

## Chapter 3

### Child Discipline and Expectations for the Child

#### 1. Child Discipline

##### (1) What the child should be able to do alone at the age of 5 (Q16a)

Q16a [card 13]

(If six or older) When (name of child) was five years old, was she/he capable of doing the following things alone? List as many as she/he was capable of. (M.A.)

(If five or under) Do you think she/he will be capable of doing the following things alone before turning six? List as many as she/he will be capable of. (M.A.)

- 1 Be able to eat with good manners
- 2 Be able to greet people properly
- 3 Be able to keep herself/himself clean (wash face, brush teeth, etc.)
- 4 Be able to clean up after playing

We asked parents four questions about what basic manners and practices their children were able to perform alone at the age of 5 or are expected to be able to perform alone by the age of 6.

Among the four questionnaire items, “be able to greet people properly” is the item most parents think that their children were able to do alone or are expected to do alone. In all the countries, more than 80% of parents think that children are able to “greet people properly” at the age of 5. This trend is the same compared with the research in 1994.

Between 70% and 80 % of parents in Japan and Korea expect their children to be able to “eat with good manners,” while more than 90% of parents in all the other countries expect their children to do the same. Japan and Korea show relatively lower percentages for this item. This is almost the same trend as in the previous research results and shows no change in 10 years.

As for “be able to keep herself/himself clean,” Thailand shows the highest percentage of over 90%, followed by the United States and Sweden, both more than 80%. Japan is 78%, and although it is not as high as Thailand, the United States, and Sweden, it has increased more than 10% from the previous research.

As for “be able to clean up after playing,” Thailand and the United States are the highest with more than 80%, and Japan, Korea, France, and Sweden are between 60% and 70%.

Overall, parents in Thailand made the most answers for “a child could do alone at the age of 5.” The answers for all the items are more than 90% except 82% for “be able to clean up after playing.” For all the items, Thailand is in the first place for the number of answers among the six countries, exceeding the United States that was in the first place in the previous research.

Japan’s percentages for “be able to greet people properly” and “be able to eat with good manners” are the lowest of all the six countries, while “be able to keep herself/himself clean” and “be able to clean up after playing” are in the 4th place among the six countries. In general, the percentage of answers for “a child could do alone at the age of 5” made by Japan and Korea is relatively low.

Fig.II-3-1 Child Discipline: What the child should be able to do alone at the age of 5 (multiple answer)

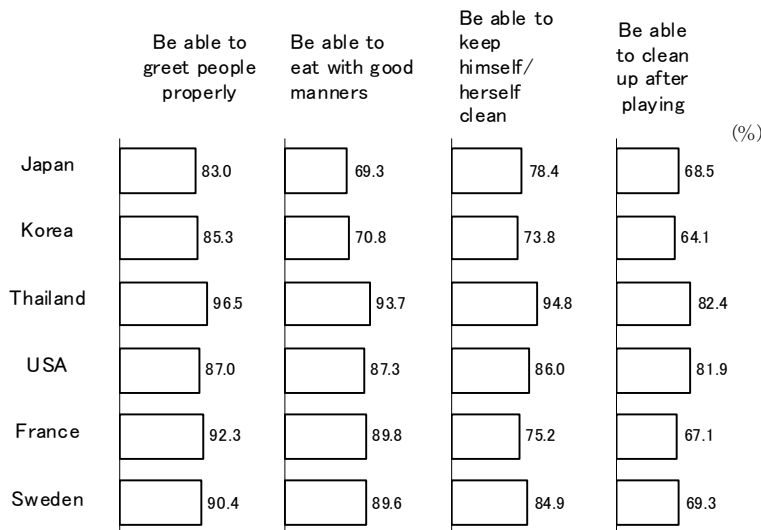


Fig.II-3-2 [1994] Child Discipline: What the child should be able to do alone at the age of 5 (multiple answer)

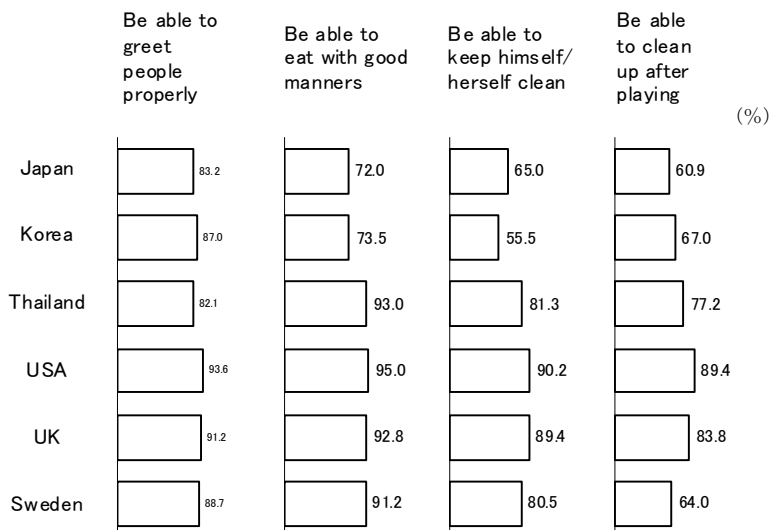


Table II-3-1 Child Discipline : What the child should be able to do alone at the age of 5

[by children's gender, by children's age]

(%)

		N	Be able to	Be able to	Be able to	Be able to	No response
			eat with good manner	greet people properly	keep herself/himself clean	clean up after playing	
Japan	Boys	514	67.3	82.5	77.4	65.8	4.3
	Girls	499	71.3	83.6	79.4	71.3	4.2
	0~5 yrs	443	68.2	84.0	78.8	73.1	7.0
	6~12 yrs	570	70.2	82.3	78.1	64.9	2.1
Korea	Boys	543	68.7	85.5	71.8	62.4	3.5
	Girls	466	73.2	85.2	76.2	66.1	3.2
	0~5 yrs	448	69.4	84.4	73.0	65.6	4.7
	6~12 yrs	561	71.8	86.1	74.5	62.9	2.3
Thailand	Boys	480	94.4	97.1	95.0	81.9	0.2
	Girls	520	93.1	96.0	94.6	82.9	—
	0~5 yrs	458	92.1	95.4	92.4	77.9	—
	6~12 yrs	542	95.0	97.4	96.9	86.2	0.2
USA	Boys	533	85.7	85.6	86.3	82.2	3.2
	Girls	467	89.1	88.7	85.7	81.6	3.9
	0~5 yrs	411	91.2	90.5	92.0	88.8	2.7
	6~12 yrs	589	84.6	84.6	81.8	77.1	4.1
France	Boys	522	89.7	93.1	74.5	68.0	2.9
	Girls	479	90.0	91.4	76.0	66.2	4.2
	0~5 yrs	421	90.7	93.8	80.0	75.5	2.4
	6~12 yrs	580	89.1	91.2	71.7	61.0	4.3
Sweden	Boys	537	89.4	90.3	82.9	69.6	2.2
	Girls	489	89.8	90.6	87.1	68.9	4.1
	0~5 yrs	426	92.5	90.6	87.6	78.2	5.2
	6~12 yrs	600	87.5	90.3	83.0	63.0	1.7

Comparing the results by gender of children, in Japan, more expectations are placed on girls than on boys in all the items. This difference is not quite seen in the other five countries. This result is also similar as in the previous research results.

When comparing by the age of children, the five countries except Thailand show a lower percentage for children ages 0~5 than ages 6~12 for “clean up after playing.” This could indicate that children are actually not able to do things by themselves, contrary to their parents’ expectations. There are large differences between the 0~5 and 6~12 age groups in every item in the United States, therefore it also indicates that children are not as able to do things by themselves in reality as parents expect. In Thailand, the percentages are higher for ages 6~12 than ages 0~5 on every item, hence it indicates that children are able to do more things by themselves than their parents expect. Thailand’s trend is different from that of the other five countries. Korea shows a small gap between parents’ expectations and reality.

**(2) What the child should be able to do alone at the age 15 (Q16b)**

Q16b [Card 14]

When (name of child) is fifteen years old, what do you think she/he will be capable of doing alone? List as many as you think she/he will be capable of. (M.A.)

- 1 Prepare meals for family
- 2 Be able to keep surroundings clean and tidy
- 3 Observes rules appropriate for the time, place, and occasion
- 4 Earn money by working a part-time job or helping others

With regard to discipline for independence, we asked what the child would be capable of doing alone at the age of 15 in four questions.

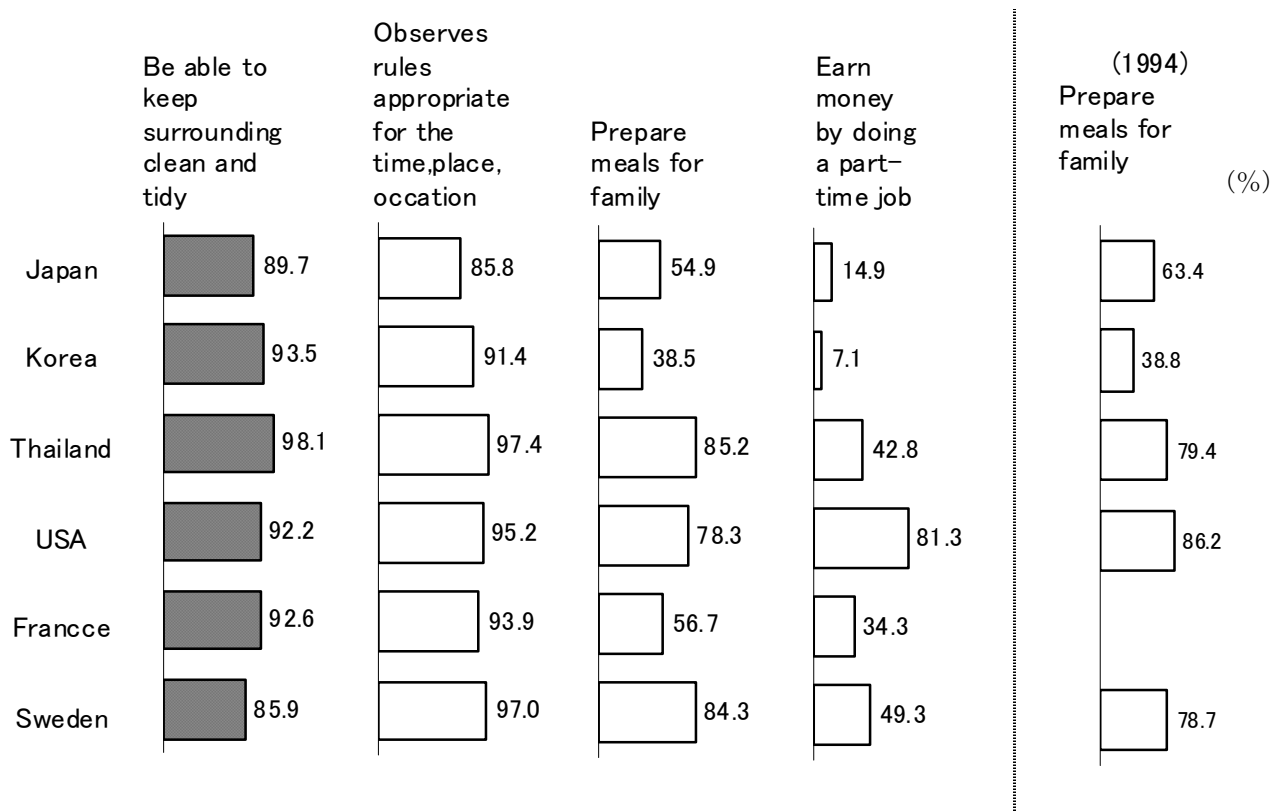
More than 85% of parents in all six countries believe that their children would “be able to keep surroundings clean and tidy” and could “observe rules appropriate for the time, place, and occasion,” showing that nearly all children are thought to “be able to do things alone” at the age of 15.

About 80% of children are expected to be able to “prepare meals for the family” in Thailand (85%), Sweden (84%), and America (78%), however it is low in France (57%), Japan (55%), and Korea (39%). There are obvious differences by countries. Comparing this item to the previous research, Japan’s percentage has decreased from 63% to 55%.

There are also differences depending on countries in the parents’ expectation for children to “earn money by doing a part-time job.” The United States (81%) has by far the largest number of parents who thought that their child would be able to “earn money by doing a part-time job,” followed by Sweden (49%), Thailand (43%), France (34%), Japan (15%), and Korea with less than 10%. It is considered normal that a child would be able to “earn money by doing a part-time job or by helping others” at the age of 15 in the United States, whereas it is hardly the case in Korea.

Overall, Japan and Korea show relatively low percentages for what a child should be able to do alone at the age of 15.

Fig. II-3-3 Child Discipline: What the child should be able to do at the age of 15 (multiple answer)



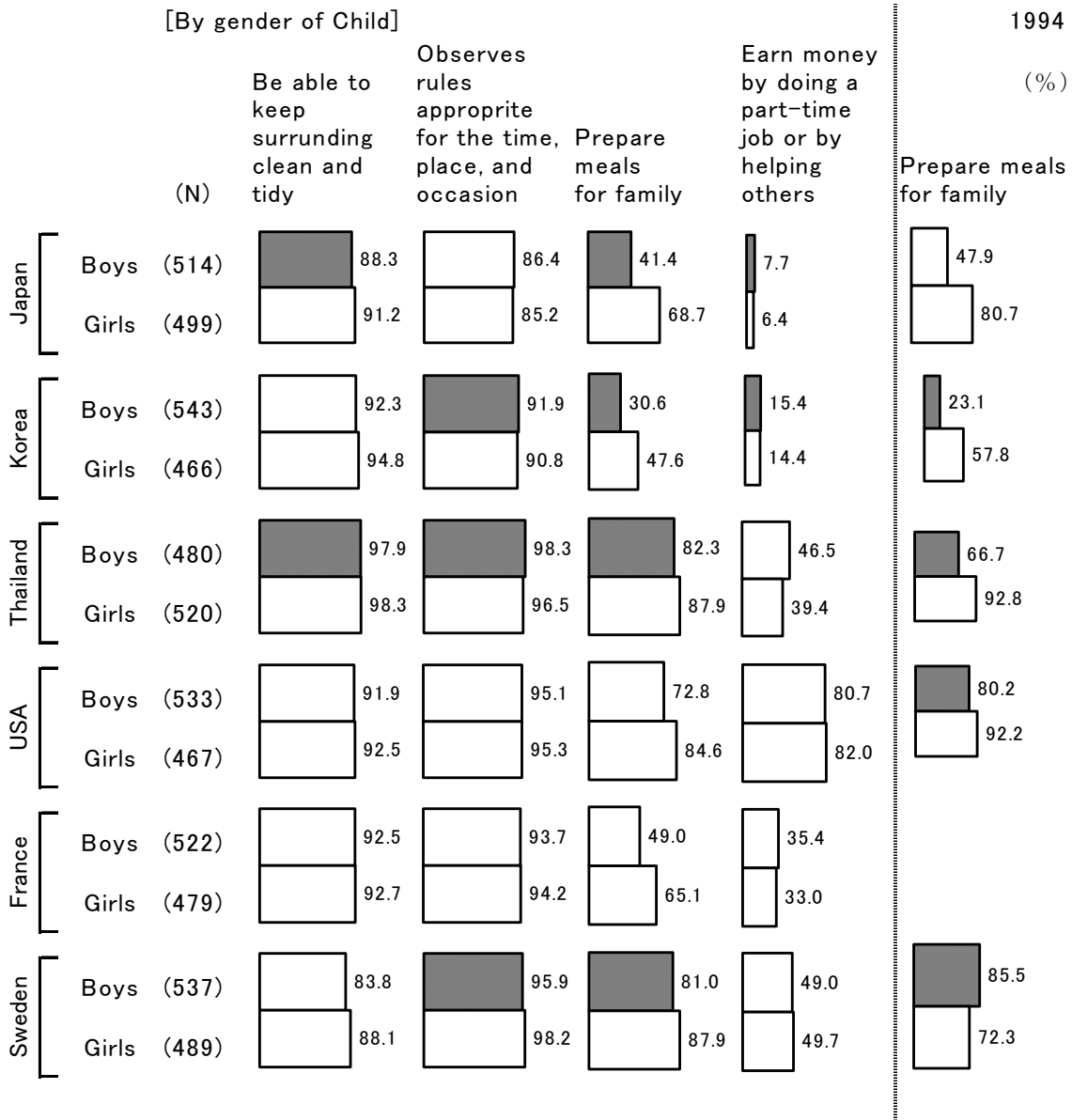
Comparing by gender of children, there is almost no difference for the items “be able to keep surroundings clean and tidy” and “observes rules appropriate for the time, place, and occasion” which are the items almost all children are expected to be able to do in all six countries.

While the greater expectation is placed on girls than boys for the ability to “prepare meals for family” in all countries, Japan shows by far the largest difference of 28 percent between girls and boys for this question item (Korea 17 percent, Thailand 5 percent, the U.S. 12 percent, France 16 percent, and Sweden 7 percent).

Focusing on the expectation for boys to be able to “prepare meals for the family,” the highest are in Thailand (82%) and Sweden (81%), followed by the United States (73%). The expectation rates for boys to “prepare meals for the family” are low in France (49%), Japan (41%), and Korea (31%).

Compared with the previous research, the percentages of “prepare meals for family” have decreased in Japan for both girls (81%→69%) and boys (48%→41%); both girls and boys are considered less capable of preparing meals for family in Japan.

Fig. II-3-4 Child Discipline: What the child should be able to do alone at the age of 15  
(multiple answer)



(Hiroe Nakano)

## 2. Expectations for Children (Q17)

Q17 [card 15]

What kind of child do you expect (name of child) to be when she/he is about fifteen years old?  
For each of the following attributes, how strong are your expectations? (single answer for each)

	Very strong	Some-what strong	Don't care too much	Don't care at all
a Gets good marks at school	1	2	3	4
b Be obedient to his/her parents	1	2	3	4
c Clearly state his/her own opinions	1	2	3	4
d Be able to work harmoniously with others	1	2	3	4
e Has own goals in life	1	2	3	4
f Be masculine(male) or feminine(female)	1	2	3	4
G Be concerned about others and will help a person in need	1	2	3	4
H Be willing to accept responsibility to be a leader	1	2	3	4
I Be successful when competing against others	1	2	3	4

We asked parents 9 questions with regard to what they expect their children to be like when they reach the age of 15.

### (1) Characteristics of each country

#### ① Japan

The top four items Japanese parents have strong expectations for their children are to "clearly state his/her own opinions" (69%), "be able to work harmoniously with others" (68%), "be concerned about others and will help a person in need" (67%), and "has own goals in life" (57%). On the other hand, only around 10% of parents very strongly

expect their child to “gets good marks at school” (12%) and “be successful when competing against others” (12%).

