festivals but also other days.	○
Event Attender	Those who visit shrines and temples only on special days.	×
Non-Attender	Those who don't visit shrines and temples at all even on special days.	×

Hypothesis on Religious Attendance

While r*egular attenders* tend to participate in more social activities than *event attenders and non-attenders, there* will be no difference in participation to social activities between *event attenders* and *non-attenders.*

3 Data and Methods

Japanese Data Set of the World Values Surveys

Wave	Outline
Wave 2	Conducted in 1990 Response rate 62%
Wave 4	Conducted in 2000 Response rate 68%

Because not so many respondents participate in social activities and religious activities I combined these two waves to gain enough statistical power.
I used 2207 cases excluding missing values.

Variable	Definition
Belonging	Participation to Social Activities.If respondents belong to voluntary associations for healt and welfare etc, then Belonging =1; otherwise Belonging=0.
Volunteering	Participation to Social Activities.If respondents volunteer in voluntary associations for healt and welfare etc, then Volunteer =1; otherwise Volunteer =0.
Regular Attender	Religious Aattendance.If respondents visit shrines and temples at least once a month, then Regular Attender = 1; otherwise Regular Attender = 0.
Event Attender	Religious Aattendance.If respondents visit shrines and temples only on spacial events, then Event Attender = 1; otherwise Event Attender = 0.
No Attender	Religious Aattendance.If respondents visit shrines and temples not at all, then No Atttender = 1; otherwise Nor
Devotee	Devotee.If respondents regard themselves as devotee, then Devotee =1; otherwise Devotee =0. (reference category: No Devotee)
No Devotee	Devotee.If respondents regard themselves as no devotee or atheist, then No Devotee =1; otherwise NoDevotee =0. (reference category: No Devotee)
Don't Know	Devotee.If respondents don't know whether they are devotee or not, then Don't Know =1; otherwise Don't Know =0. (reference category: No Devotee)
Buddhism	Religious affiliation.If Buddhist, then Buddhism = 1; otherwise Buddhism = 0. (reference category: No Religion)
Christianity	Religious affiliation.If Christian, then Christianity = 1; otherwise Christianity = 0. (reference category: No Religion)
Other Religions	Religious affiliation.If respondents believer of other religions, then Other Religion = 1; otherwise Other Religion = 0. (reference category: No Religion)
No Religin	Religious affiliation.If respondents have no religion, then No Religion = 1; otherwise No Religion = 0. (reference category: No Religion)
Soka Gakkai	Religious affiliation. If respondents support "Komeito"(polotical party founded by Soka Gakkai), then Soka Gakkai =1; otherwise Sokagakkai =0.
Age*2	Squared of age of the respondent
Age	Age of the respondent
Female	If female, then Female =1; if male, then Female =0.
Urban	If respondents reside in urban cities,then Urban =1; otherwise =0.
Married	If the respondent is married , then Married =1; othrewise Married = 0.
Full time	Occupational Status. If respondents are full time worker, then Full Time =1; otherwise Full Time =0. (reference category: Full Time)
Part Time & Self Employed	Occupational Status. If respondents are part time worker ro self employed then Part Time & Self Employed =1; otherwise Part Time & Self Employed =0.(reference category: Full Time)
No Employed	Occupational Status. If respondents are full time worker, then Full Time =1; otherwise Full Time =0. (reference category: Full Time)
Year 2000	If the survey is conducted in 2000, then Year 2000=1; if in 1990, then Year 2000=0.

