



# Japan Plays Cupid

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Japan's government is playing Cupid to get more couples to have babies. Japan has one of the lowest birth rates in the world. It is trying new ways to get people to have children. One of these is matchmaking. Japan will support local government projects for speed dating, matchmaking and other ways to coax couples to get together. There will be big efforts over the next five years to fix this "critical situation". Japan could face serious social problems.

One reason for Japan's falling birth rate is the cost of having children. The government hopes it can help with this. These include plans for free nurseries, help with fertility treatment, and taking paternity leave to 80% by 2020. There are also plans to help families with three or more children. By 2060, nearly 40% of people in Japan will be over 65. They already make up 25%. The birth rate fell from 4.54 children per mother in 1947 to just 1.42 in 2014.

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### New Words or Phrases

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# Follow Up

Use 5 New Words or Difficult Phrases in your own sentence.

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Write a review and your opinion of the article.

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# Sexism In Fashion

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An Indonesian sportswear maker apologised for a label on shirts it made for a top football team. People thought it was sexist. The label read: "Washing instructions: Give this shirt to a woman. It's her job." The company apologised on International Women's Day. This day honours and celebrates women's achievements around the world. People complained on social media. They said the label's wording was inappropriate.

The company said it did not mean to undervalue or humiliate women. A spokesperson tweeted: "The message is simply, instead of washing it in the wrong way, you might as well give it to a lady because they are more capable." It added: "We want to tell the men to learn from women on how to take care of clothes." Many people said the apology was also sexist. The Asian Football Confederation is currently promoting the women's game in Asia.

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New Words or Phrases

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