② Korea

As for the high percentage items, parents in Korea expect that their child “has own goals in life” (64%), followed by “clearly state his/her own opinions” (59%), “be able to work harmoniously with others” (56%), and “be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader” (56%). On the other hand, the low percentage items of “very strong” expectations are “be successful when competing against others” (30%) and “gets good marks at school” (22%).

(%)

Table II-3-2 Expectations for Child: Percentages of parents with “strong expectations” (multiple answer)

Ranking	Japan	Korea	Thailand	USA	France	Sweden
1st	Clearly state his/her own opinions 69.3	Has own goals in life 64.2	Be masculine(male) or feminine(female) 59.5	Be concerned about others and will help a person in need 79.6	Be obedient to his/her parents 80.1	Be concerned about others and will help a person in need 80.6
2nd	Be able to work harmoniously 67.9	Clearly state his/her own opinions 59.0	Be able to work harmoniously 53.6	Be obedient to his/her parents 75.2	Has own goals in life 74.7	Be able to work harmoniously 78.2
3rd	Be concerned about others and will help a person in need 67.3	Be able to work harmoniously 55.8	Be obedient to his/her parents 52.5	Gets good marks at school 72.7	Gets good marks at school 70.1	Has own goals in life 74.2
4th	Has own goals in life 56.6	Be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader 54.9	Be concerned about others and will help a person in need 43.8	Be able to work harmoniously 72.1	Be able to work harmoniously 64.2	Clearly state his/her own opinions 70.9
5th	Be masculine(male) or feminine(female) 35.1	Be concerned about others and will help a person in need 54.6	Be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader 38.9	Has own goals in life 69.8	Clearly state his/her own opinions 54.3	Be obedient to his/her parents 59.6
6th	Be obedient to his/her parents 29.6	Be masculine(male) or feminine(female) 46.7	Has own goals in life 38.6	Be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader 65.6	Be concerned about others and will help a person in need 48.8	Gets good marks at school 45.9
7th	Be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader 21.4	Be obedient to his/her parents 36.6	Clearly state his/her own opinions 35.2	Clearly state his/her own opinions 65.0	Be masculine(male) or feminine(female) 39.2	Be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader 21.7
8th	Gets good marks at school 11.9	Be successful when competing against others 29.5	Gets good marks at school 28.9	Be masculine(male) or feminine(female) 62.2	Be successful when competing against others 36.1	Be masculine(male) or feminine(female) 11.5
9th	Be successful when competing against others 11.5	Gets good marks at school 21.5	Be successful when competing against others 21.6	Be successful when competing against others 43.8	Be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader 33.6	Be successful when competing against others 8.4

### ③ Thailand

In Thailand, parents expect their children “very strongly” to “be masculine (male) or feminine (female)” (60%), “be able to work harmoniously with others” (54%), and “be obedient to his/her parents” (53%). Similar to Japan, there are not many parents who “very strongly” expect their children to “get good marks at school” (29%) and “be successful when competing against others” (22%).

### ④ U.S.A.

Parents tend to have higher expectations for their children in all the items compared to the other countries. The top 3 percentages in the ranking are: “be concerned about others and will help a person in need” (80%), “be obedient to his/her parents” (75%), and “get good marks at school” (73%). The item “gets good marks at school” comes in the third place, while it is lower in ranking for Japan, Korea, and Thailand. The items at lower ranking in the United States are “be masculine (male) /feminine (female)” (62%) and “be successful when competing against others” (44%).

### ⑤ France

Highly expected items for children by the parents in France are to “be obedient to his/her parents” (80%), “has own goals in life” (75%), and “gets good marks at school” (70%). The items with low expectations are “be successful when competing against others” (36%), and “be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader” (34%). Similar to the United States, “gets good marks at school” is in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, whereas it is lower in ranking for Japan, Korea, and Thailand.

### ⑥ Sweden

In Sweden, the top three items with “strong expectations” are “be concerned about others and will help a person in need” (81%), “be able to work harmoniously with others” (78%), and “has own goals in life” (74%). The lowest percentage items are “be masculine (male) / feminine (female)” (12%) and “be successful when competing against others” (8%).

## **(2) Characteristics of each attribute**

Let us look at characteristics of each of the following 9 attributes.

a. Getting good marks at school

In descending order by country, “very strong” expectations for this attribute ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the United States and France, 6<sup>th</sup> in Sweden, 8<sup>th</sup> in Thailand and Japan, and 9<sup>th</sup> in Korea.

The country with the highest percentage of parents with “very strong” expectations in this regard was the United States (73%), followed by France (70%), Sweden (46%), Thailand (29%), Korea (22%), and Japan (12%). Some parents (27%) in Japan responded “don’t care too much” or “don’t care at all”, and although this was higher than in Thailand (21%) and Korea (11%), corresponding figures were about 4% in Sweden and 1% in the United States and France.

Small gender disparities were observed in the United States and Korea, with a somewhat greater tendency in both countries for “very strong” expectations to be had of girls.

b. Being obedient to his/her parents

This was the top ranking attribute eliciting “very strong” expectations in France, second in the United States and third in Thailand. On the other hand, it ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in Korea, 6<sup>th</sup> in Japan and 5<sup>th</sup> in Sweden. More than 80% of parents in France had “very strong” expectations in this respect, increasing to nearly 100% when combined with “somewhat strong” expectations. In the United States too, more than 75% of parents expressed “very strong” expectations, and nearly 100% when combined with “somewhat strong” expectations. In Japan, approximately 30% expressed “very strong” expectations, and 14% responded either “don’t care too much” or “don’t care at all”, indicating the lowest expectations among all 6 countries. In Sweden, mothers were more likely to have “very strong” expectations than fathers in this regard.

Differences in expectations according to the child’s gender were barely noticeable in any of the countries.

c. Clearly state his/her own opinions

This was the top ranking attribute eliciting “very strong” expectations in Japan, while ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> in Korea. On the other hand, it ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the United States and Thailand, 5<sup>th</sup> in France and 4<sup>th</sup> in Sweden. In Japan, 69% of parents had “very strong” expectations in this regard, and 29% had “somewhat strong” expectations; the combination of “very strong” and “somewhat strong” expectations accounted for almost 100% of Japanese parents.

In terms of differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, the tendency to have “very strong” expectations for girls to “clearly state his/her own opinions” was

somewhat stronger than for boys in the United States. Gender disparities were barely noticeable in the other countries.

d. Being able to work harmoniously with others

In descending order by country, this attribute ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Japan, Thailand and Sweden in terms of those who expressed “very strong” expectations; 3<sup>rd</sup> in Korea; 4<sup>th</sup> in the United States and France, and high overall. The highest percentage was 78% in Sweden. Moreover, in Sweden more mothers than fathers tended to have “very strong” expectations in this regard.

As for differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, the tendency to have “very strong” expectations of “being able to work harmoniously with others” was somewhat stronger for girls than boys in France. On the other hand, the reverse was true in Thailand. Gender disparities were barely noticeable in the other countries.

e. Have own goals in life

Korea ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in “very strong” expectations of “having own goals in life”; France ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sweden 3<sup>rd</sup>, Japan 4<sup>th</sup>, the United States 5<sup>th</sup> and Thailand 6<sup>th</sup>. The ranks in each country were distributed between the top and the mid-to-lower ranks.

In differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, the tendency to have “very strong” expectations of “having own goals in life” was somewhat stronger for girls than boys in the United States and France. On the other hand, the reverse was true in Thailand. Gender disparities were barely noticeable in the other countries.

f. Be masculine (male) or feminine (female)

In Thailand, “be masculine (male) or feminine (female)” was the highest ranked attribute with “very strong” expectations. On the other hand, it ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the United States and Sweden, and 7<sup>th</sup> in France; it was the least cited attribute eliciting “very strong” expectations in the United States, Sweden and France. It ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in Japan and 6<sup>th</sup> in Korea. In Sweden, the percentage of parents responding “don’t care too much” or “don’t care at all” was much higher than in other countries.

In terms of differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, there is a tendency for parents in Japan, Korea and Thailand to have higher expectations of boys “being masculine (male) or feminine (female).” On the other hand, the tendency to have expectations of “being masculine (male) or feminine (female)” was somewhat stronger for

girls than boys in France. Gender disparities were not observed in the United States.

g. Being concerned about others and willing to help a person in need

In the United States and Sweden, “being concerned about others and willing to help a person in need” was the highest ranked attribute evoking “very strong” expectations. In both the United States and Sweden, nearly 80% of parents expressed “very strong” expectations in this regard. On the other hand, this attribute ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in France where approximately 50% expressed “very strong” expectations. It ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in Japan, 4<sup>th</sup> in Thailand and 5<sup>th</sup> in Korea.

In Thailand, expectations of boys and girls tended to differ in this regard, and parents tended to have higher expectations of boys. Expectations of boys tended to be somewhat higher in Sweden also.

h. Being willing to accept responsibility, be a leader

As an attribute with “very strong” expectations, “being willing to accept responsibility be a leader” ranked comparatively low in all countries. It was the lowest (9<sup>th</sup>) ranked attribute in France and 7<sup>th</sup> in Japan and Sweden. Countries in which it ranked comparatively high were Korea (4<sup>th</sup>) and Thailand (5<sup>th</sup>); it ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the United States. In terms of differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, the tendency to have expectations of “being willing to accept responsibility, be a leader” was stronger for boys than girls in Japan and Thailand. In Korea too, though not as apparent as in Japan and Thailand, the tendency to have expectations of “being willing to accept responsibility, be a leader” was stronger for boys than girls.

i. Being successful when competing against others

As an attribute with “very strong” expectations, “being successful when competing against others” ranked low in all countries. It was the lowest (9<sup>th</sup>) ranked attribute in Japan, Thailand, the United States, and Sweden, and 8<sup>th</sup> in Korea and France. In France, somewhat more fathers than mothers tended to have “very strong” expectations in this regard.

In Thailand, parents tended to differ somewhat in their expectations of boys and girls, and to have higher expectations of boys in this regard. Gender disparities were not observed in other countries.

### 3. Expectations for a Child's Future (Q19)

Q19 [card 17]

As a parent, how strongly do you wish each of the following things in life for (NAME OF CHILD)? (READ EACH ITEM AND RECORD A RESPONSE FOR EACH)

	Very strongly	Some-what strongly	I Don't care too much about	I Don't care about at all
a. High earnings	1	2	3	4
b. Fame or celebrity status	1	2	3	4
c. High status	1	2	3	4
d. Willingness to help others	1	2	3	4
e. A happy home	1	2	3	4
f. Put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work	1	2	3	4

We asked parents what they wish for their children's future lives divided into six question items.

#### (1) Characteristics of Each Country

##### ① Japan

Japanese parents wish "very strongly" their children to make "a happy home" in the future as shown with the highest percentage (83%). The second highest percentage of what parents wish "very strongly" for their children to have is a "willingness to help others" (29%). As there is about a 50% difference between the two highest rated items, making "a happy home" is by far the most expected item compared to other things in life. The third highest thing in life what parents expect for their children is to "put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work" (12%). On the other hand, "high earnings" (6%), "high status" (2%), and "fame or celebrity status" (1%) are less expected. The order of

things what parents wish for their children is exactly the same as in Korea and Sweden.

## ② Korea

What parents in Korea expect for their children's future lives are, in the order of percentages from high to low, "a happy home" (79%), "willingness to help others" (50%), "put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work" (29%), "high earnings" (21%), "high status" (16%), and "fame or celebrity status" (12%). Although the percentages are different, the order is exactly the same as in Japan.

## ③ Thailand

Similar to the other countries, to make "a happy home" (70%) is what is wished most by parents with the highest percentage, followed by "high earnings" (37%), "willingness to help others" (36%), "high status" (24%), and "fame or celebrity status" (21%). The least expected item by parents is to "put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work" (14%).

## ④ U.S.A.

In the case of the United States, in the order of percentages from high to low, what parents wish their children are "a happy home" (94%), "willingness to help others" (82%), "high earnings" (44%), "high status" (16%), "put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work" (12%), and "fame or celebrity status" (6%).

## ⑤ France

In France, parents wish their children to make "a happy home" (93%) with the highest percentage, followed by "high earnings" (55%), "willingness to help others" (29%), "put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work" (13%), and "fame or celebrity status" (7%). Parents' expectations for their children to have "high earnings" and "high status" are relatively high in comparison to the other countries, and the expectation to have "willingness to help others" appears to be low.

## ⑥ Sweden

In Sweden, things in life parents expect for their children's future are to make "a happy home" (85%), followed by to have a "willingness to help others" (64%), to "put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work" (44%), to have "high earnings" (21%), "high

status” (9%) and “fame or celebrity status” (3%). Sweden, Korea, and Japan show the exactly the same in the order of items, though the actual percentages are different.

## **(2) Characteristics of each attribute**

Let us look at the characteristics of each of the following 6 attributes.

### **a. High earnings**

In France “high earnings” was a highly sought after attribute, where 97% of parents responded they had “very strong” expectations or “somewhat strong” expectations. France came in second among the countries in having “very strong” expectations for this attribute. With regard solely to “very strong” expectations responses, the United States and Thailand followed; 83% of parents in the United States responded “very strongly” when combined with “somewhat strongly”, as did 79% in Thailand. It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> attribute having “very strong” expectations in the United States, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> in Thailand.

On the other hand, such aspirations were low in Japan and Sweden. The percentage of Japanese parents responding to having “very strong” expectations was remarkably low at just 6%, rising to 50% when combined with “somewhat strongly” responses. In Sweden, 21% responded “very strongly”, and 53% responded either “very strongly” or “somewhat strongly”.

In Korea, as with Japan and Sweden, this was the 4<sup>th</sup> most sought after attribute, with 88% of parents responding “very strongly” or “somewhat strongly”.

In terms of differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, although aspirations in this regard were about 5% higher for boys in Thailand, no large disparities were observed.

### **b. Fame or celebrity**

“Fame or celebrity” was a poorly sought after attribute in all countries, placing 5<sup>th</sup> in Thailand with a total of 63% responding (21% having “very strong” expectations and 42% “somewhat strong” expectations) It ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Japan, Korea, the United States, France, and Sweden. Of these countries, expectations in this regard were highest in Korea with a total of 59% responding (12% having “very strong” expectations and 47% “somewhat strong” expectations)

Where differences in expectations according to the child’s gender were concerned, they were 7% higher for boys in Thailand. Gender disparities were not observed in the other

countries.

c. High status

“High status” was comparatively strongly regarded in France where it was the 3<sup>rd</sup> most sought after attribute: 90% of parents responded (37% having “very strong” expectations and 53% “somewhat strong” expectations.) It was the 4<sup>th</sup> most sought after attribute in Thailand and the United States. In Thailand, a total of 66% of parents responded (24% having “very strong” expectations and 42% “somewhat strong” expectations.) It ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in Japan and Korea, and 6<sup>th</sup> in Sweden.

In terms of differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, expectations for boys were 7% higher in Thailand and 5% higher in Korea. Gender disparities were barely noticeable in the other countries.

d. Willingness to help others

“Willingness to help others” was the 2<sup>nd</sup> most sought after attribute (“very strong” expectations) in Japan, Korea, the United States, and Sweden, revealing that parents strongly wish this as a way of life for their children; it ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in Thailand and 4<sup>th</sup> in France. The percentage of parents responding having “very strongly” was highest in the United States with a total of 98% (82% having “very strong” expectations and 16% “somewhat strong” expectations.) The next highest percentage was in Sweden, followed by Korea, Thailand, and Japan, in descending order.

With regard to the differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, expectations for boys were higher in Sweden and Thailand by 6% and 5% respectively. Gender disparities were barely noticeable in the other countries.

e. A happy home

This was the most highly sought after attribute (“very strong” expectations) in all 6 countries, and what parents wish for as a way of life for their children more than anything else.

In differences in expectations according to the child’s gender, there is a tendency in Japan for parents to wish for “a happy home” for girls more than boys. On the other hand, the reverse is true in Sweden. Gender disparities were barely noticeable in other countries.

f. Putting more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work

“Putting more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work” was the 3<sup>rd</sup> most sought after attribute (“very strong” expectations) in Japan, Korea, and Sweden; it ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the United States and France, and 6<sup>th</sup> in Thailand. The percentage of parents having “very strong” expectations was highest in Sweden with a total of 70% responding (44% “very strongly” and 26% “somewhat strongly”.) This was followed by Korea where a total of 91% responded (29% “very strongly” and 62% “somewhat strongly”.)

Differences in expectations according to the child’s gender were barely noticeable in any of the countries.

#### 4. Future Lifestyles that Parents Do Not wish for Their Children (Q20)

Q20 [card 18]

As her/his parent, which of the following types of lives do you not wish for (NAME OF CHILD) in the future? Choose as many as you like. (M.A.)

- 1 To remain single for life
- 2 To live with a member of the opposite sex without formally marrying
- 3 To live apart from her/his spouse because of her/his career
- 4 To have no children
- 5 To raise an adopted child, stepchild or child otherwise not related by blood
- 6 To live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple
- 7 To live with me and her/his spouse (This should probably be turned around to read: “To live with his/her spouse and me”)
- 8 To live with the parents of her/his spouse
- 9 To divorce while raising a child
- 10 To remarry while raising a child from a previous marriage
- 11 To have a child out of wedlock
- 12 None of the above

We prepared a questionnaire related to future family lifestyles and asked parents to choose multiple answers from 11 items they do not wish for their children.

First, let’s observe the results of the top five items for each country. In Japan, the highest rate of items that “parent do not want their child to do” are: “to live with a same-sex

partner as a homosexual couple,” “to remain single for life,” “to divorce while raising a child,” “to have a child out of wedlock,” and “to have no children.” The items are in the order from the highest to lower rates, and all of these items are more than 60%.

In Korea, there are 5 items that “parent do not want their child to do“ with percentages over 90%; From the highest, “to live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple,” “to have a child out of wedlock,” “to divorce while raising a child,” “to live with a member of the opposite sex without formally marrying,” and “to remain single for life.” There appear to be very strong feelings for evading these types of family lifestyle.

In Thailand, the top five items that “parent do not want their child to do” are: “to live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple,” “to remain single for life,” “to divorce while raising a child,” “to live with a member of the opposite sex without formally marrying,” and “to raise an adopted child, stepchild or child otherwise not related by blood.”

