The Meiji Civil Code Addresses the Role of Women

Chapter I. Persons.
Section II. Capacity.
12. A quasi-incompetent person must have the consent of his curator for doing the following acts:
   1. Receiving or employing capital;
   2. Contracting a loan or giving security;
   3. Doing any act whose object is the acquiring or parting with a right in an immovable or a valuable movable;
   4. Doing any act in the course of a lawsuit;
   5. Making a gift, a compromise, or an agreement to submit to arbitration;
   6. Accepting or refusing a succession . . .

14. A wife must obtain the permission of her husband for doing the following acts:
   1. Those specified in Art. 12, No 1-6;
   2. Accepting or refusing a gift or a legacy;
   3. Making any contract affecting the disposition of her person. Any act contrary to those provisions may be rescinded . . .

Book IV. Family.
Chapter II. The Head and Members of a House.
Section II. Rights and Duties of the Head and off the Members of a House.
749. A member of a house may not choose his residence against the will of the head of the house.

Section IV. Divorce. Subsection II. Judicial Divorce.
813. A husband or a wife, as the case may be, can bring an action for divorce only in the following cases:
   1. If the other party contracts a second marriage
   2. If the wife commits adultery . . .
   6. If one party is deserted by the other