

Panel on Violence Against Women in Politics, CALD

The Double Standard for Women in Politics in Taiwan

Michelle Wu

Deputy Director, Department of Youth Development
Democratic Progressive Party(DPP), Taiwan

Backgrounds

2026 Women's Political Representation in Taiwan



Local
Councilors

37.6%



National
Legislators

41.6%



Mayors

45.5%



Taiwan has the highest women's representation among legislators in Asia



Former President of Taiwan Tsai, Ing-Wen

President Tsai was criticized by the KMT candidate:

"Tsai has never been married. Because she doesn't have children, she cannot understand parents."

Legislator Wu was also attacked by a KMT politician:

"Women are useless after 30. Wu is nearly 50, she will end her life without children."

Wu, Szu-Yao Legislator of Taiwan

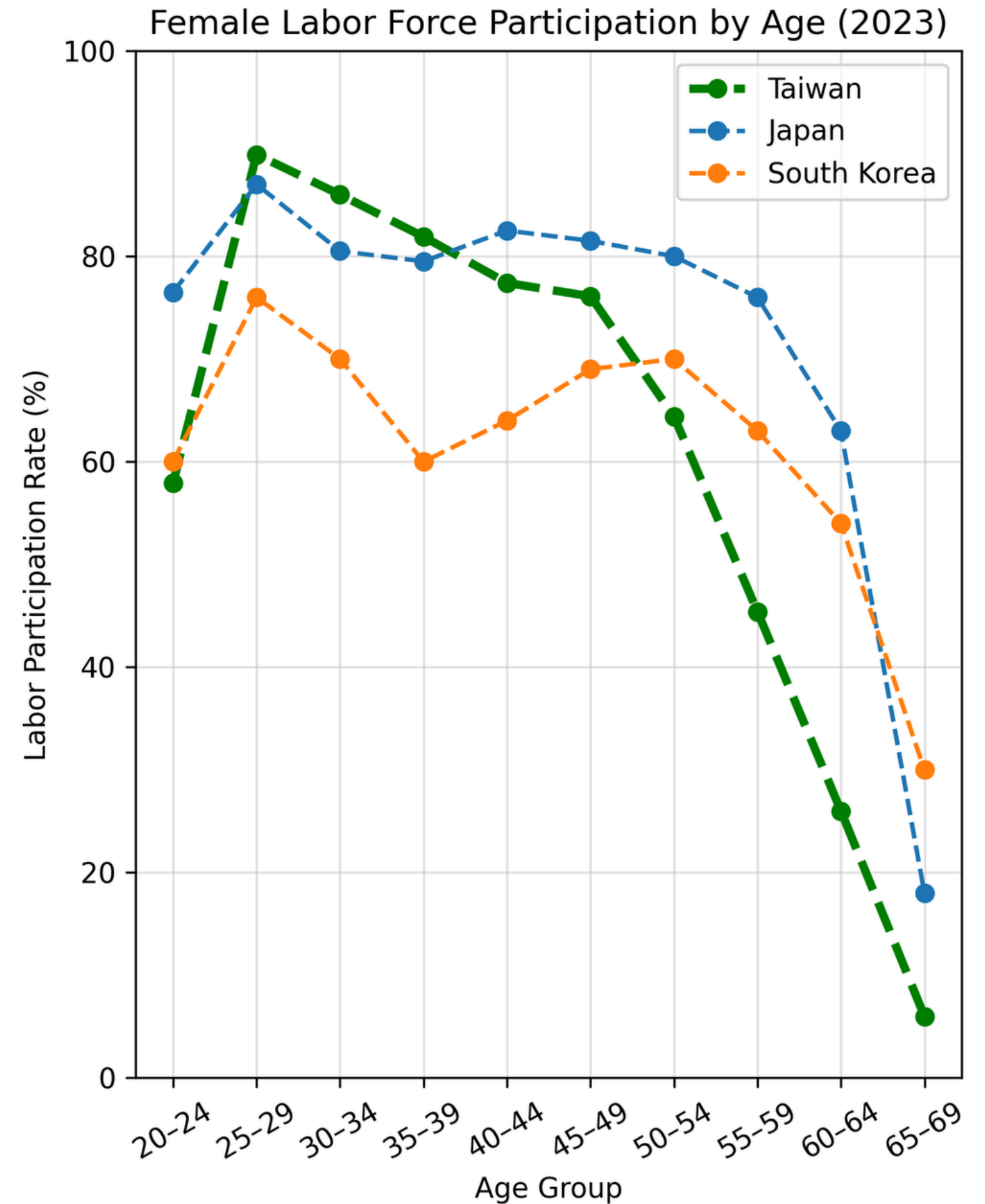


If we look at women's labor force participation:

This double standard goes beyond politics.

It reflects a broader structural challenge:

Unlike Japan and South Korea, Taiwan shows a weaker return to the workforce after having children.



Source: Ministry of Labor, Taiwan; OECD Data (Japan and Korea)

Double Standards for Women in Politics in Taiwan

*If a woman has children,
her commitment to politics is questioned.*

*If she does not,
her lack of family becomes a political attack.*

Male politicians rarely face this dilemma.