Table II- 3-3 Future lifestyles that parents do not wish for their children (multiple answer)  
(results of higher five categories for each country)

(%)

Ranking	Japan	Korea	Thailand	USA	France	Sweden
1st	To live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple 76.0	To live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple 96.5	To live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple 87.8	To remain single for life 65.5	To remain single for life 53.9	To remain single for life 86.1
2nd	To remain single for life 69.9	To have a child out of wedlock 93.5	To remain single for life 77.4	To live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple 65.2	To have a no children 53.4	To live with me and her/his spouse 74.2
3rd	To divorce while raising a child 69.0	To have a child out of wedlock 92.9	To have a child out of wedlock 74.7	To have a child out of wedlock 61.6	To live with the parents of her/his spouse 42.7	To live with me and her/his spouse 68.9
4th	To have a child out of wedlock 62.3	To live with a member of the opposite sex without formally marrying 91.8	To live with a member of the opposite sex without formally marrying 70.9	To have a child out of wedlock 61.2	To live with me and her/his spouse 41.8	To have a no children 67.3
5th	To have a no children 60.5	To remain single for life 90.5	To raise an adopted child, stepchild or child otherwise not related by blood 69.5	To live apart from her/his spouse because of her/his career 60.8	To live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple 36.5	To have a child out of wedlock 51.1

The top 5 items of these three countries are similar, though there are some small differences. In all these three countries, “to live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple” is the number one family lifestyle that parents do not want their children to lead (not the case for the three Western countries). As for the percentages, Korea has more than 90%, Thailand has more than 70%, and Japan has more than 60% for all five items. As shown in the different rates, there are differences among those three countries in the

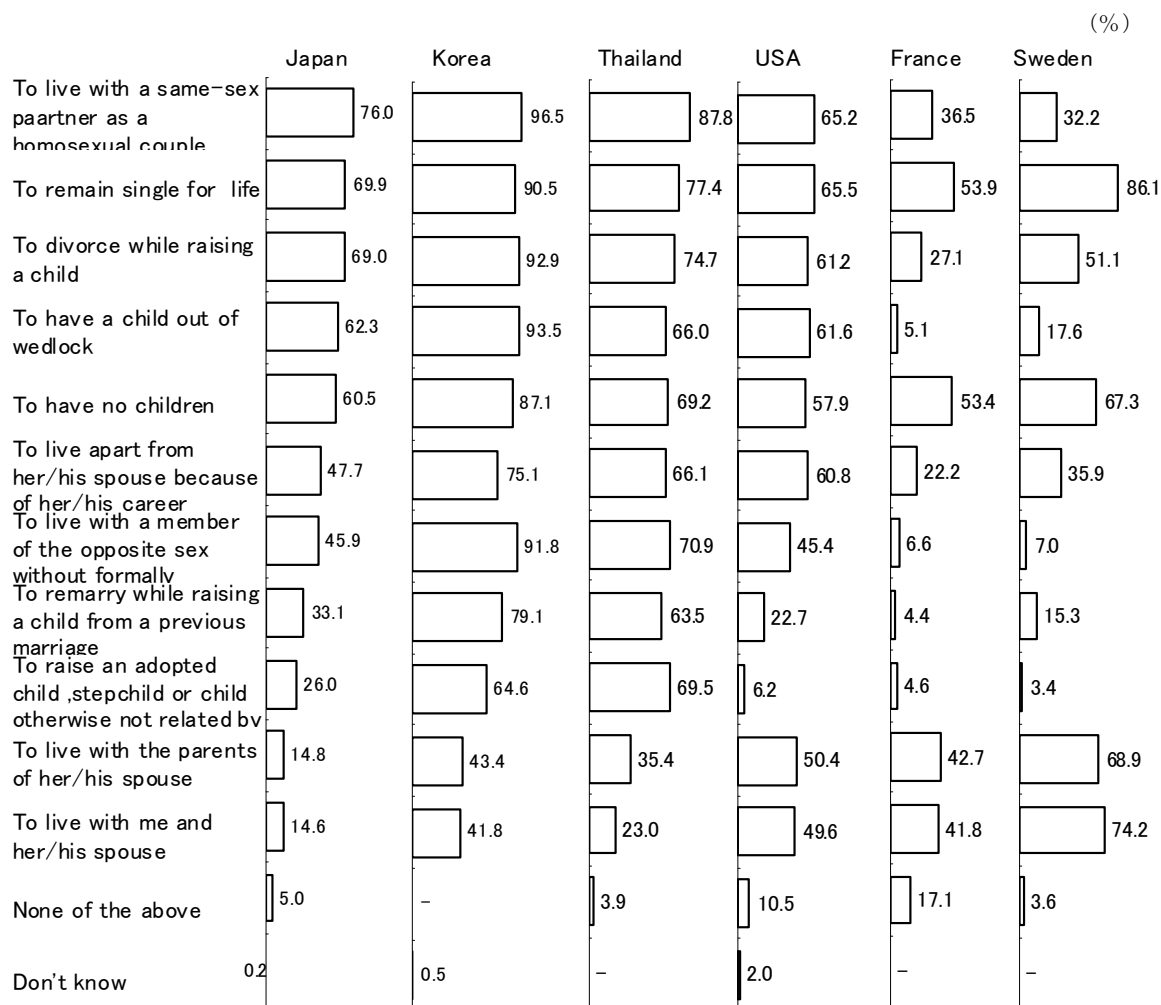
magnitude of evading view (or evaded family models).

In the United States, there are no items with more than 70% as for undesirable future lifestyle of children. There are five items with more than 60%: “to remain single for life,” “to live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple,” “to have a child out of wedlock,” “to divorce while raising a child,” and “to live apart from her/his spouse because of her/his career.” These items are not so different from the items of the three Asian countries. The items that are distinctly different from the three Asian countries are “to live with the parents of her/his spouse” and “to live with her/his spouse and me” as high as around 50%.

In France, there is no item greater than 60% for an undesirable future lifestyle of children. There are two items with more than 50%: “to remain single for life” and “to have no children,” followed by two over 40% items: “to live with the parents of her/his spouse” and “to live with her/his spouse and me.” On the other hand, there are such items with very low rates around 5% as “to have a child out of wedlock,” “to live with a member of the opposite sex without formally marrying,” “to raise an adopted child stepchild or child otherwise not related blood,” and “to remarry while raising a child from a previous marriage,” thus the family lifestyle is of much less evasion look.

Sweden resembles France. It is a society illustrating diversification of a family norm simultaneously with the existence of a solid family norm. The proportion of parents who do not want their children “to remain single for life” is very high with 86% and is the second highest next to Korea. In addition, the percentages of “to live with her/his spouse and me” and “to live with the parents of her/his spouse” are around 70%, and thus the evasion look is extremely strong among the six countries. The fourth highest item in Sweden is “to have no children” with 67%. This percentage is the third highest among the countries following Korea and Thailand, and it is higher than Japan (61%). The percentages of other items are very low as similar to France. It is a unique characteristic in France and Sweden that the percentages of parents who do not want their children “to live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple” are quite low at 30+ percent level, whereas the same item is perceived as the number one lifestyle that is to be evaded strongly in the three Asian countries.

Fig. II- 3-5 Future lifestyles that parents do not wish for their children (multiple answer)



The figure is sorted by Japan’s results from the highest “undesirable lifestyle” in ascending order. The sum (the total area of 11 bars for each country) could indicate the strength of family norm. In Japan, there are 5 items that more than 60% of parents consider “undesirable future lifestyle” for their children. There are 9 items of such that are more than 60% in Korea and Thailand. Especially in Korea, there are 5 items that are greater than 90%, and it is likely to indicate that there is a strong evadable idea on their children experiencing extraordinary family lifestyles. In the United States, there is no item greater than 70% as for undesirable future lifestyle of children, and there are 5 items at 60+ percent level. There are 2 items with 50+ percent as the highest in France. As for this questionnaire, France is the society with the most relaxed family norm among the six countries (the responses for “none of the above” is the highest with 17% as well). Following

France, Sweden is the society of the second most relaxed family norm.

Next, when observing the shapes (distributions) of 11 bars of the graph for each country that symbolize characteristics (cultures) of a family norm of each country, the shapes and distributions of Japan, Korea, and Thailand look similar. Although the magnitude of family norms is different in Korea, Thailand and Japan as in the order from the strictest, the concept of family seems similar in these 3 Asian countries. On the other hand, the result distributions of the United States, France, and Sweden differ from the three countries in Asia. The difference is particularly manifested in two items about living together with parents: “to live with the parents of her/his spouse” and “to live with her/his spouse and me.” In the three Western countries, it is apparently the family norm that parents do not want their children to live together with them. It can also be viewed as the continuation inclination (Asia) and the separation inclination (West) between the generations in terms of cohabitation patterns. Moreover, it is a unique characteristic in the three Western countries that they do not have an evasive idea or view in regards “to raise an adopted child, stepchild or child otherwise not related by blood” (less than 10% in all 3 countries).

As for France and Sweden, the future lifestyles parents consider as undesirable for their children are clear and distinctive. Unlike Korea and Thailand showing almost all lifestyles as undesirable, only limited types of lifestyle are considered as highly undesirable and the rates for other lifestyles are very low. It should not be considered that the family norms are weakened, but rather that France and Sweden have different characteristics of family norms from those of the three Asian countries. Japan has the lowest rate of 10+ percent for evading “to live with the parents of her/his spouse” and “to live with her/his spouse and me,” whereas the highest is Sweden with 70%. These two countries are the two extremes.

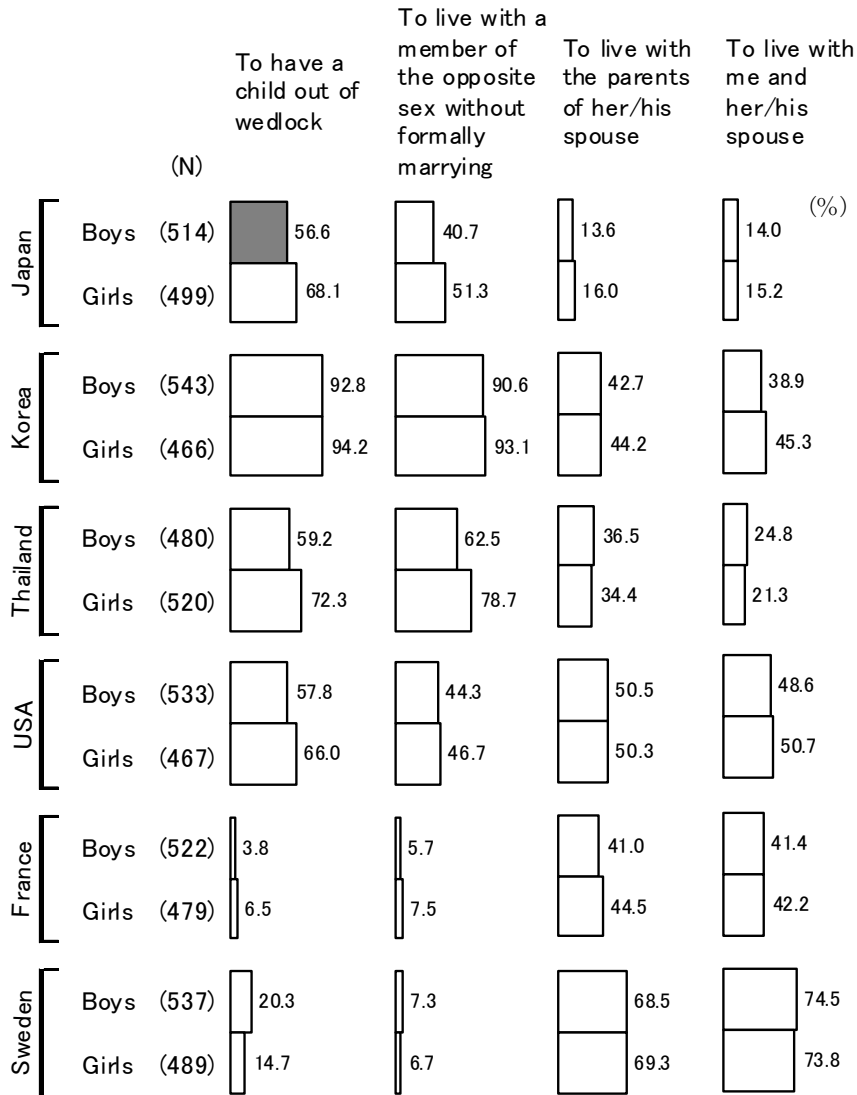
We will compare with the previous research in 1994. Although the questionnaire was essentially the same, there were two more items in the answer option, making a total of 13 lifestyles to choose from. The two items missing this time are “only have girls as children” and “only have boys as children.” In addition, England has been replaced by France this time.

There has been no significant change in Japan and Korea with respect to both strength and characteristics of the family norms. The top 5 lifestyle items for “undesirable future lifestyle” have remained the same in Japan. Korea shows a similar trend, and the

family norm still continues to be quite strong. Thailand shows a significant change. The overall rate of undesirable future lifestyles for children has become higher in 10 years where some items show more than twice as much in increase. It implies that the family norms have been strengthened.

In the United States, there has not been any significant change in 10 years in terms of strength and characteristics of the family norm. Sweden is also similar. There is only one notable change in “to live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple.” The percentage of parents who do not want their child “to live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple” has dropped significantly (by half) from the previous 68% to 32% (In the U.S. it has fallen from 76% to 65%). This could possibly indicate a development of the family norm to be more tolerant to diversification of family lifestyles. At the same time, the consistent characteristic of Sweden, excluding the category related to living together with parents, is that only 2 items of “to remain single for life” and “to have no children” show very high rates as parents do not want their children to lead a life of such in the future.

Fig. II- 3-6 Future lifestyles that parents do not wish for their children (multiple answers) [by child's gender]



There are differences depending on gender of a child for parents to consider as undesirable future lifestyles. As shown in the figure, a number of parents do not wish their daughters “to have a child out of wedlock” in Japan, Thailand, and the United States (in Korea, no difference can be seen by gender and both are over 90%). There are also many parents who do not want their daughters “to live with a member of the opposite sex without formally marrying” in Japan and Thailand. This could be a double standard by gender in a family norm.

## 5. Expectation for Child's Educational Attainment (Q18)

Q18 [card 16]

How far in school do you want (NAME OF CHILD) to go? (SINGLE ANSWER)

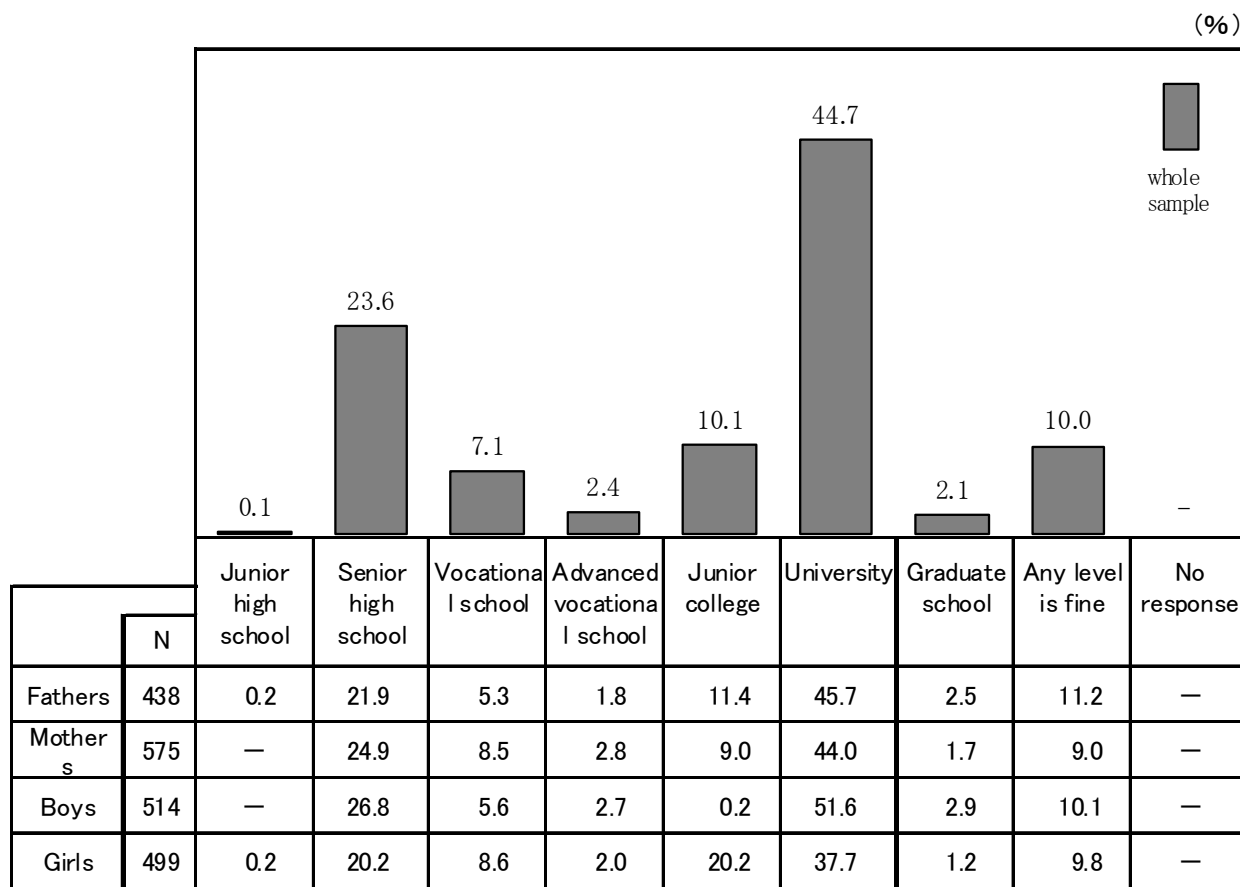
- 1 Middle school/junior high school
- 2 High school
- 3 Vocational/trade/technical school
- 4 Advanced vocational/trade/technical school
- 5 Junior college
- 6 University
- 7 Graduate school
- 8 Any level is fine with me

We asked parents about expectations for their children's educational attainment level. Since school systems differ from one country to another, we changed the answer options suitable for each country.

In Japan, 45% of parents want their children to go to "university," and 24% of parents expect their children to go to "high school." There is a difference in parents' expectations by gender of a child. The percentage of parents who want their sons to go to "university" is 66%, while the same for daughters is 38%. On the other hand, the percentage of parents who want their daughters to go to "junior college" is 20%, however the percentage is almost zero for sons. For "high school," the percentages are 20% for daughters and 27% for sons.

