

Age at First Marriage in Asia

A Global Comparative Analysis of Marriage Patterns

Research Question

"How does age at first marriage in Asia compare to global patterns, and what do gender differences reveal about regional diversity?"

This study explores marriage age patterns across 192 countries, examining how Asia's diverse nations - from traditional societies to ultra-modern economies - compare with other continents. Using descriptive statistics and data visualization, the research identifies key trends in marriage timing, gender gaps, and regional variations that reflect broader social and economic factors.

27.2

Average Marriage Age
in Asia (Years)

3.01

Gender Age Gap
in Asia (Years)

192

Countries
Analyzed Globally

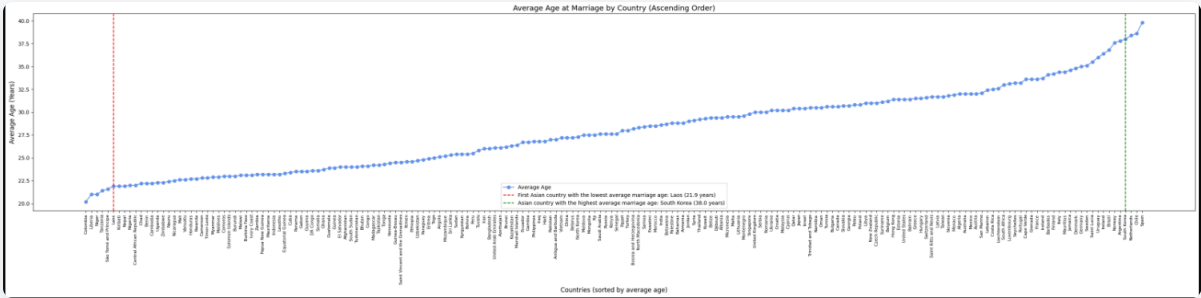
3rd

Asia's Global
Ranking

Global Marriage Age Comparison

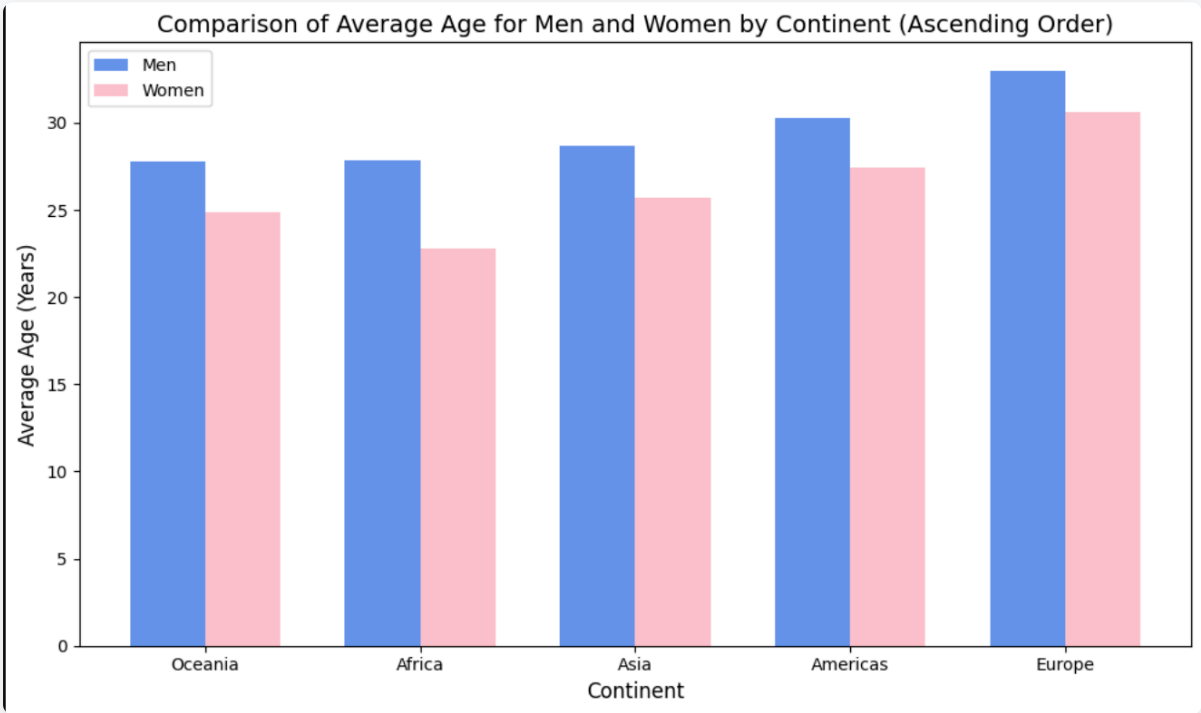
Average Age at Marriage by Country (Ascending Order)