Dependent Variables

■Belonging to Voluntary Association

1 = respondents who belong to at least one of following organizations

0 = respondents who belong to none of following organizations

■Volunteering

1 = respondents who volunteer in at least one of following organizations

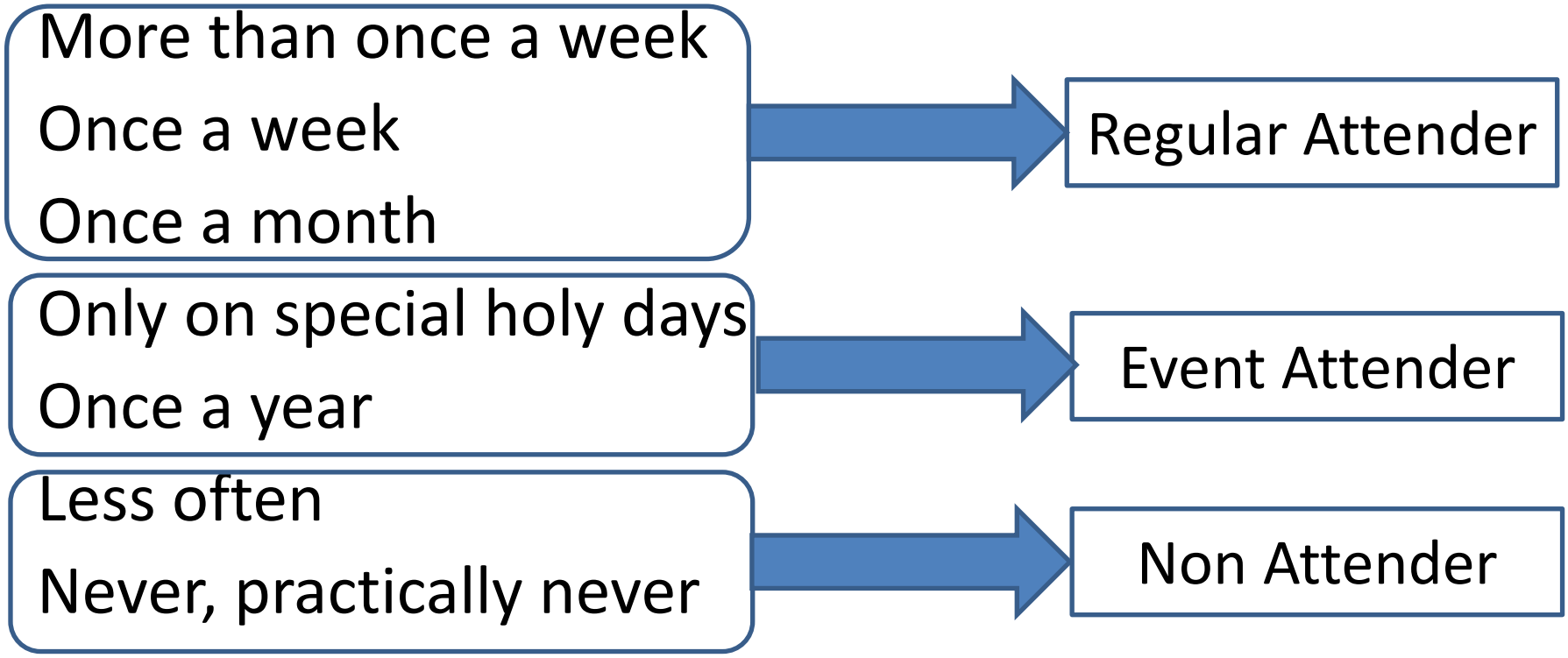
0 = respondents who volunteer in none of following organizations

1) Social welfare services for elderly, handicapped or deprived people
2) Education, arts, music or cultural activities
3) Political parties or groups
4) Local community action on issues like poverty ,employment, housing, racial equality
5) Third world development or human rights
6) Conservation, environmental, animal rights groups
7) Youth work (scouts, guides, youth clubs, etc.)
8) Sports or recreation
9) Women's groups
10) Peace movement
11) Voluntary organizations concerned with health

Independent Variables

■Religious Attendance

Q Apart from weddings, funerals and christenings, about how often do you attend religious services these days?