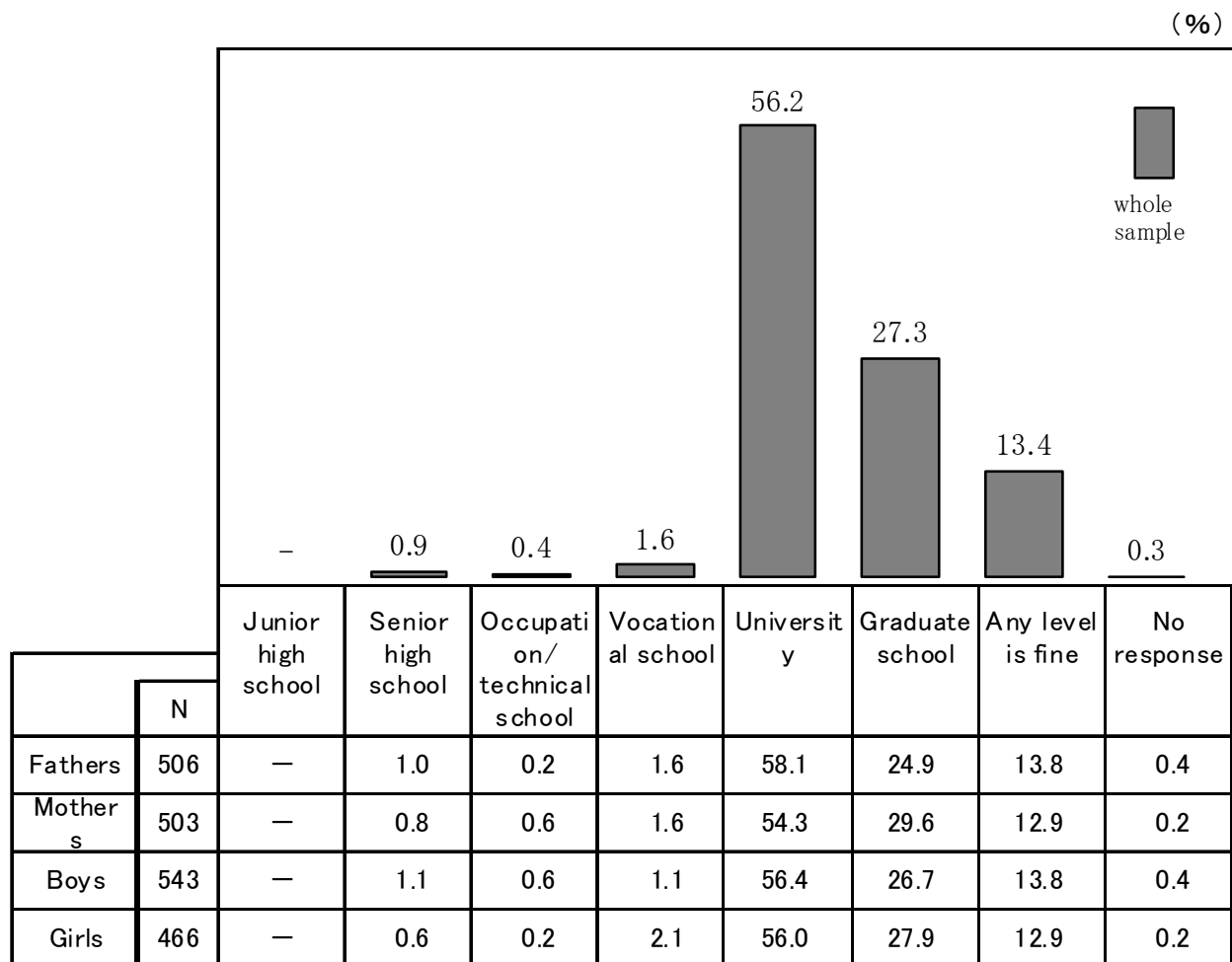
Compared with the research in 1994, the expectation for attaining a high school education has almost doubled. It was 11% ten years ago. As to the expectation for sons, 66% of parents wanted their sons to go to a "university," however it has decreased by 14% and has become 52%. There appears to be a decrease in the parents' expectations for their children's educational attainment.

Fig. II-3-7 Expectation for child's educational attainment (Japan) (whole sample, by parent's gender, by child's ;



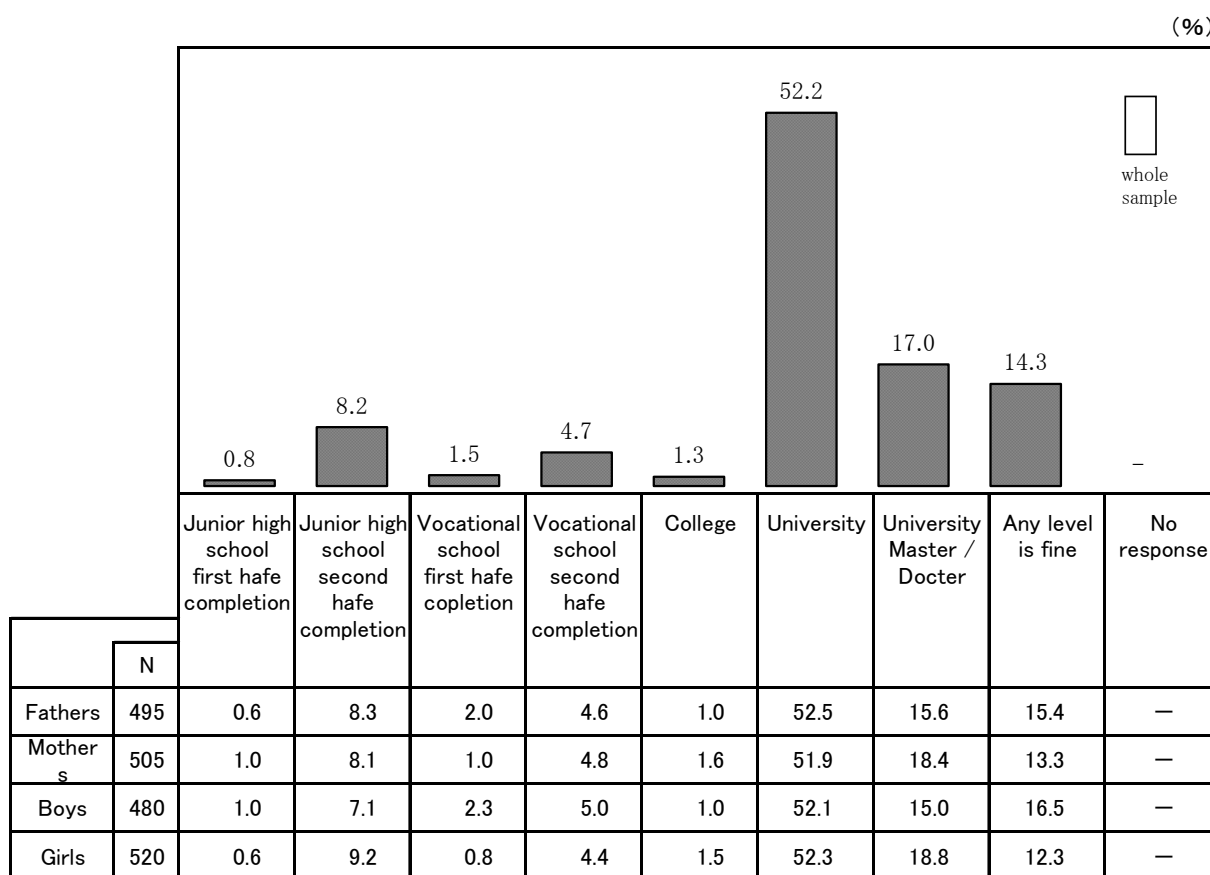
In Korea, parents' expectations for their children's educational levels are very high. Regardless of children's gender, more than 80% of parents want their children to go to "university" or "graduate school." A little over 13% of parents responded for "any level is fine." Korean parents' expectations for their children's education were also high in the research of 1994. Almost 40% of parents wanted their children to go to "graduate school," and higher expectations were placed on boys than girls in this category. Moreover, "any level is fine" was a little over 20%, but it has decreased in this research result.

Fig. II-3-8 Expectation for child's educational attainment (Korea) (whole sample, by parent's gender, child's gender)



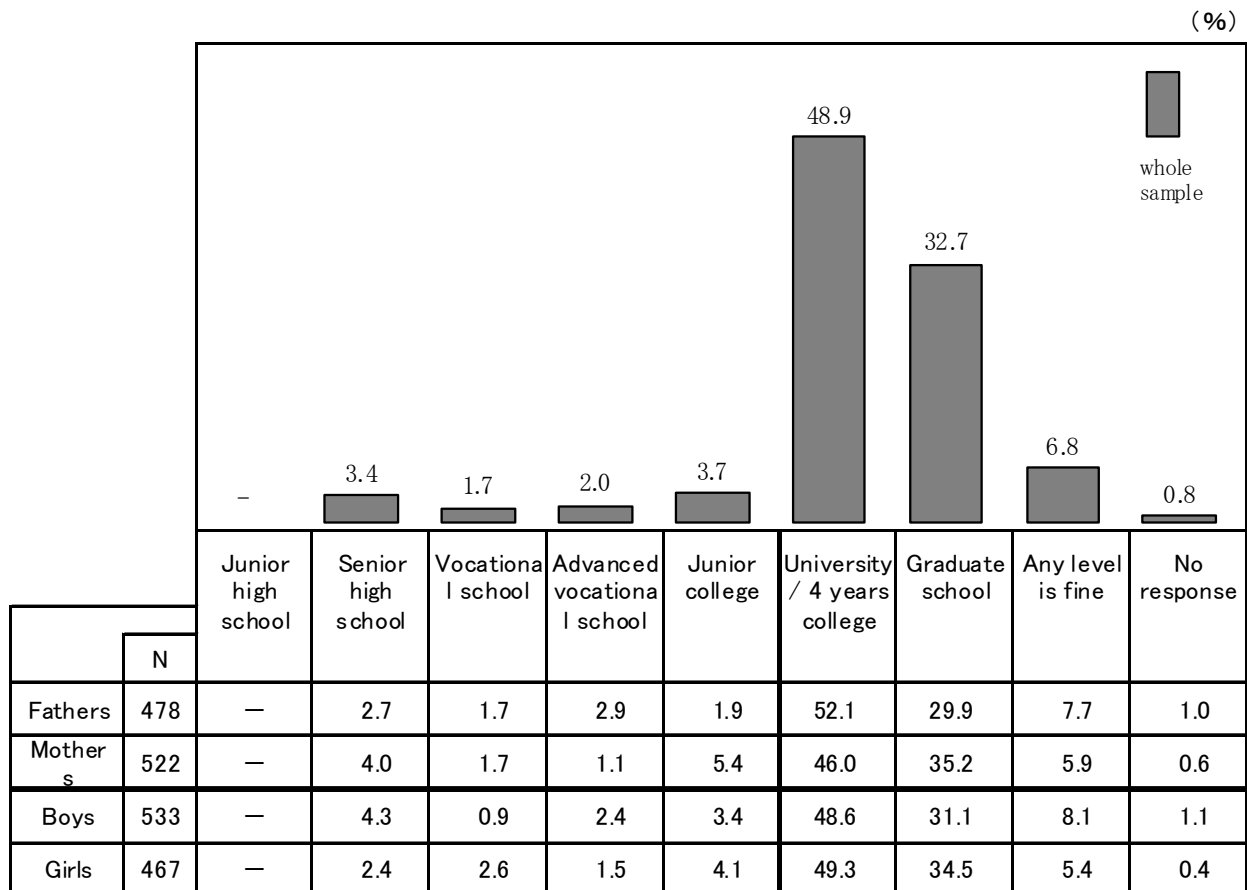
In Thailand, there are many “university bachelor completion” with 52%. In Thailand, a very high percentage of 52% prefer completing a bachelor’s degree. Although it is difficult to see changes from the research of 1994 due to the different answer options used in the research this time, the percentage of “any level is fine” has decreased from 26%, thus possibly indicating that parents’ expectations for education have become clear and substantial. There is no difference by gender of a child.

Fig. II-3-9 Expectation for child’s educational attainment (Thailand) (whole sample, by parent’s gender, by child’s gender)



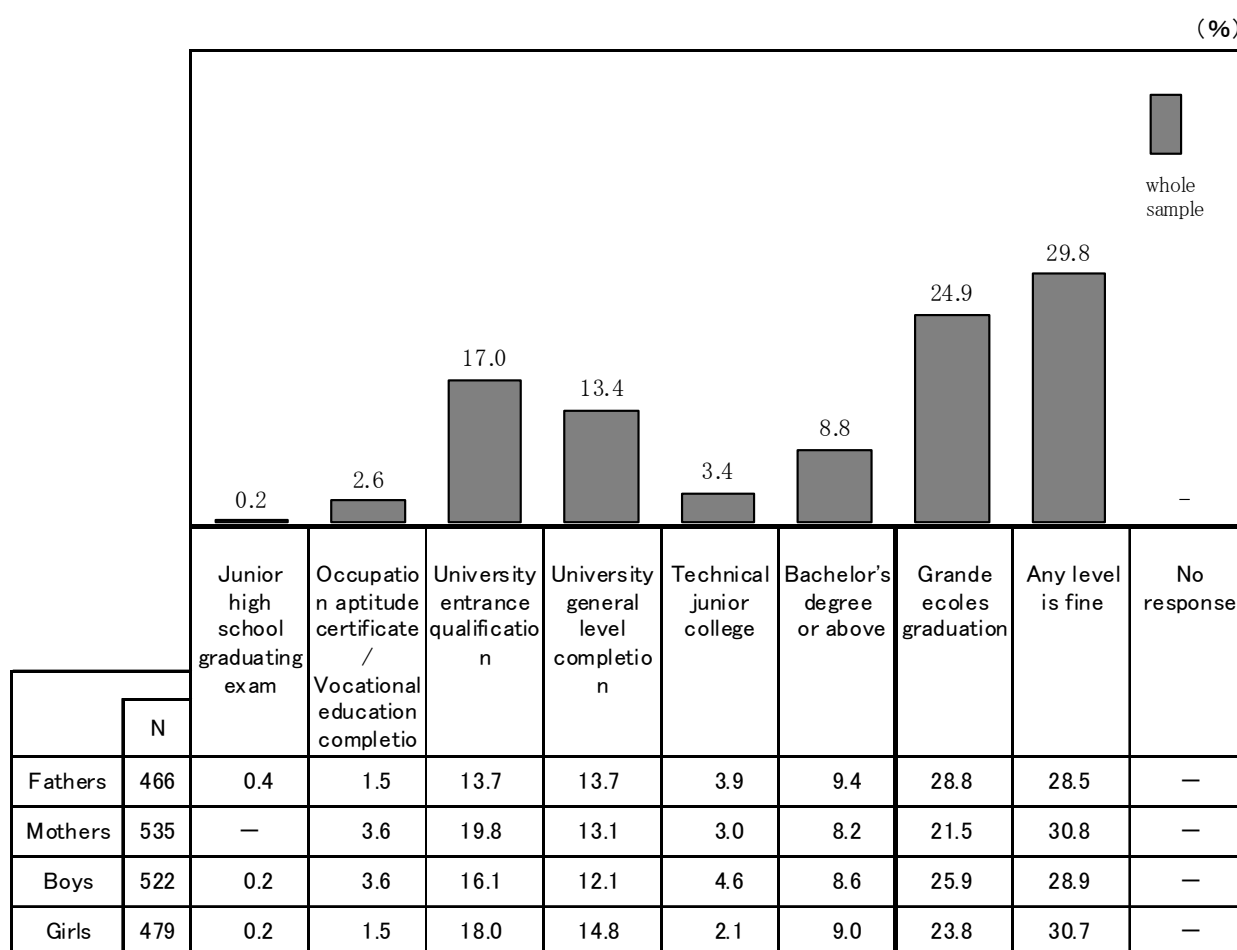
Parents' expectations in the United States for completion of a 4 year college or graduate school is over 80% combined. There is no difference by gender of a child. There has been no significant difference from the research in 1994, except that expectations have slightly shifted toward even higher educational levels.

Fig. II-3-10 Expectation for child's educational attainment (USA) (whole sample, by parent's gender, by child's gender)



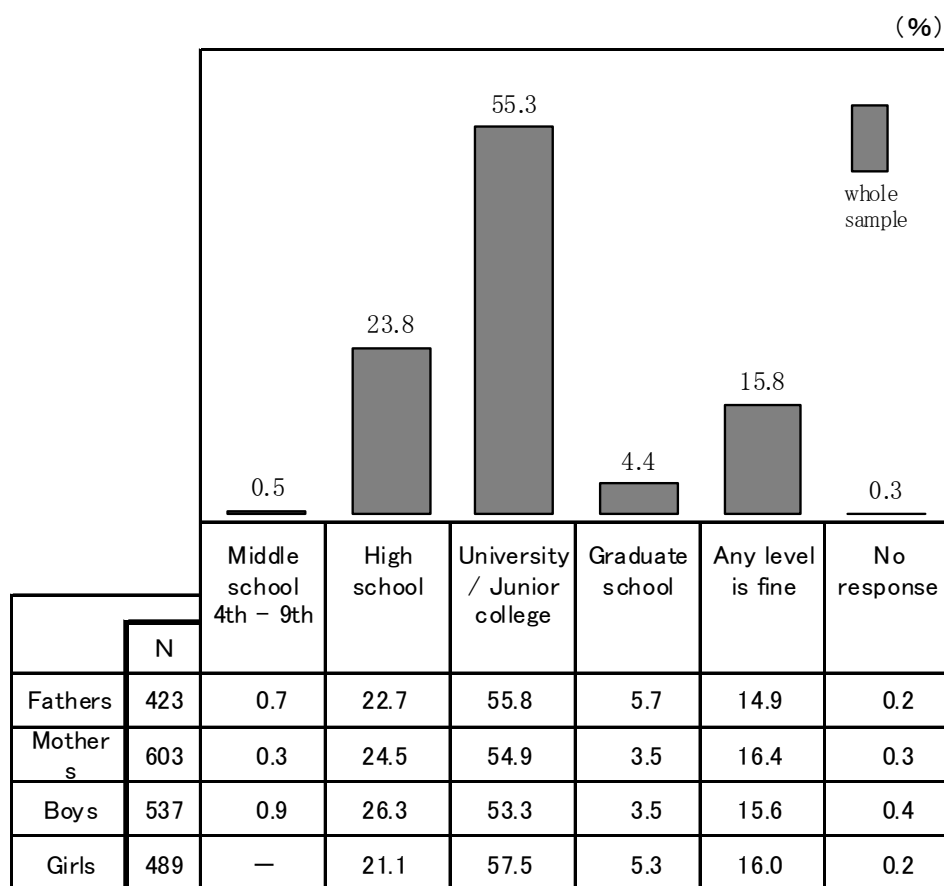
In France, most parents want their children to attain “qualification to enter university” level or beyond. “Grandes écoles graduation“ is approximately 25%, and it is also notable that 30% answered “any level is fine.” There is no difference by gender of a child. 29% of fathers and 22% of mothers have expectations to attain ”grandes écoles graduation,” therefore fathers have a somewhat higher expectation than mothers do. There are no results for France from the 1994 research since France is a new survey subject country.