Red line: Nepal/Laos (21.9 years) - Lowest in Asia | Green line: South Korea (38 years) - Highest in Asia



Gender Differences by Continent

Comparison of Average Age for Men and Women by Continent



Men (Asia)



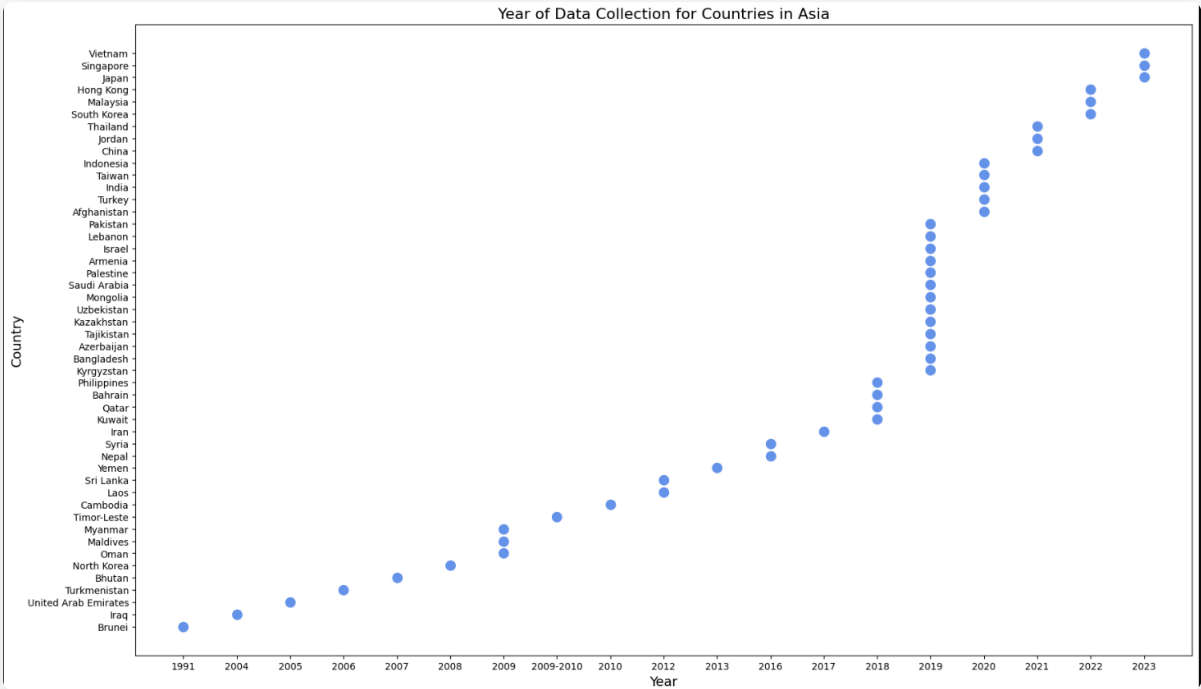
Women (Asia)



