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Connections with Other People through Childrearing; Involvement of the Spouse/Partner

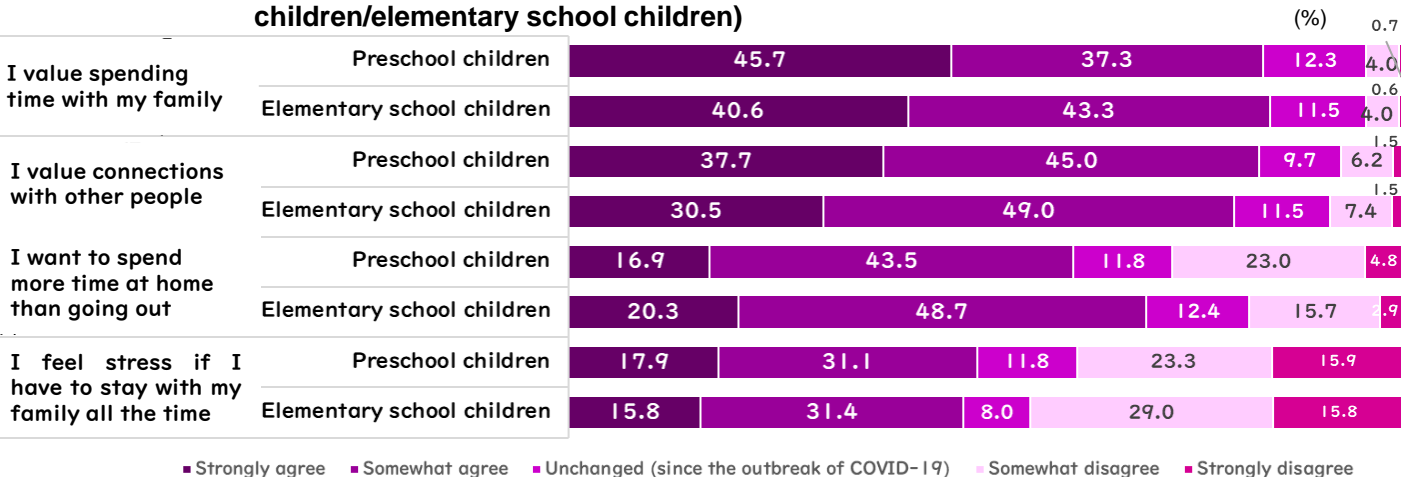
(1) Family bonds; connections with other people

About 80% of mothers increasingly value bonds with their family and connections with other people following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic

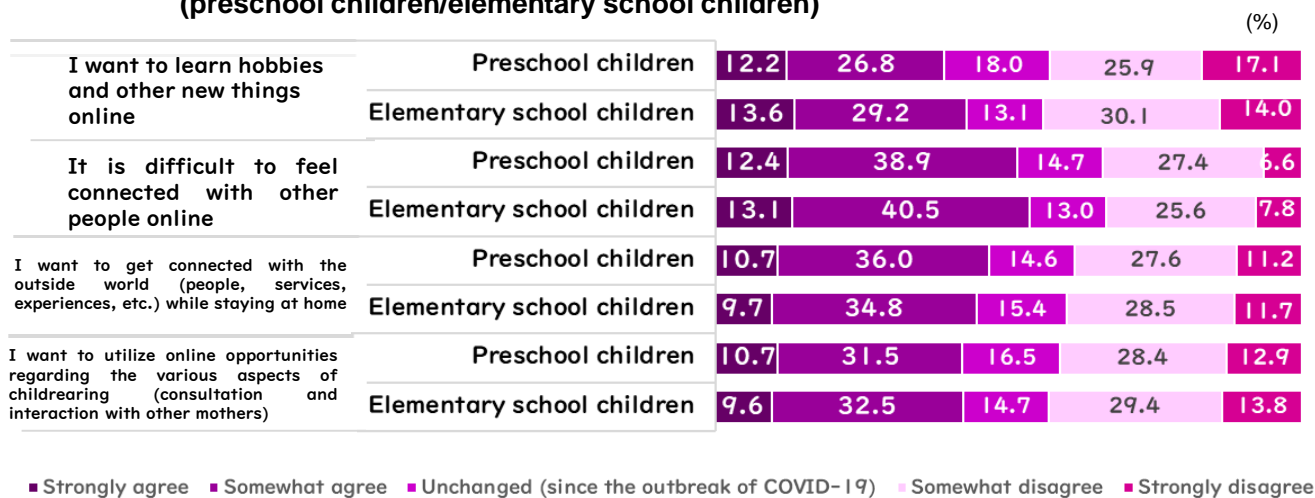
We asked the participants whether their value on family bonds and human connections has changed following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. About 80% of mothers with both preschool children and elementary school children gave positive answers such as “I value spending time with my family” and “I value connections with other people” (strongly agree + somewhat agree). For connections with other people online, only about 40% of mothers gave positive answers such as “I want to learn hobbies and other new things” and “I want to utilize it in childrearing.” Likewise, about 50% of mothers gave somewhat negative answers such as “It is difficult to feel connected with other people.”

Q: Do you value your life and work styles more following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic?