Fig. II-3-11 Expectation for child's educational attainment (France) (whole sample, by parent's gender, by child's gender)



In Sweden, 55% of parents wish their children to go to “university/junior college” and it is the highest percentage among the educational levels. “High school” is 24%. There is no clear difference in parents’ expectations by gender of a child. Since we used different answer options this time, it is difficult to compare directly with the results of the research from 1994.

Fig. II-3-12 Expectation for child's educational attainment (Sweden) (whole sample, by parent's gender, by child's gender)



**6. What it means to have a child (Q23)**

Q23 [card 20]

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements  
in relation to raising a child? (READ EACH STATEMENT)

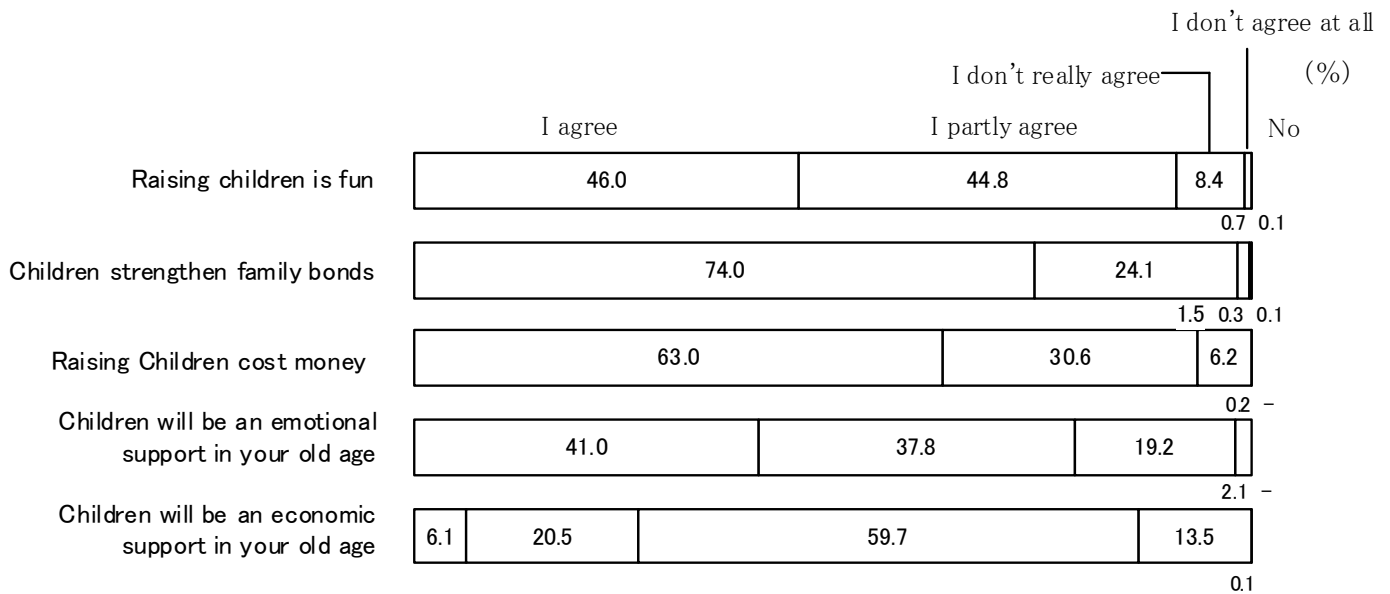
	I Agree	I Partly Agree	I don't Really Agree	I don't Agree At all
a. Raising children is fun	1	2	3	4
b. Children strengthen family bonds	1	2	3	4
c. Raising children costs money	1	2	3	4
d. Children will be an emotional support in my old age	1	2	3	4
e. Children will be an economic support in my old age	1	2	3	4

We asked a question regarding what children and child rearing mean to the parents in such 5 question items as “raising children is fun,” “children strength family bonds,” “raising children costs money,” “children will be an emotional support in my old age,” and ”children will be an economic support in my old age.” First, let’s take a look at the results of each country.

① Japan

Many parents think that children “strengthen family bonds” and 74% of them answered “I agree.” The next highest rate of the answer “I agree” is 63% in “raising children costs money.” The lowest percentage of the answer “I agree” is 6% for “children will be an economic support in my old age.”

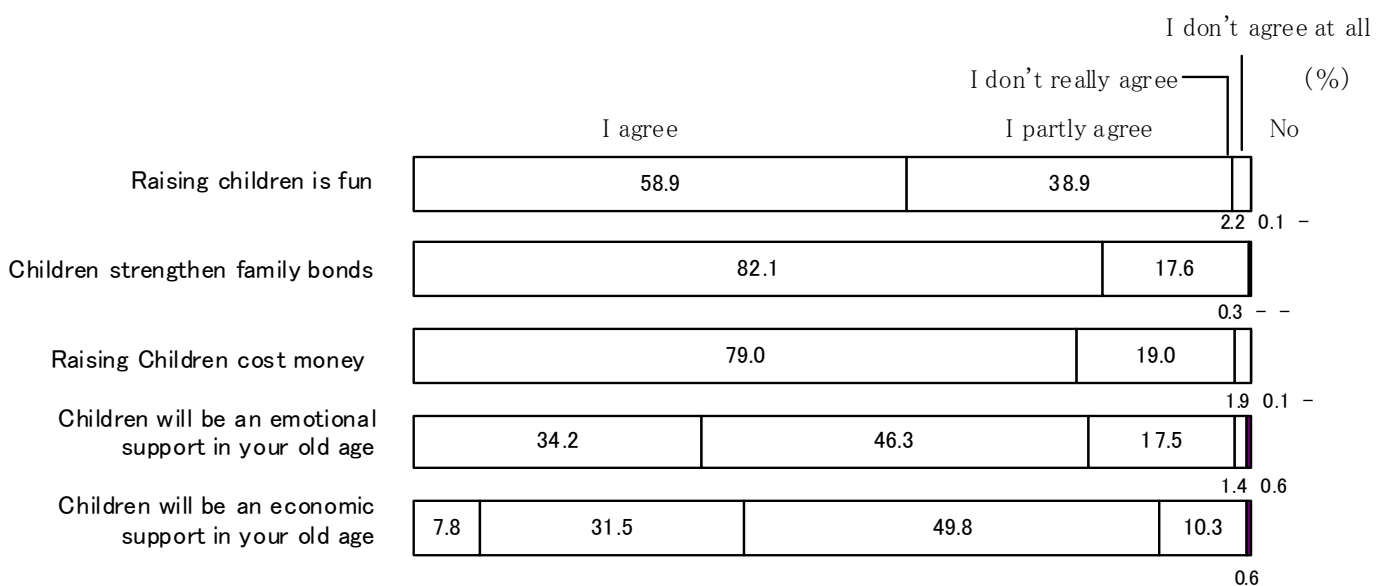
Fig. II-3-13 Child rearing (Japan)



② Korea

Similar to Japan, the rates of the answer “I agree” is high for both “children strengthen family bonds” and “raising children costs money.” There are very few parents who agree that “children will be an economic support in my old age.”

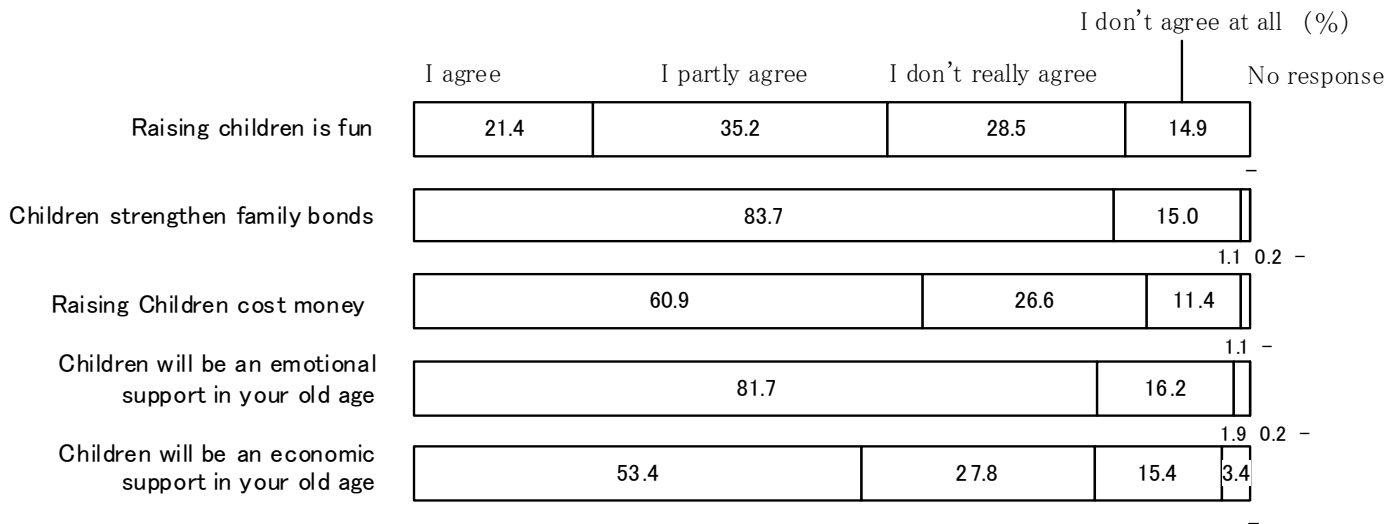
Fig. II-3-14 Child rearing (Korea)



③ Thailand

A large number of parents in Thailand think that “children strengthen family bonds” and “children will be an emotional support in my old age.” Moreover, there are also a relatively large proportion of “I agree” answers in “children will be an economic support in my old age” with 53%. In contrast, the percentage of response of “I agree” for “raising children is fun” is low at 21%.

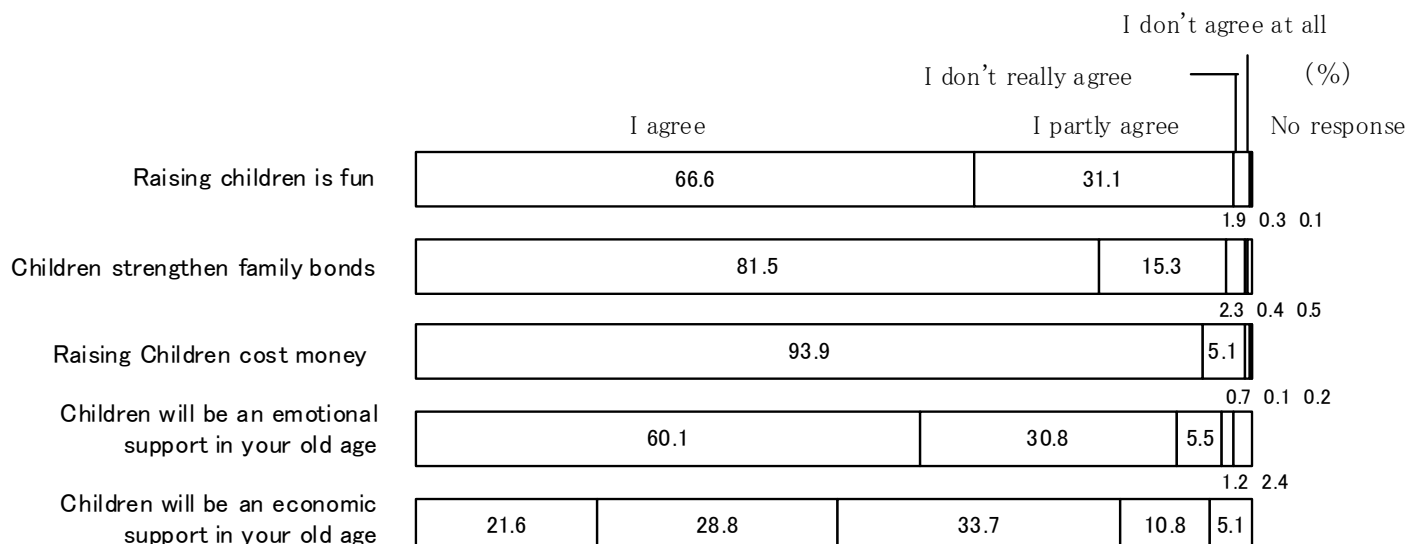
Fig. II-3-15 Child rearing (Thailand)



④ U.S.A.

In the United States, 94% of parents responded with “I agree” on “raising children costs money.” The overall proportions of parents who answered “I agree” are high, as the combined percentages of “I agree” and “I partly agree” are greater than 90% in all the items except “children will be an economic support in my old age.”

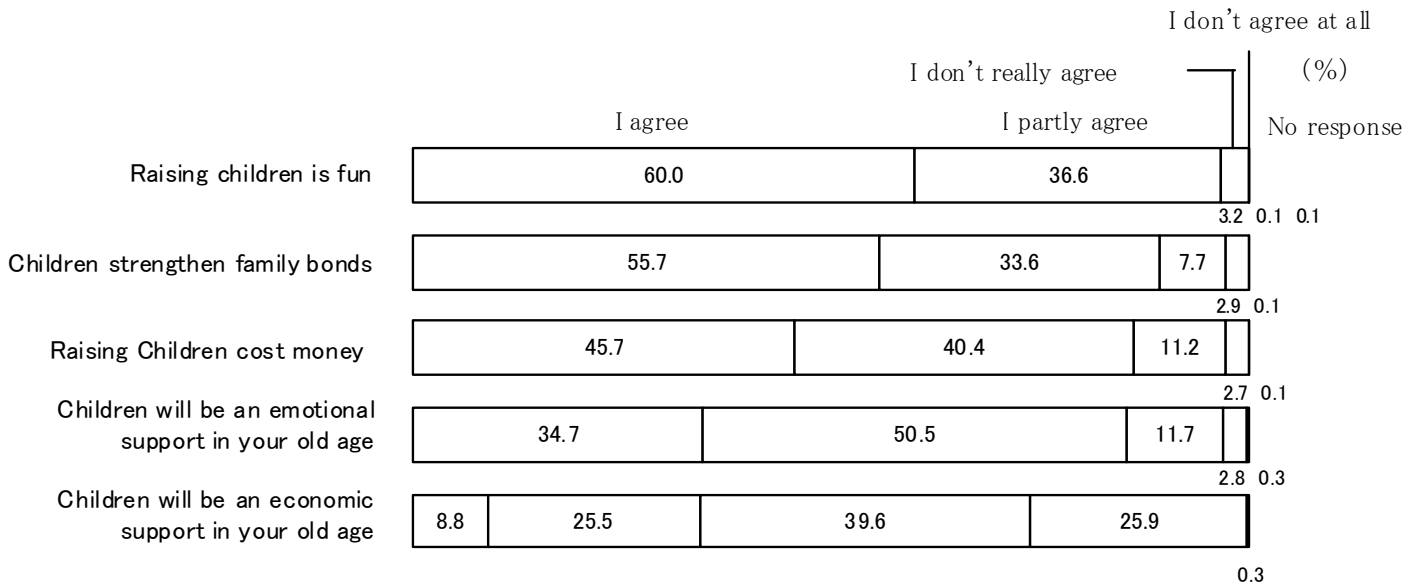
Fig. II-3-16 Child rearing (USA)



⑤ France

In France, the item with which most parents responded “I agree” to is “raising children is fun” with 60%. The lowest item, on the other hand, is 9% for “children will be an economic support in my old age.” The overall proportion of “I agree” is relatively low compared to other countries. It is the area in black color in the figure below.

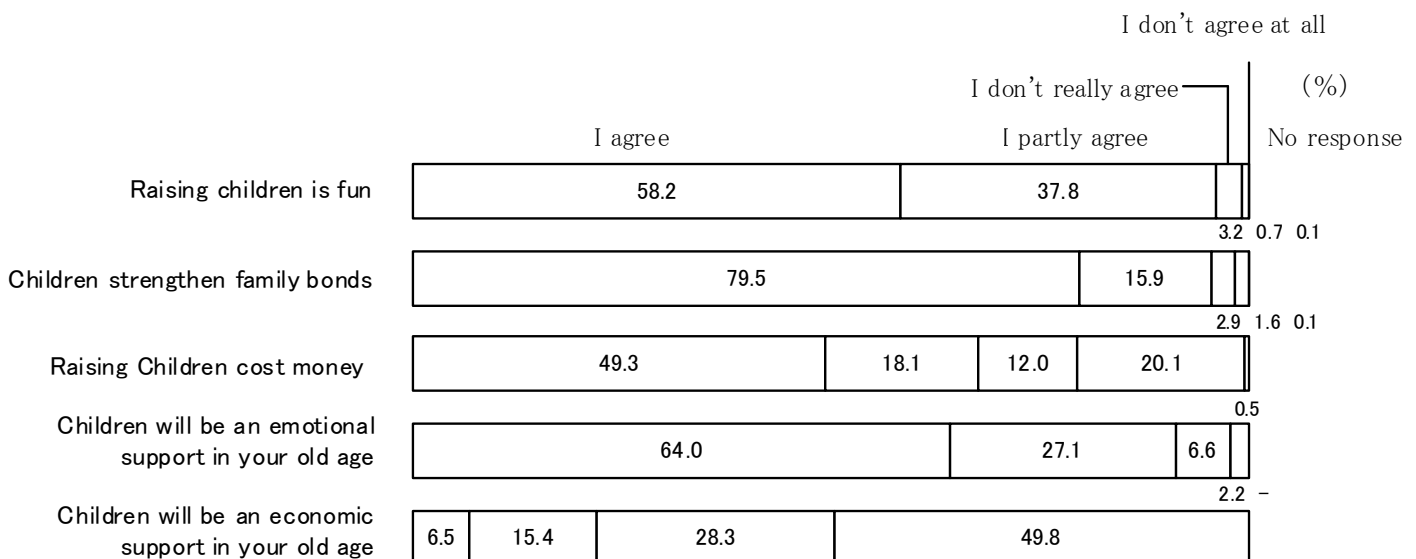
Fig. II-3-17 Child rearing (France)



⑥ Sweden

In Sweden, most parents think that “children strengthen family bonds” with the highest percentage of 80% for “I agree,” followed by “children will be an emotional support in my old age.” The lowest percentage is 7% for the item “children will be an economic support in my old age.”