Control Variables

■Religious Variables

Religious Affiliation

Buddhism, Christianity, Other Religions,
No-Religions(reference category)
Member of Soka Gakkai(one of the largest new religions in Japan)

Religious Consciousness

Devotee, No Devotee(reference category), Don't know

■ Secular Variables

Age2 Age(in real), Female, Urban,
Occupational Status(Full time,Part Time & Self Employed,No Employed), Married, Year 2000

Methods

1. Descriptive Statistics and cross table analyses
2. Binary logit analyses on *belonging to voluntary association* and *volunteering*

(Software Stata 10)

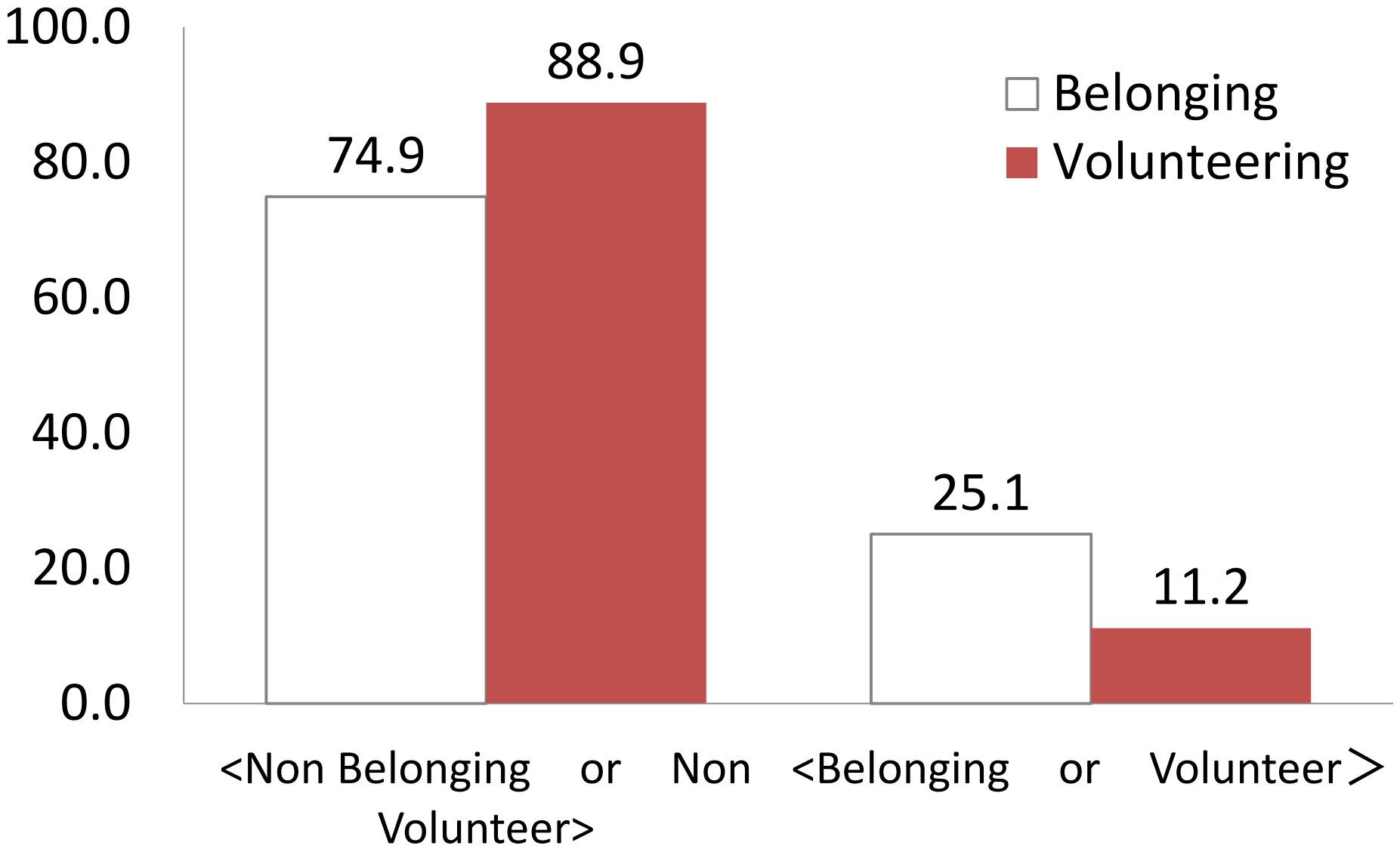
4 Results

Descriptive Statistics of Variables

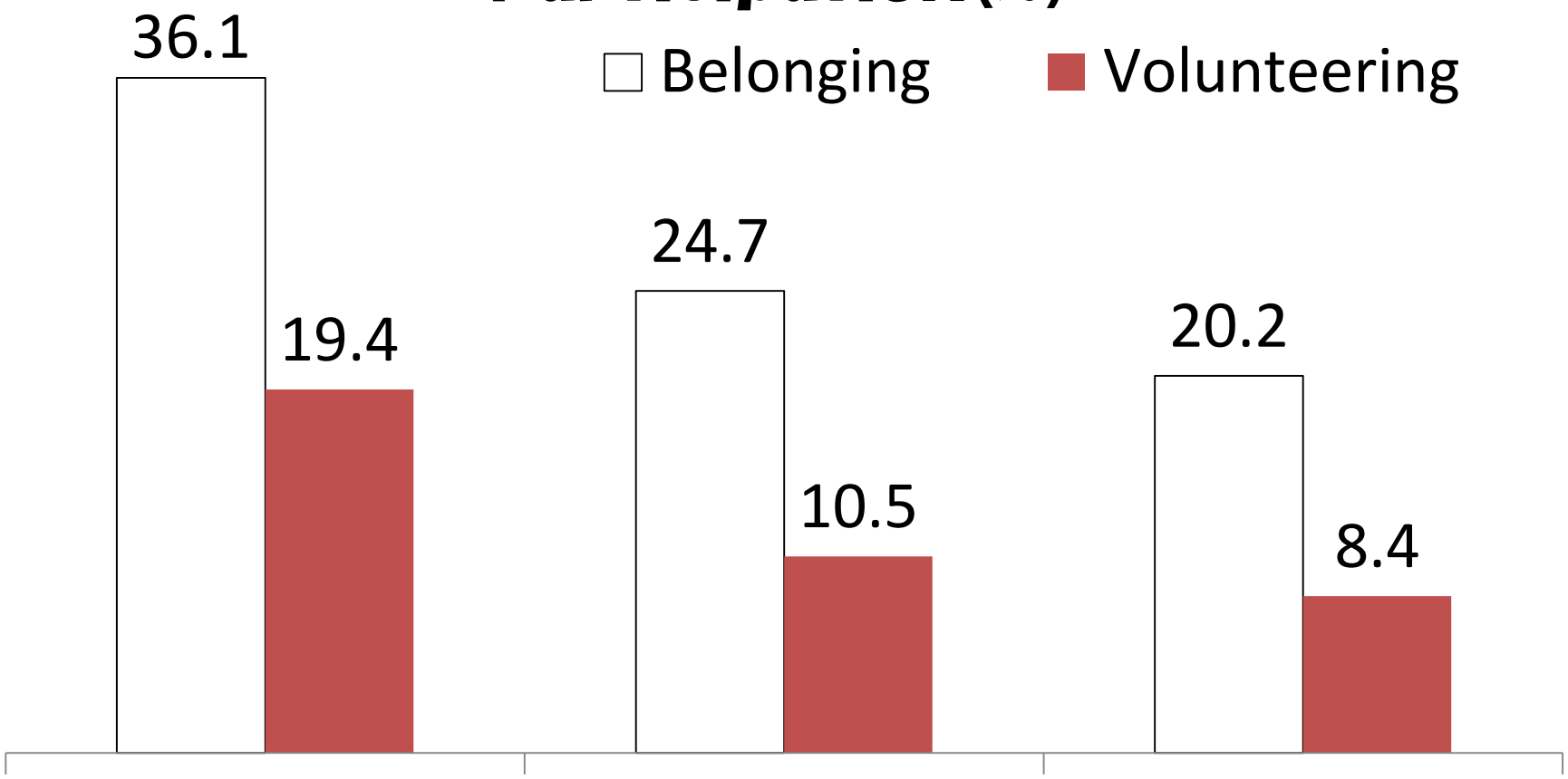
	Range	Mean / %	S.D
Dependent Variables			
Belonging	0,1	25.1%	
Volunteering	0,1	11.1%	
Independent Variables			
Religious Attendance			
Regular Attender	0,1	13.0%	
Event Attender	0,1	61.6%	
No Attender	0,1	25.4%	
Devotion			
Devotee	0,1	22.1%	
No Devotee	0,1	62.7%	
Don't Know	0,1	15.2%	
Controle Variables			
Religious Affiliation			
Buddhism	0,1	31.3%	
Christianiy	0,1	2.0%	
Other Religions	0,1	3.8%	
No religion	0,1	62.9%	
Soka Gakkai	0,1	5.5%	
Secular Variables			
Age	18-86	44.58	15.440
Female	0,1	52.6%	
Urban	0,1	78.0%	
Married	0,1	74.8%	
Occupational Status			
Full time	0,1	42.3%	
Part Time & Self Employed	0,1	24.1%	
No Employed (ref)	0,1	33.6%	
Year 2000	0,1	55.4%	
Year 1990 (ref)	0,1	44.6%	