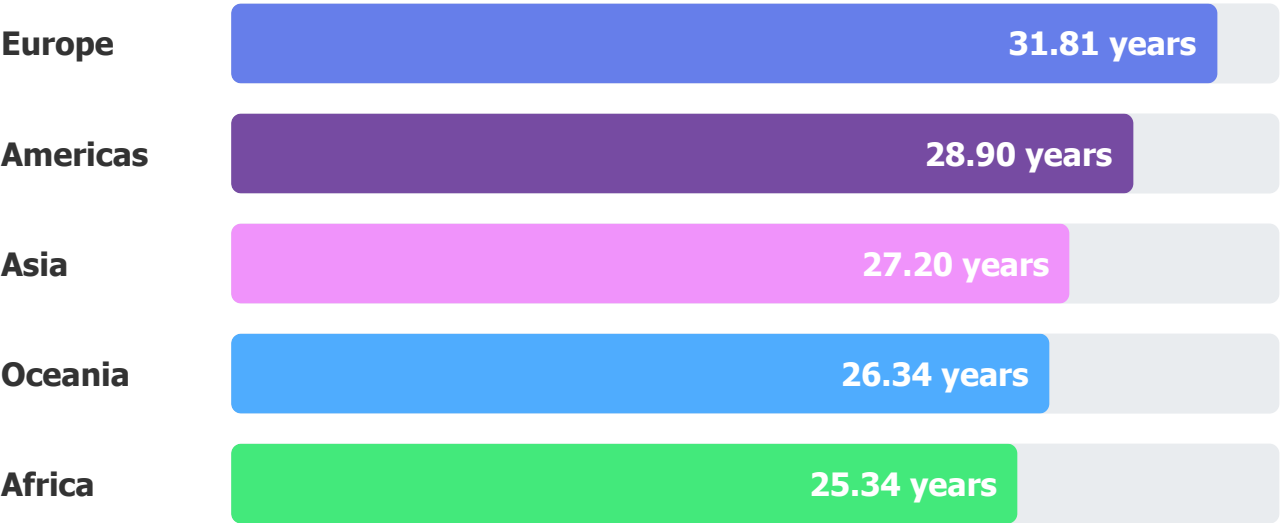
Data Collection Timeline

Year of Data Collection for Countries in Asia

Data recency varies significantly: 56.25% of Asian countries have data collected after 2018



Continental Rankings



Key Findings



Highest Marriage Age

South Korea: 38 years (4th globally)
Reflects urbanization, career focus, and education priorities



Lowest Marriage Age

Nepal & Laos: 21.9 years (6th globally)
Reflects traditional norms and economic factors



Gender Gap Variation

Asia's Gap: 3.01 years (moderate)
Between Europe (2.36) and Africa (5.01)



Asia's Diversity

16.1 year range between oldest and youngest
Shows vast cultural and economic variation



Main Insight

Asia demonstrates remarkable diversity: The continent contains both some of the world's youngest marriage ages (Nepal, Laos at 21.9 years) and oldest (South Korea at 38 years), reflecting a complex mix of traditional values and modern development patterns. Asia ranks 3rd globally (27.20 years), with marriage ages later than Africa and Oceania but earlier than Europe and the Americas. This diversity highlights how economic development, education access, and cultural factors shape marriage timing across the region.

Research Methodology

Research Approach: Descriptive statistical analysis with data visualization

Data Source: Wikipedia - List of Countries by Age at First Marriage (web-scraped)

Coverage: 192 countries across 5 continents (Asia: 48 countries)

Time Period: Data collected between 1980-2024 (56.25% of Asia post-2018)

Statistical Methods: Mean, median, mode, standard deviation, variance calculations

Analysis Focus: Continental comparisons, gender gap analysis, regional patterns

Tools Used: Python (pandas, matplotlib, seaborn, BeautifulSoup)

Research Team

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MIT Emerging Talent Program
Data Science Research Project

Age at First Marriage Research Project | December 2025 | MIT Emerging Talent Program