Fig. II-3-18 Child rearing (Sweden)



Let us compare the following attributes by country.

a. Raising children is fun

Although the total percentage in agreement (total of “I agree” and “I partly agree” responses) is extremely high in every other country (more than 90%), Thailand is unique for its low percentage of 57%.

In terms of gender disparity among parents, the percentage of Korean fathers responding “I agree” was high.

b. Children strengthen family bonds

The total percentage of parents in agreement was extremely high, exceeding 95% in every country except France where the total percentage was a little lower at 89%. There was not so much gender disparity among parents.

c. Raising children costs money

Responses differed a little among countries. The total percentage in agreement was very high in the United States (99%), Korea (98%), and Japan (94%), but in Sweden, the total percentage in agreement fell to 67%, while those who disagreed exceeded 30%. The total of parents in disagreement in France and Thailand also exceeded 10%.

In terms of gender disparity among parents, the percentage of mothers responding “I agree” was higher in Thailand and Japan.

d. Children will be an emotional support in your old age

The total percentage of parents in agreement was particularly high in Thailand (98%). Agreement was lowest in Japan (79%) followed by Korea (81%).

In terms of gender disparity among parents, the percentage of mothers responding “I agree” was highest in Thailand (87%) (fathers 76%). In the other countries, although the difference was small, the percentage of mothers responding “I agree” was higher.

e. Children will be an economic support in your old age

The results for this attribute differed widely between countries. In Thailand, the total percentage in agreement was 81%, the highest of all the countries. The lowest percentage was 22% in Sweden, followed by 27% in Japan. No particularly large gender disparity was observed among parents.

## 7. Ideas about Child Discipline (Q24)

Q24 [card 21]

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following?

(READ EACH OPTION)

	I Agree	I Partly Agree	I Don't Really Agree	I Don't Agree At all
a. It's okay to hit a child, as long as you do it with love	1	2	3	4
b. It's acceptable for a child to behave willfully *	1	2	3	4
c. I want my child's elementary school teacher to take a hand in teaching my child manners	1	2	3	4
d. Children aged 5 or under should not be left alone at home	1	2	3	4
e. If I see a child doing something bad in the neighborhood, it's good to scold that child, even if that child is not my own	1	2	3	4

We asked parents ideas and opinions about raising children with 5 items.

a. It's okay to hit a child, as long as you do it with love

There are clear trends that the proportions of parents who responded "I agree (total)" = (sum of "I agree" and "I partly agree"; the same applies below) are high with more than 70% in the three Asian countries, whereas the proportions tend to be low in Western countries at less than 40%. Especially in Sweden, 94% of parents responded "I don't agree at all," showing a strong idea of refusal on this item.

There is no large difference for "I agree (total)" by gender of parents (by father/mother) among the six countries. If limiting only with "I agree," fathers tend to agree more than mothers in Japan, and mothers tend to agree more than fathers in Korea and Thailand.

Fig. II-3-19 Ideas on child discipline <a. It's okay to hit a child, as long as you do it with love >

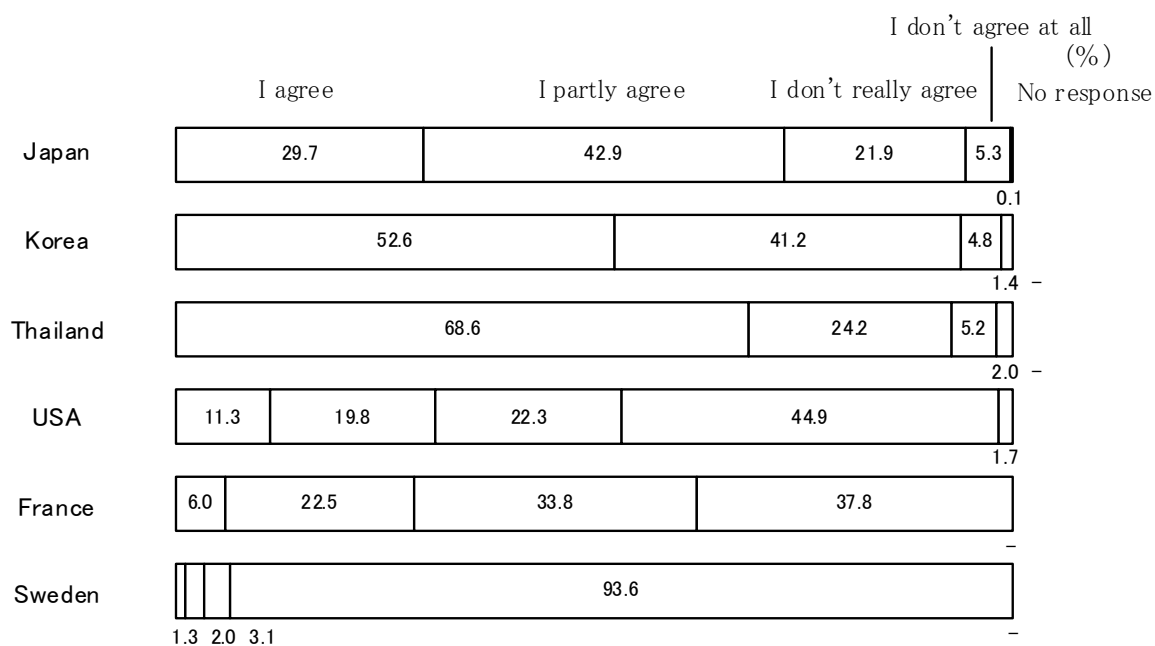
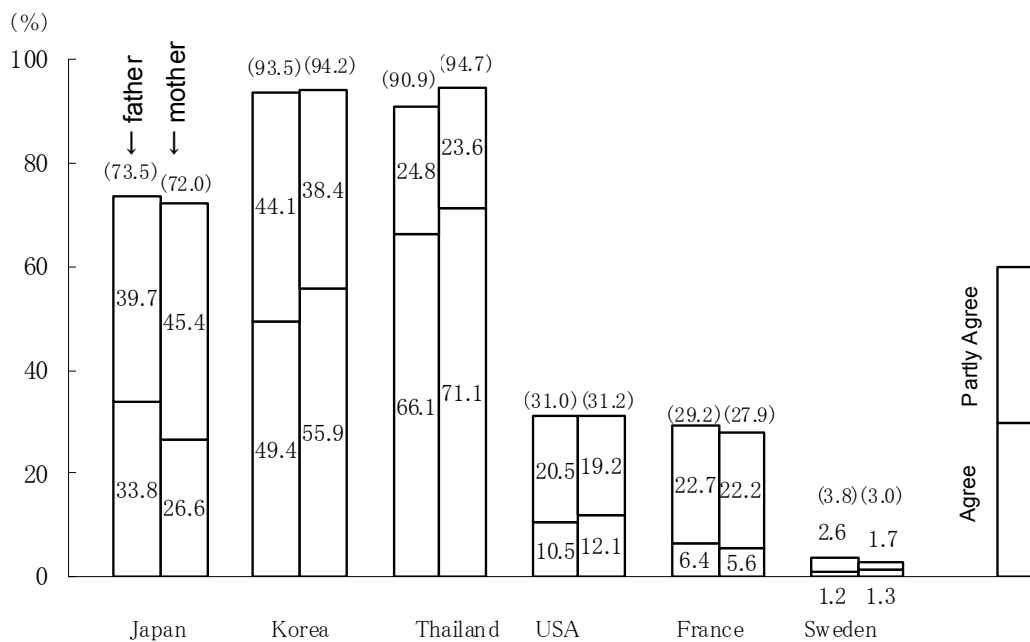


Fig. II-3-20 Ideas on child discipline <a. [It's okay to hit a child, as long as you do it with love >

[ by parents' gender ]



b. It's acceptable for a child to behave willfully

In the United States and Sweden, the total number of “I agree” is more than 50%. It is especially high in Sweden with greater than 80%. Korea is 20% in the total number of “I agree” and is the lowest among the 6 countries. Japan, Thailand, and France are all 30% and above, and are quite low compared to the United States and Sweden.

Comparing by gender of parents, the proportion of “I agree (total)” is 5 % higher for fathers than mothers in the United States. However, there is essentially no difference by gender of parents, including the United States.

Fig. II-3-21 Ideas on child discipline <b. It's acceptable for a child to behave willfully >

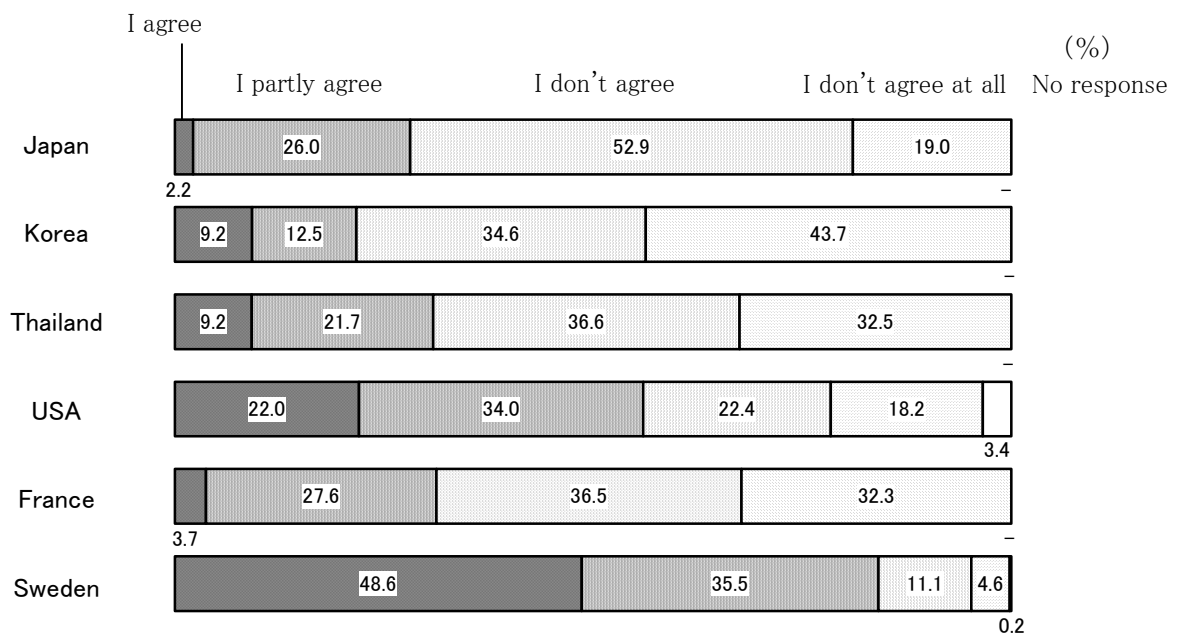
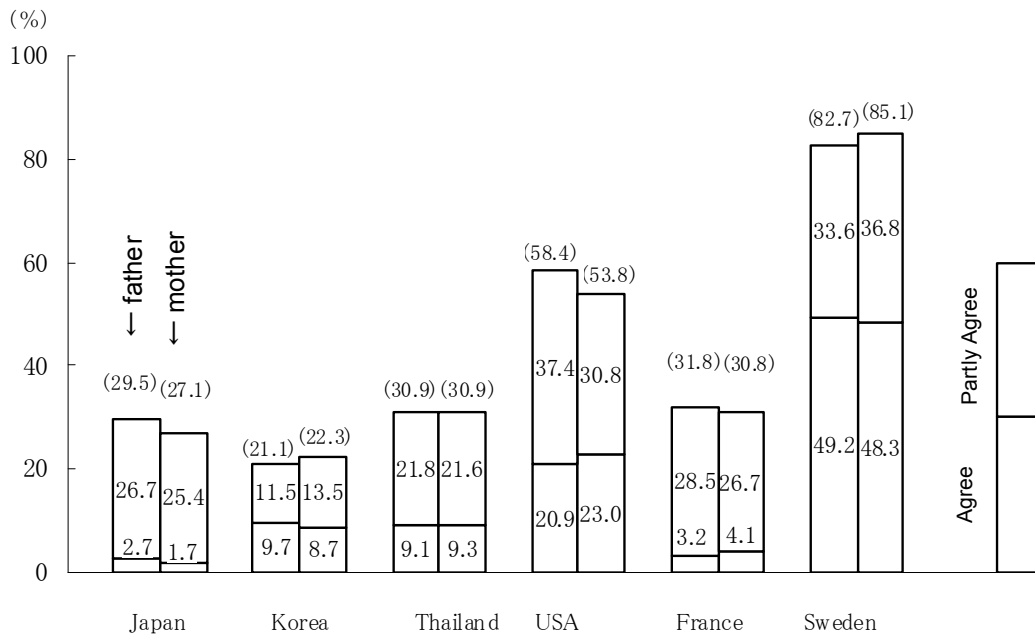


Fig. II-3-22 Ideas on child discipline <b. It's acceptable for a child to behave willfully >

[ by parent's gender ]



c. I want my child's elementary school teacher to take a hand in teaching my child manners

There are many parents in Korea, Thailand, and Sweden who answered "I agree (total)" for this item. It is nearly 100% in Korea and Thailand and is about 90% in Sweden. Japan, the United States, and France are by and large 70-80%, and France is the lowest among the six countries. Although the proportions of "I agree (total)" are high in Japan and the United States, "I agree" only is low about 30-40% next to France.

To compare by gender of parents, there are no remarkable differences in the proportion of "I agree (total)" among the six countries. The percentage of "I agree" in Japan is slightly higher for fathers than mothers. On the other hand, the percentage of "I agree" is slightly higher for mothers than fathers in Thailand.

Fig. II-3-23 Ideas on child discipline <c. I want my child's elementary school teacher to take a hand in teaching my child manner >

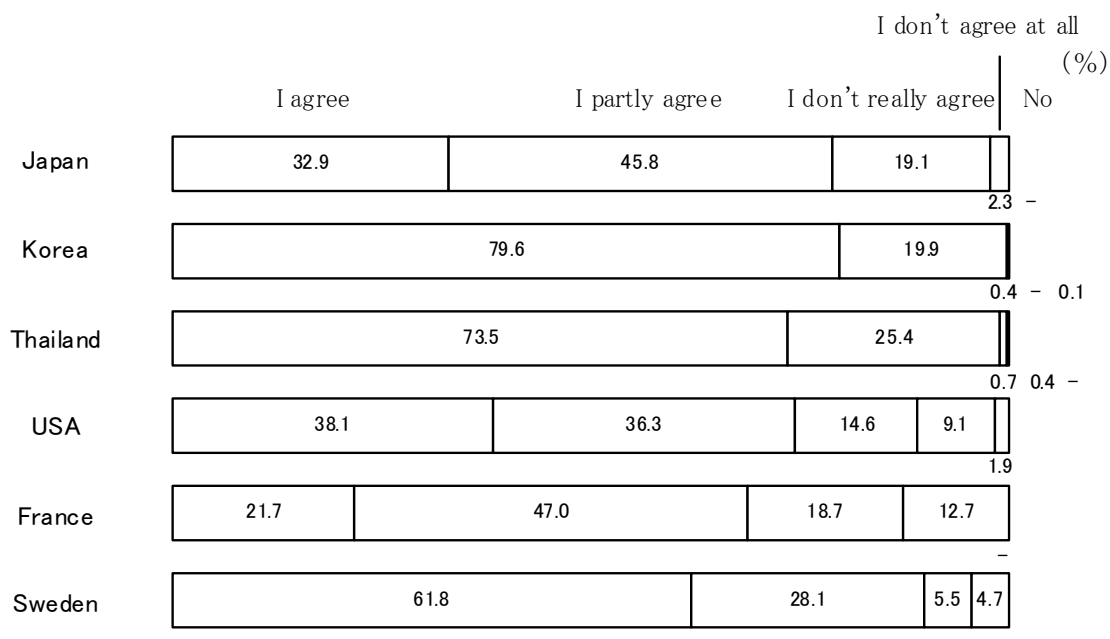
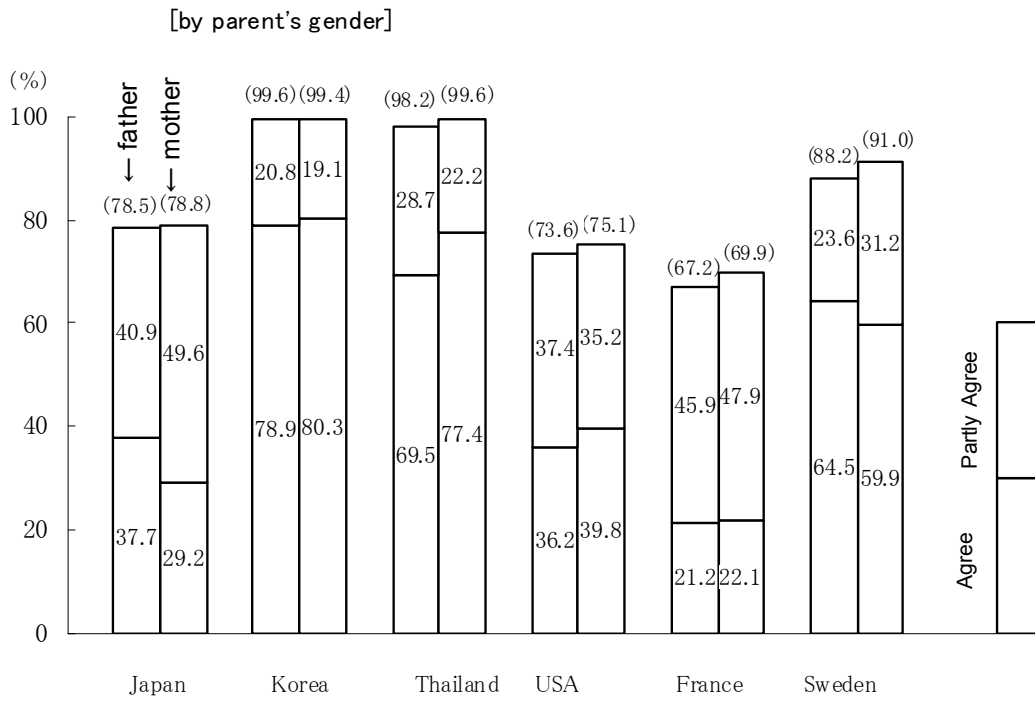


Fig. II-3-24 Ideas on child discipline <c. I want my child's elementary school teacher to take a hand in teaching my child manner >



d. Children aged 5 or under should not be left alone at home

The proportion of parents who responded “I agree (total)” is more than 90% in all six countries. Taking a closer look at “I agree,” the rates of “I agree” in Japan and Korea are relatively lower than that of Thailand, the United States, France, and Sweden. Among the six countries, Japan shows the lowest rate for “I agree (total)” as well as the highest rate for “I don’t agree (total),” though the percentage of “I don’t agree (total)” is less than 10%.