N=2207

Distribution of Social Activities(%)

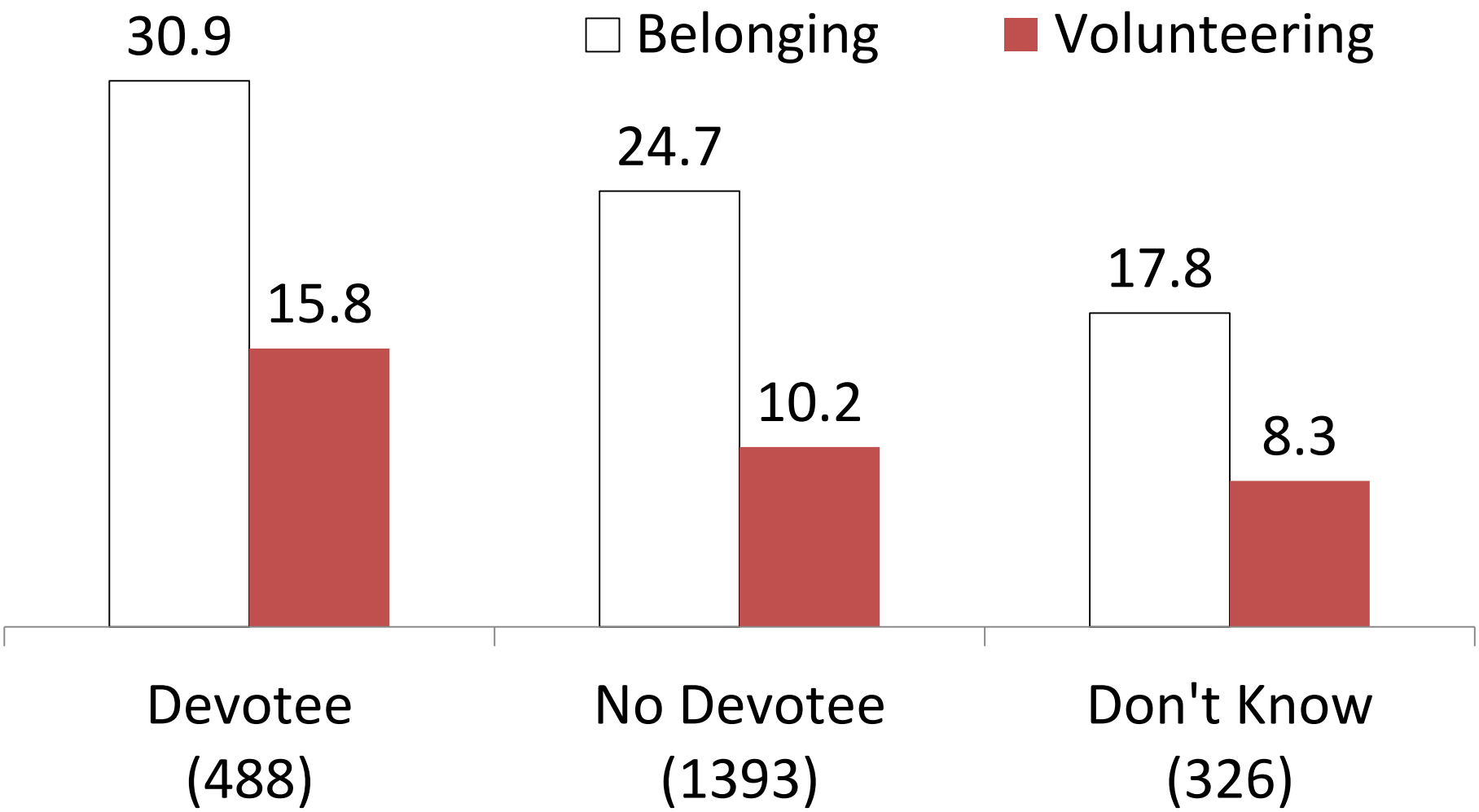


Religious Attendance and Social Participation(%)



Belonging : $\chi 2 = 25.918$ df=2 p<.001
Volunteering : $\chi 2 = 24.845$ df=2 p<.001

Religious Consciousness and Social Participation(%)



Belonging	: $\chi 2 = 18.264$	df＝2	p<.001
Volunteering	: $\chi 2 = 14.549$	df＝2	p<.001

Results of Binary Logit Analyses(Odds Ratio)

	Belonging		Volunteering	
	Model A	Model B	Model A	Model B
Dependent Variables				
Religious Attendance				
Regular Attender	1.668 **	1.481 *	1.638 *	1.571 *
Event Attender	1.127	(ref)	1.043	(ref)
No Attender	(ref)	.888	(ref)	.959
Devotion (ref = No Devotee)				
Devotee	1.032	1.032	1.201	1.201
Don't Know	.774	.774	.965	.965
Controle Variables				
Religious Affiliation (ref = no religion)				
Buddhism	1.273 *	1.273 *	1.622 **	1.622 **
Christianiy	1.314	1.314	1.477	1.477
Other Religions	1.266	1.266	1.631	1.631
Soka Gakkai (=1)	1.571 *	1.571 *	.787	.787
Secular Variables				
Age*2	1.000 +	1.000 +	1.000	1.000
Age (in real)	1.053 +	1.053 +	1.051	1.051
Female (=1)	.977	.977	.757 +	.757 +
Urban (=1)	.868	.868	.708 *	.708 *
Married (=1)	1.087	1.087	1.084	1.084
Occupational Status (ref = Full time)				
Part Time & Self Employed	1.257 +	1.257 +	1.379 +	1.379 +
No Employed	1.152	1.152	1.151	1.151
Year 2000 (=1)	1.986 ***	1.986 ***	1.215	1.215
Log Likelyhood	-1185.893 ***	-1185.893 ***	-734.63 ***	-734.63 ***

***p<.001 **p<.01 *p<.05 +p<.10

5 Summary and Discussion

Findings

1. Regular attenders tend to more participate more in social activities than event attenders and non-attenders even after controlling other variables(Hypothesis supported).
2. On the other hand, religious consciousness is not significantly related to participation in social activities.
3. Interestingly, Buddhism has significant and positive effect on participation to social activities even in the net effect of religious attendance.

Implications

1. Similarities between Japan and Western societies.

2. The important role of religious organizations for promoting social activities in Japan.

3. Although most of quantitative sociologists of religion in Japan are interested in non-institutional Japanese religiosity, institutional Japanese religiosity should be more examined for future research.

Limitations

1. A few religious variables
2. Cross-sectional data
3. Mechanism connecting religious participation and social activities
4. Why dose Buddhism have positive effects on social activities even though other variables are controlled?

Future Directions for Research

1. To examine the detail of the mechanism connecting religious attendance and participation to social activities(cf. intermadiate factors such as community network).
2. Case studies on why regular attenders take part in social activities through shrines and temples.
3. Comparative study of other East Asian areas where eastern religions are dominant religions (cf. Taiwan) .

Thank you very much for your kind attention !

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