■ Figure 7-1-1: Mothers’ value on family bonds and human connections (preschool children/elementary school children)



■ Figure 7-1-2: Mothers’ value on connections with other people online (preschool children/elementary school children)



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(2) Connections with other people; involvement of the spouse/partner

Mothers who have connections with other people through childrearing can feel more enjoyment and less anxiety

We asked the participants about their connections with other people through childrearing and attitudes towards childrearing. For the question concerning human connections through childrearing, about 10% of mothers with both preschool children and elementary school children answered that they have “nobody” who gives information or cares about them. For mothers’ attitudes towards childrearing, it is revealed that mothers who have more connections with other people through childrearing or who think they receive mental support from their spouse/partner can feel more enjoyment and confidence in childrearing.

Q. How many of the following people (excluding your spouse) are currently involved in raising your child? (Fig.7-2-1)

Q. For each of the following, please indicate the degree to which they apply to you. (Fig.7-2-2)

Figure 7-2-1:
Mothers’ connections with other people through childrearing (by the categories of preschool children/elementary school children)

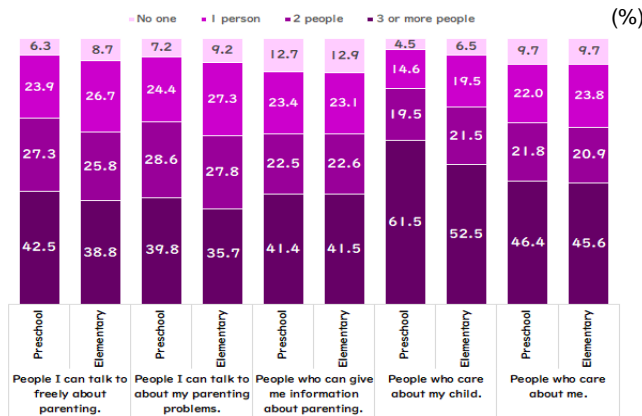
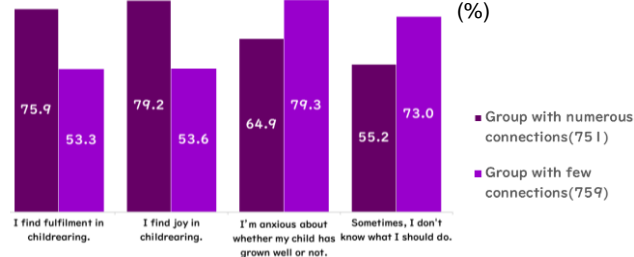


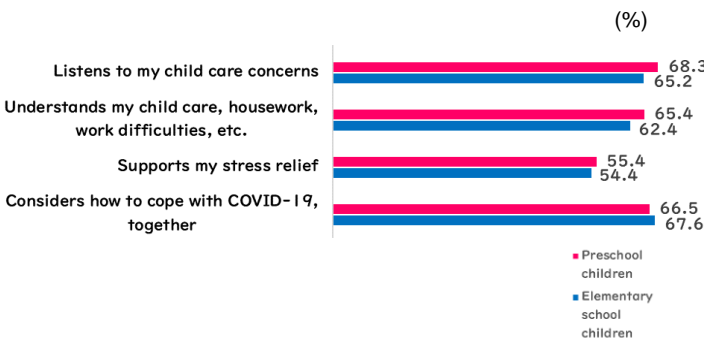
Figure 7-2-2:
Mothers’ attitudes toward childrearing (by the categories of many connections/few connections)



* Percentage (%) of “Strongly agree + Somewhat agree.”
* We divided the participants into three groups according to their answers to the five items shown in Figure 7-2-1, namely, “Few connections,” “Modest connections” and “Many connections” (the category of “Modest connections” is omitted from the above chart). Each category is determined based on the total score, which is calculated with the following system: “Nobody” = 0 point, “One person” = 1 point, “Two persons” = 2 points, and “Three persons or more” = 3 points.

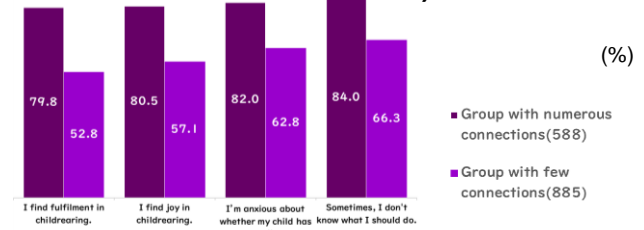
Q. How much of the following applies to the spouse’s behavior to you?

Figure 7-2-3:
Mothers receiving mental support from their spouse/partner (by the categories of preschool children/elementary school children)



* Percentage (%) of “Strongly agree + Somewhat agree.”
* The above figures are based on the answers of 2,139 mothers with the spouse/partner.

Figure 7-2-4:
Mothers’ attitudes towards childrearing (confidence, enjoyment) (by the categories of mental support from spouse/partner; many connections/few connections)



* Percentage (%) of “Strongly agree + Somewhat agree.”
* The above figures are based on the answers of mothers with the spouse/partner.
* We divided the participants into three groups according to their answers to the four items shown in Figure 7-2-3, namely, “Not much support,” “Modest support” and “Much support” (the category of “Modest support” is omitted from the above chart). Each category is determined based on the total score, which is calculated with the following system: “Strongly agree” = 4 points, “Somewhat agree” = 3 points, “Somewhat disagree” = 2 points, and “Strongly disagree” = 1 point.