There are no significant differences by gender of parents in each of the six countries.

Fig. II-3-25 Ideas on child discipline <d. Children aged 5 or under should not be left alone at home >

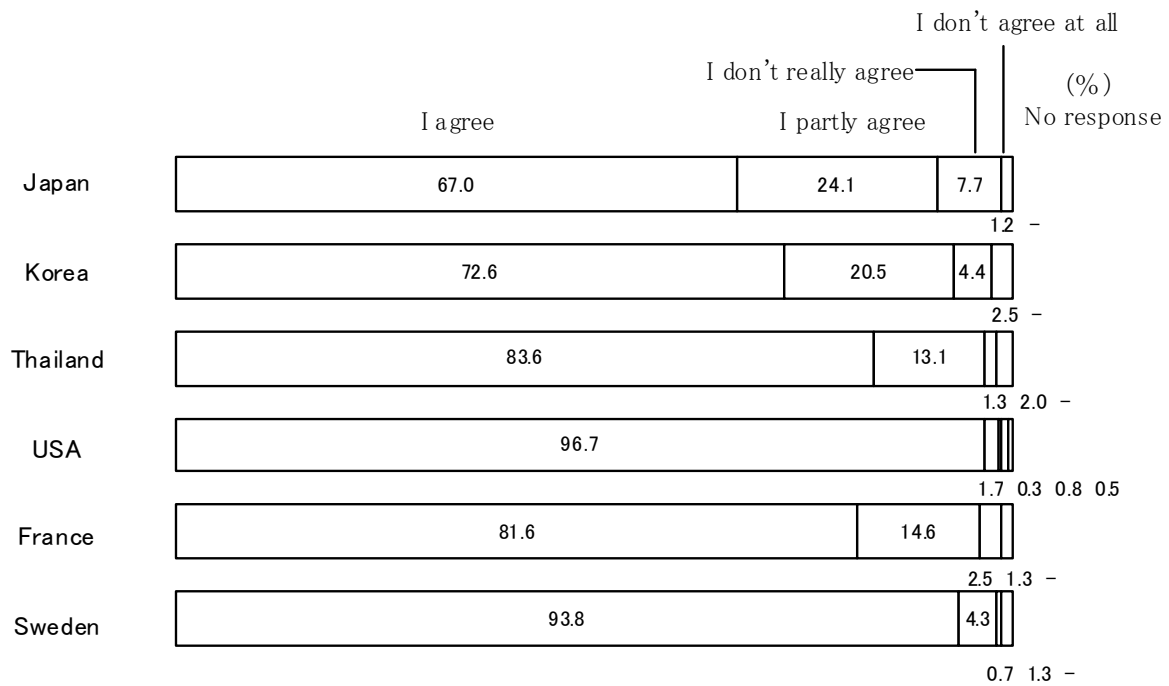
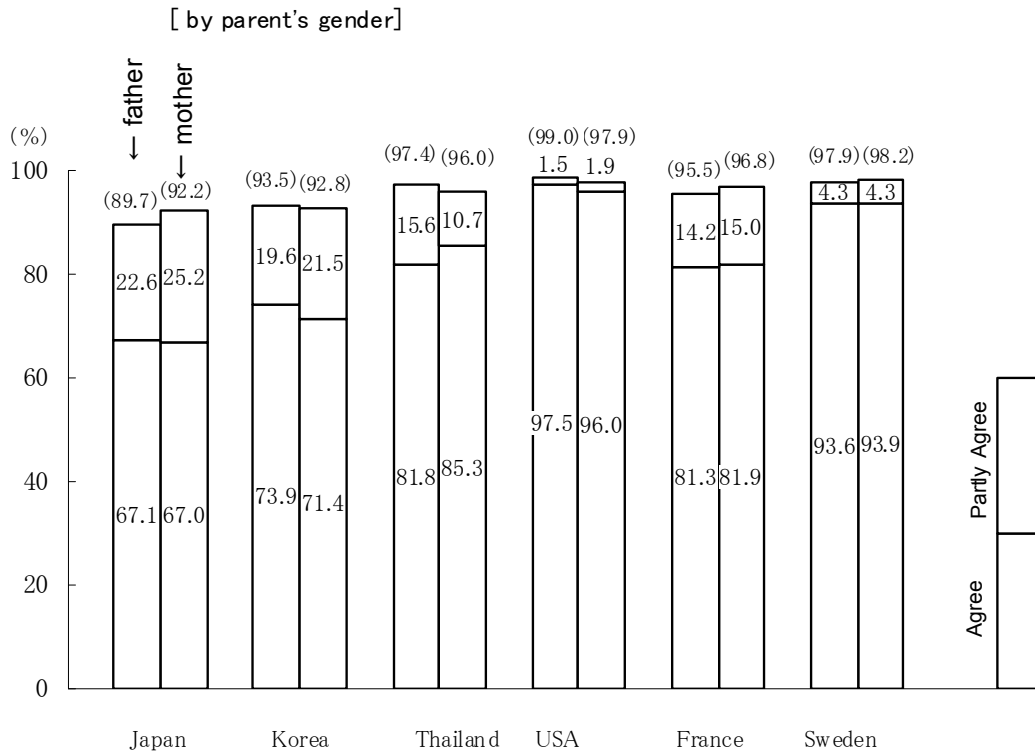


Fig. II-3-26 Ideas on child discipline <d. Children aged 5 or under should not be left alone at home >



e. If I see a child doing something bad in the neighborhood, it's good to scold that child, even if that child is not my own

For this item, the proportions of “I agree (total)” are more than 95% in Japan, Korea, and Sweden, followed by Thailand and France with more than 80%. Moreover, for only the “I agree” answer, Sweden has the highest percentage of 79% among the six countries.

To see the differences by gender of parents, the number of fathers who responded “I agree (total)” is slightly more than that of mothers. Difference by gender of parents is not seen except for in Thailand.

Fig. II-3-27 Ideas on child discipline <e. If I see a child doing something bad in the neighborhood, it's good to scold that child, even if that child is not my own>

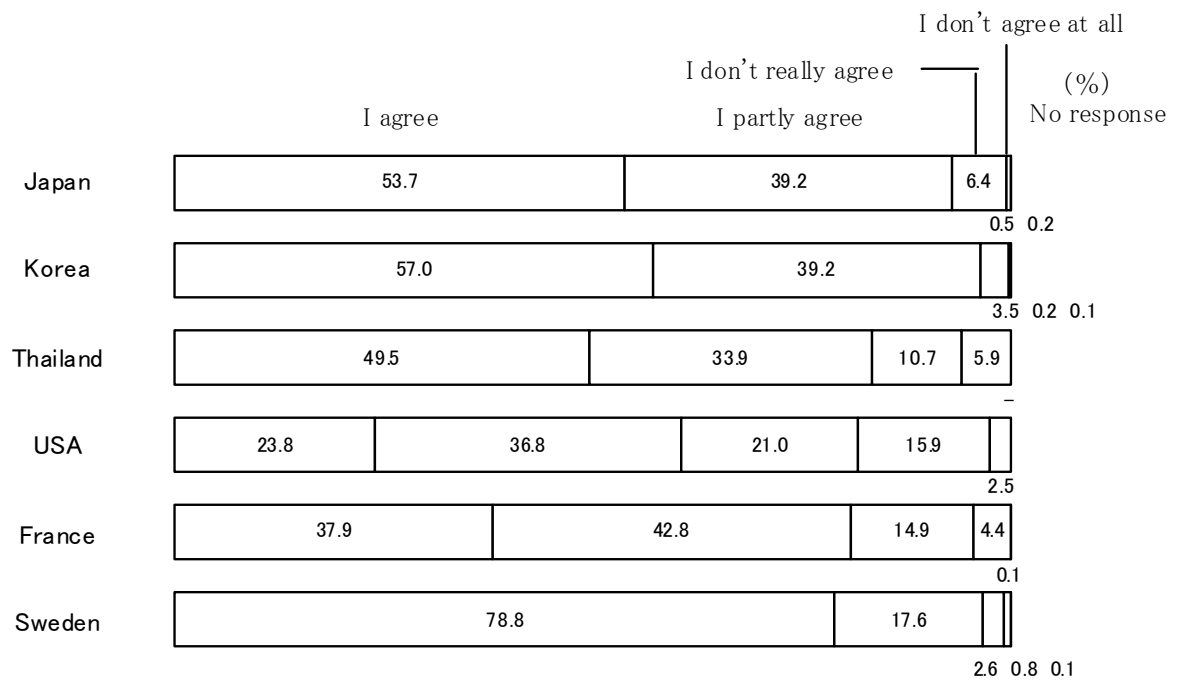
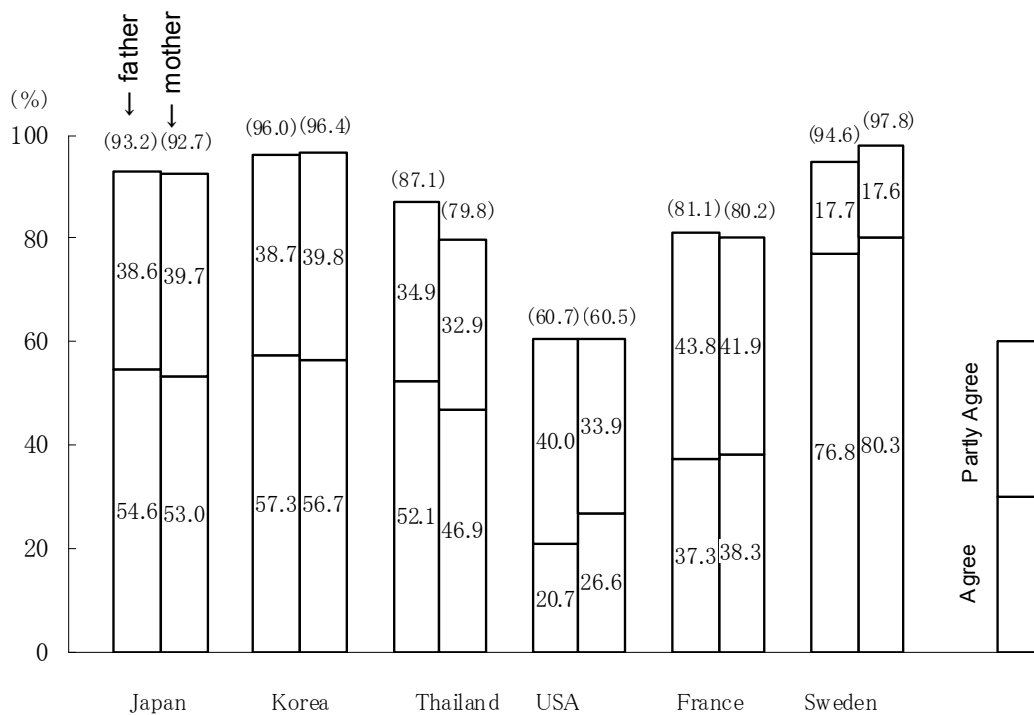


Fig. II-3-28 Ideas on child discipline <e. If I see a child doing something bad in the neighborhood, it's good to scold that child, even if that child is not my own>

[ by parent's gender ]



## 8. Satisfaction Level of the Child's Development (Q21)

Q21 [card 19]

How satisfied are you with the development of (NAME OF CHILD) thus far?

- 1 Satisfied
- 2 Somewhat satisfied
- 3 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 4 Dissatisfied

In each of the six countries, more than 95% of parents answered “satisfied (total)” (= the sum of “satisfied” and “somewhat satisfied”; the same applies below) with the development of their children.

Although 97% of parents in Japan are “satisfied (total)” with the development of their children, the proportion of “satisfied” is the lowest in the six countries with 59%, and “somewhat satisfied” is the highest with 39%.

Compared with the research of 1994, the proportions of “satisfied” have become higher in all five countries. The percentages of “satisfied” in Japan and Korea have slightly increased (Japan 7%, Korea 10%), and the proportions of “somewhat satisfied,” “somewhat dissatisfied,” and “dissatisfied” have decreased. Among the five countries, Thailand shows the largest change; the proportion of “satisfied” in Thailand was 69% in the research of 1994 and it has increased to 82% in 2005. There have been no significant changes in the United States and Sweden.

Fig. II-3-29 Satisfaction level with development of child

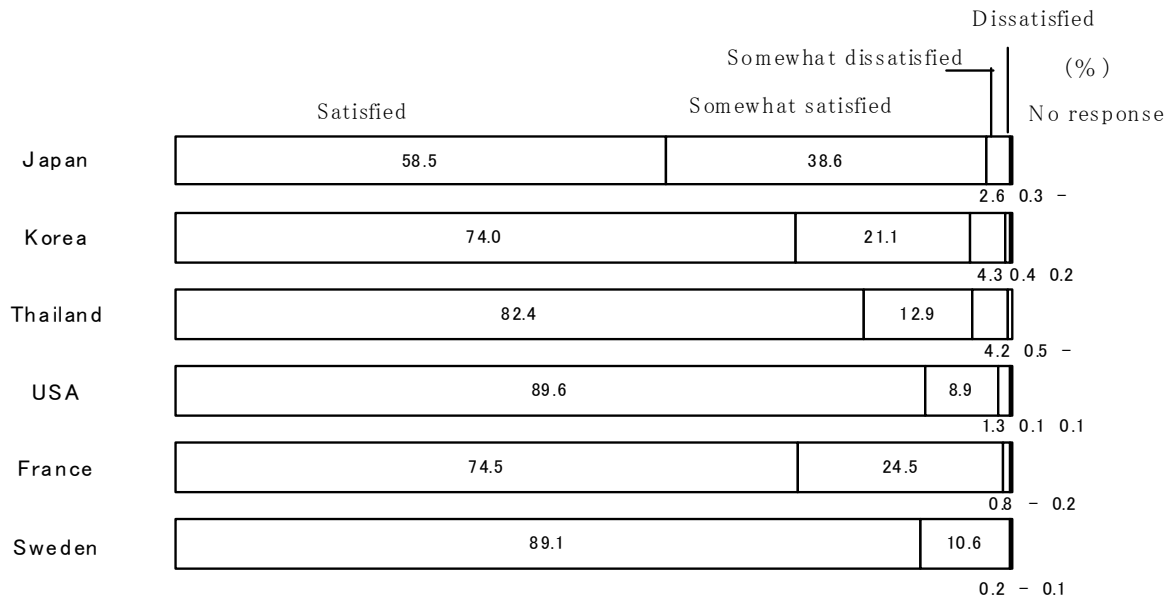
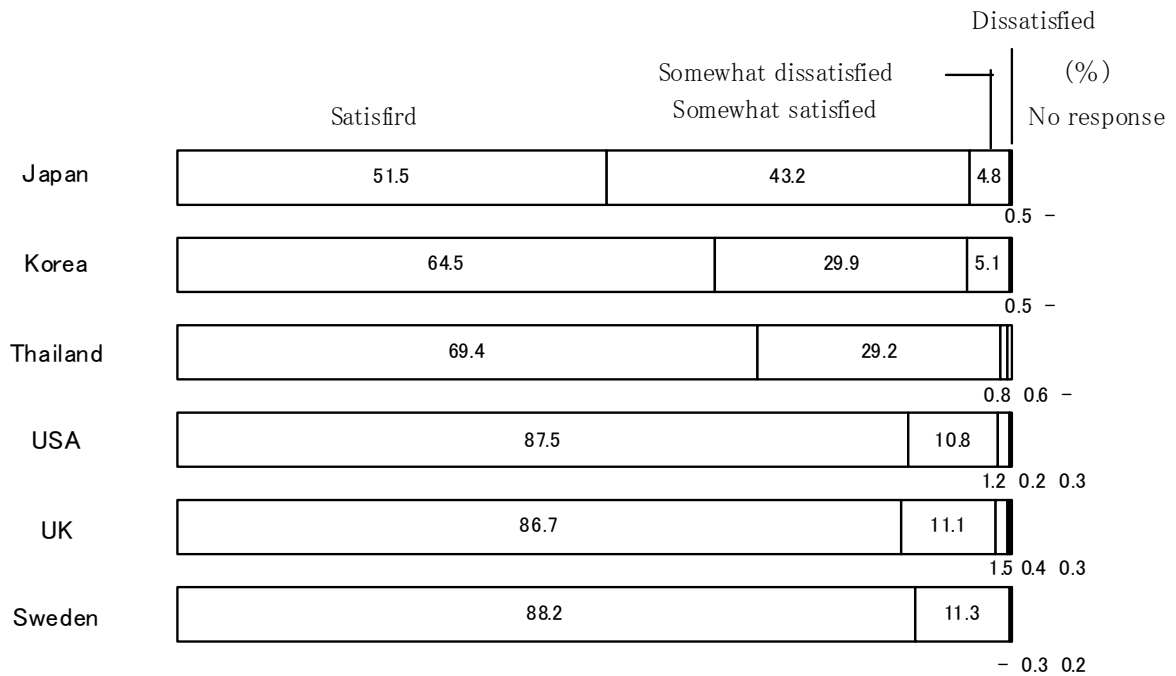


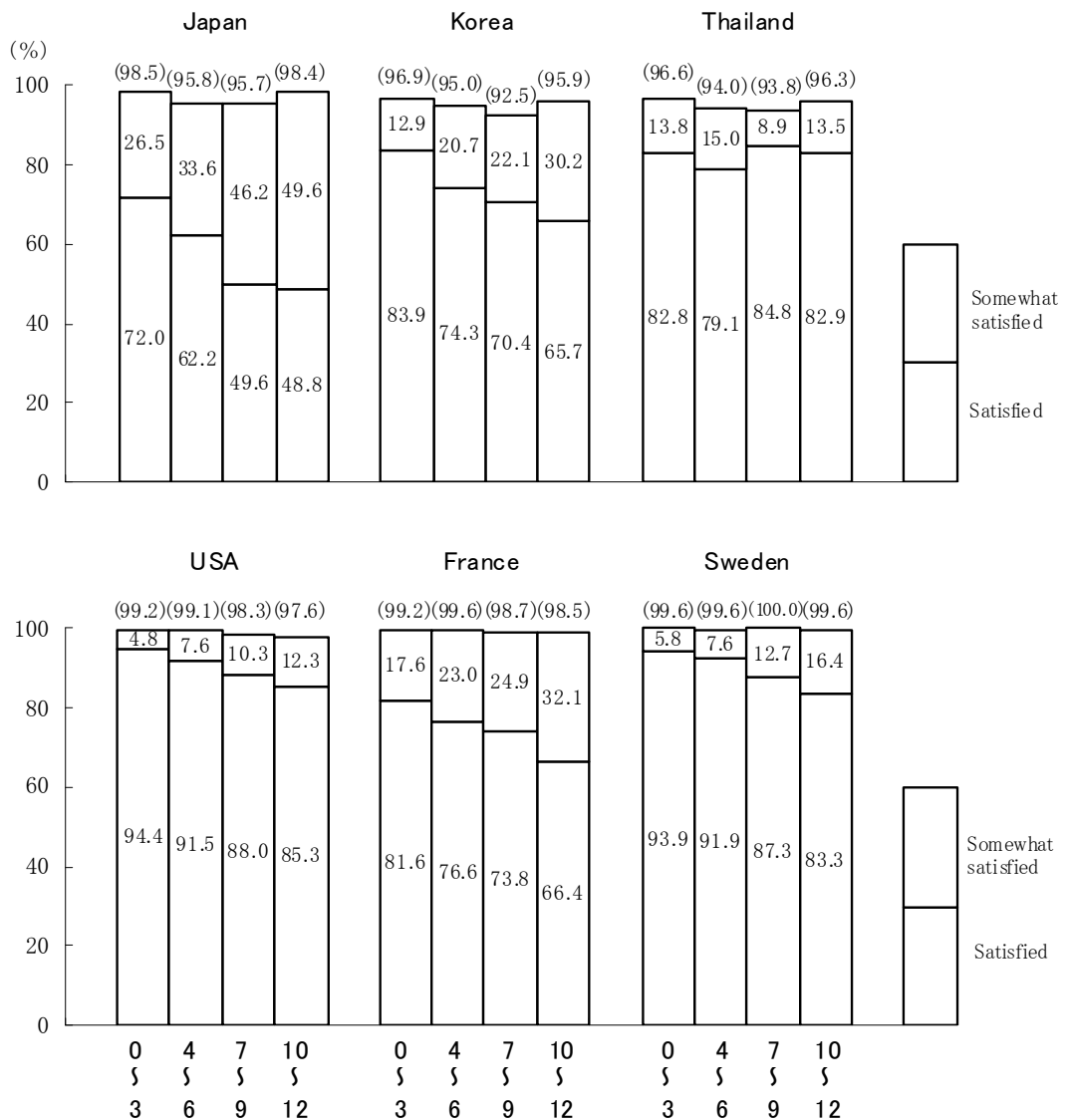
Fig. II-3-30 [1994] Satisfaction level with development of child



(Japan Association for Women's Education 1995)

To see by the age of children, there appears to be a trend that the younger the child, the larger number of parents are “satisfied,” and as children get older, the less number of parents feel “satisfied” in all countries except Thailand. Japan shows the strongest trend among the 6 countries, and Korea and France are also relatively strong. The trend is weak in the United States and Sweden.

Fig. II-3-31 Satisfaction level with development of child [ by child's age ]



## 9. The Ideal Number of Children (Q22)

Q22

In terms of your ideal, how many children would you like to have altogether?

1. only 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5 or more

Many parents in each country answered “2” as the ideal number of children they would like to have. For “3” children, Japan is the most (42%) among the six countries. As for “only 1” child, the highest is 14% in Thailand followed by 11% in the United States, and less than 10% in the other 4 countries. There seem to be slightly more parents in the three Western countries who indicated 4 or more children as the ideal number of children than the three Asian countries.

Compared with the research in 1994, Japan shows the most significant change among the six countries. The number of parents who answered 3 or more children as the ideal number has decreased about 15%, “only 1” has increased by 3%, and “2” children has also increased by 12%. Furthermore, the average number of children has decreased by 0.3 from 2.8 children in 1994 to 2.5 children in 2005, and it is the largest decrease among the six countries.

(Kazufumi Sakai)

Table II-3-4 The ideal number of children

(%) (person)

		Only 1	2	3	4	5 or more	No response/ don't	Average Number
Japan	1994	1.6	34.8	51.1	8.7	3.6	0.3	2.8
	<b>2005</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	Increase/ decrease	2.6	12.1	-9.6	-3.4	-1.8	0.0	-0.3
Korea	1994	6.9	54.2	26.2	9.4	3.3	0.1	2.5
	<b>2005</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>30.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
	Increase/ decrease	1.2	-4.0	4.5	-1.2	-0.8	-0.1	0.0
Thailand	1994	9.8	56.2	23.7	5.5	4.8	—	2.4
	<b>2005</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	—	<b>2.2</b>
	Increase/ decrease	4.0	2.6	-2.8	-1.9	-1.9	—	-0.2
USA	1994	9.4	40.7	29.1	11.2	8.6	1.0	2.7
	<b>2005</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>
	Increase/ decrease	1.2	0.3	-3.9	-0.9	0.6	2.7	0.0
France	1994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	<b>2005</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Sweden	1994	2.0	39.1	37.6	14.5	5.4	1.5	2.8
	<b>2005</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>
	Increase/ decrease	2.0	7.5	-2.6	-5.0	-0.7	0.0	-0.2

## Summary

### (1) Child Discipline

#### ① Children at age 5

In all countries, more than 80% of parents think that children are able to “greet people properly” at the age of 5. This trend is the same compared with the research in 1994. Between 70% and 80% of parents in Japan and Korea expect their children to be able to “eat with good manners,” while more than 90% of parents in all the other countries expect their children to do the same. Japan and Korea show relatively lower percentages for this item. This is almost the same trend as the previous research results. As for “be able to keep herself/himself clean,” Thailand shows the highest percentage of over 90%, followed by the United States and Sweden, with both more than 80%. Though not as high as Thailand, the United States, or Sweden, Japan is 78% and has increased more than 10% from the previous research of 1994. As for “be able to clean up after playing,” Thailand and the United States are the highest with more than 80%, and Japan, Korea, France, and Sweden are between 60% and 70%.

Overall, parents in Thailand made the most answers for what “a child could do alone at the age of 5.” The answers for all the items total more than 90% except 82% for “be able to clean up after playing.” For all the items, Thailand is in the first place for the number of answers among the six countries.

Japan’s percentages for “be able to greet people properly” and “be able to eat with good manners” are the lowest of all the six countries, while “be able to keep herself/himself clean” and “be able to clean up after playing” are in 4th place among the six countries. In general, the percentages of answers for what “a child could do alone at the age of 5” made by Japan and Korea are relatively low.

Comparing the results by gender of children, in Japan, more expectations are placed on girls than on boys in all the items. This difference is not quite seen in the other five countries. This result is also similar to the previous research results in 1994.

When comparing by the age of children, all five countries except Thailand show lower percentages of children who can actually “clean up after playing” than what the parents expected. Thailand’s trend is different from the other five countries because children in Thailand are actually doing more than their parents’ expectations in all the items of the questionnaire. There are large differences between the 0~5 and 6~12 age groups in every item for the United States, therefore it also indicates that children are not as able to do things by themselves as compared to what their parents expect. Korea shows a

small gap between parents' expectations and reality.

## ② Children at age 15

More than 85% of parents in all six countries believe that their children would “be able to keep surroundings clean and tidy” and could “observe rules appropriate for the time, place, and occasion.” Around 80% of parents expect their children be able to “prepare meals for the family” in Thailand, Sweden, and the United States, while the expectation is low between 40%~50% in France, Japan, and Korea. The percentage in Japan has decreased from 63% from the 1994 research to 55%. The expectation for children to “earn money by doing a part-time job” is 80% in the United States and is by far the highest among the countries. The percentages for Sweden and Thailand are 40%, 30% in France, 10% in Japan, and less than 10% in Korea. Overall, Japan and Korea show relatively low percentages for what a child should do alone at the age of 15.

There is almost no difference by gender of the child for the items “be able to keep surroundings clean and tidy” and “observes rules appropriate for the time, place, and occasion.” While the greater expectation is placed on girls than boys for the ability to “prepare meals for family” in all the countries, Japan shows by far the largest difference of 28 percent between girls and boys.

Focusing on the expectation for boys to be able to “prepare meals for the family,” the highest are Thailand (82%) and Sweden (81%), followed by the United States (73%).

Compared with the previous research in 1994, both girls and boys are believed to becoming less able to “prepare meals for family” in Japan.

(Hiroe Nakano)

## (2) Expectation for Children

The highest rated items that parents have “strong expectations” for their children in each country are as follows: “clearly state his/her own opinions” is the highest in Japan, “has own goals in life” in Korea, “be masculine (male) or feminine (female)” in Thailand, “be concerned about others and will help a person in need” in the United States and Sweden, and “be obedient to his/her parents” in France.

The other items that parents have “strong expectations” for their children in Japan are to “be able to work harmoniously with others” (2<sup>nd</sup>) and “be concerned about others and will help a person in need” (3<sup>rd</sup>). The things that are less expected by Japanese parents for their children are to “gets good marks at school” (8<sup>th</sup>), and “be successful when competing

against others” (9<sup>th</sup>). These results depict that Japanese parents expect their children to be able to clearly state his/her own opinions, to work harmoniously with others, and to be concerned about others as well as be willing to help a person in need, whereas the parents do not expect their children to be successful when competing against others and gets good marks at school.

In Japan, there is a higher expectation of parents for boys to “be masculine” than for girls to “be feminine” as can also be observed in Korea and Thailand. Moreover, Japanese fathers have a stronger tendency to expect their children to be “masculine or feminine” than mothers do. This trend is the strongest in Japan among the six countries.

In Korea, similar to Japan, parents’ expectations for children to “be successful when competing against others” (8<sup>th</sup>) and “get good marks at school” (9<sup>th</sup>) are relatively low. As regards a “very strong” expectation to “be masculine or feminine,” fathers tend to have higher expectation than mothers do, and a stronger expectation is placed on boys than girls.

In Thailand, while the highest percentage item with “strong expectations” is “be masculine (male) or feminine (female),” there is also a tendency to place stronger expectations on boys than girls for all the items except “gets good marks at school.”

In the United States, parents tend to have high expectations for children in all items. The strong expectation for children to “be masculine or feminine” is 60% as a whole and is the highest among the 6 countries, while there are no significant differences by gender of parents or by gender of children. In addition, parents in the United States expect their children to “get good marks at school” as the third highest percentage, whereas the percentages/expectations of the same item are low in Japan and Korea.

In France, the strongest expectation placed on children is to “be obedient to his/her parents” with the highest percentage, and similar to the United States, to “get good marks at school” is ranked in third place. Overall, there are no significant differences by fathers and mothers as well as by gender of children, however fathers tend to strongly expect more than mothers do that their children “be willing to accept responsibility and be a leader” and “be successful when competing against others.”

In Sweden, parents’ strongest expectation for children is to “be concerned about others and will help a person in need”, nearly 80% of parents having these “strong expectations.” Furthermore, the expectation seems to be higher for boys than girls, although the parents’ expectation for children to “be masculine (male) / feminine (female)” is only the eighth highest percentage and the most negative among the six countries. For

the other items, differences in expectations for boys and girls are quite insignificant. Mothers in Sweden tend to “very strongly” expect more than fathers do for their children, and this trend is the strongest in Sweden among the six countries.

### **(3)Parent’s Expectation for Child’s Future**

In all countries, parents “very strongly” expect their children to make “a happy home” as indicated by the highest percentages. For the second highest, parents expect their children to be “willing to help others“ in Japan, Korea, the United States, and Sweden, and parents in Thailand and France expect their children to have “high earnings.” The least expected by parents for a child’s future is “fame or celebrity status” that marked the lowest percentages in Japan, Korea, the United States, France, and Sweden. It is listed as the fifth highest in Thailand.

Even though the percentages are different, the order of what parents hope for their children’s future is exactly the same in Japan, Korea, and Sweden; in the order of the highest percentages, “a happy home,” “willingness to help others,” “put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work,” “high earnings,” “high status,” and “fame or celebrity status.”

Comparing the United States with Japan, Korea, and Sweden, the expectation to “put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work” is the fifth highest percentage in the United States, while it is the third highest in Japan, Korea, and Sweden. Many parents in the United States expect their children to gain “high earnings” and “high status” rather than to “put more emphasis on hobbies and leisure than work.”

Parents’ expectation for their children to obtain “high earnings” is the second highest percentage in Thailand and France. As for Thailand, the expectation for “willingness to help others” is the third highest and “high status” is the fourth highest. In France, parents’ expectation for their children to obtain a “high status” is the third highest rate and “willingness to help others” is the fourth.

Parents’ expectations are different by gender of children in Thailand; parents’ expectations for their children to obtain “high earnings,” “fame or celebrity status,” “high status,” and for “willingness to help others” are all expected more from boys than girls. Similarly in Sweden, parents expect more from boys than girls for “willingness to help others” and to make “a happy home.” In Japan, parents’ expectations are higher for girls than boys to make “a happy home.”

(Nami Otsuki)

#### **(4) Future Lifestyles that Parents Do Not Wish for Their Children**

Japanese parents responded that lifestyles they strongly do not wish for their children to have in the future are "to live with a same-sex partner as a homosexual couple," "to remain single for life," "to divorce while raising a child," "to have a child out of wedlock," and "to have no children." Korea shows high percentages for the same items as in Japan. In addition, Korea is a society with strong family norms, since the percentage is high in every item that is considered undesirable by the parents for their children. On the other hand, the overall percentages of parents in France and Sweden who consider any lifestyle as undesirable are low, therefore these societies have lenient family norms and are open to different family lifestyles. As to children living together with the parents after marriage, there is no intention of independence between the generations in Japan and Thailand, whereas there is a strong intention of independence in Sweden and the United States.

#### **(5) Expectation for A Child's Educational Attainment**

Many parents in Japan wish their children to go to "university/college" as shown by the highest rate. Approximately 25% of parents in Japan wish their children to go up to "high school." 20% of parents responded "junior college" for girls, hence there is a difference in parents' expectation depending on the gender of children. Compared with the research from 1994, the expectation for "high school" has increased from the 10% it was 10 years ago, therefore the parent's expectation for a child's educational attainment has declined in Japan. Especially for boys, it is clear that parents' expectation for their sons to go to "university/college" has decreased from 66% to 52%. In the other countries, many parents also expect their children to go to "university/college," thus parents' expectations for their children's educational attainments are high. Parents in Korea also expect their children to go to graduate schools, thus showing that parents' expectation for their children's educational attainment is especially high. When compared to the results of the research from 1994, the educational expectation has somewhat decreased because parents' expectation for their children to go up to graduate schools has decreased while "university/college" has increased.

#### **(6) What a child means in life**

As to what a child means to a parent, we asked parents five related questions by selecting answers from four options to indicate how much they agree or disagree. The five

question items are: “raising children is fun”, “children strengthen family bonds,” “raising children costs money,” “children will be an emotional support in my old age,” and “children will be an economic support in my old age.” The four answer options are: “I agree,” “I partly agree,” “I don’t really agree,” and “I don’t agree at all.”

In Japan, the highest rate of parents who answered “I agree” to is that “children strength family bonds,” while the lowest rate is “children will be an economic support in my old age.” 94% of parents also answered “I agree” to the comment that “raising children costs money.”

In each country, the proportions of parents who answered “I agree” that “raising children is fun” are very high with more than 90%, except it is relatively low with 57% in Thailand. The percentage of parents who agree that “raising children costs money” is relatively low only in Sweden with 67%. The percentage of parents who agree that “children will be an economic support in my old age” is remarkably high and more than 80% in Thailand, whereas the percentages of the same are low in the other countries.

(Hideki Watanabe)

### **(7) Ideas about Child Discipline**

For the question item, “it’s okay to hit a child, as long as you do it with love,” there are clear trends that the proportions of parents who responded “I agree (total)” = (sum of “I agree” and “I partly agree”; the same applies below) are high with more than 70% in the three Asian countries, whereas the proportions tend to be low in Western countries and less than 40%. Especially in Sweden, 94% of parents responded “I don’t agree at all,” showing a strong idea of refusal on this item since corporal punishment against children is prohibited by law in Sweden.

For the question, “it’s acceptable for a child to behave willfully,” the total number of “I agree” is more than 50% in the United States and Sweden. It is especially high in Sweden with greater than 80%. Korea is 20% in the total number of “I agree” and is the lowest among the 6 countries. Japan, Thailand, and France are all 30% and above.

There are many parents in Korea, Thailand, and Sweden who answered “I agree (total)” for the question “I want my child’s elementary school teacher to take a hand in teaching my child manners.” It is nearly 100% in Korea and Thailand and about 90% in Sweden. Japan, the United States, and France are 70-80%, and France is the lowest among the six countries.

As to the question “children aged 5 or under should not be left alone at home,” the proportions of parents who responded “I agree (total)” are more than 90% in all six countries. Taking a closer look at “I agree,” the rates of “I agree” in Japan and Korea are relatively lower than that of other countries. Japan shows the lowest rate for “I agree (total)” as well as the highest rate for “I don’ t agree (total)” among the six countries.

For the question “if I see a child doing something bad in the neighborhood, it’s good to scold that child, even if that child is not my own,” the proportions of “I agree (total)” are more than 95% in Japan, Korea, and Sweden. The United States is the lowest among the six countries with about 60% of parents who answered “I agree (total)”, and for only the “I agree” answer, Sweden has the highest percentage of 79% among the six countries.

### **(8)Satisfaction Level with Development of the Child**

More than 95% of parents answered “satisfied (total)” with the development of their children in each of the six countries. Although 97% of parents in Japan are “satisfied (total)” with the development of their children, the proportion of “satisfied” is the lowest in the six countries with 59%, and “somewhat satisfied” is the highest with 39%.

Compared with the research in 1994, the proportions of “satisfied” have become higher in all five countries. Thailand especially shows the most significant change of a 13% increase of “satisfied.”

To compare by children’s age, there appears to be a trend that the younger the child, the larger number of parents are “satisfied,” and as children get older, the less number of parents feel “satisfied” in all countries except Thailand. Japan and Korea especially show the strongest trend among the 6 countries.

### **(9)The Ideal Number of Children**

Most parents in each country answered 2 children as their ideal number of children. For “3” children, Japan is the most (42%) among the six countries. Compared with the research in 1994, Japan shows the most significant change among the six countries. The number of parents who answered 3 or more children as the ideal number of children has decreased by about 15%, and “only 1” and “2” children have increased. These may symbolize the parents’ consciousness and Japan’s tendency for the decline in the birth rate.

As for “only 1” child, the highest is 14% in Thailand. There has been less of a significant change in Korea as in Japan, although both countries have the same problem of a decline in the numbers of births.

There seem to be slightly more parents in the three Western countries who indicated 4 or more children as the ideal number than the three Asian countries.

(Kazufumi Sakai)