

Research-date

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Investigation on the rearing
cost of children.

(a)

Report of the 1st. Survey in Feb. 1943.

by

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I. Object and Method of Survey.

A survey of family budgets, collecting reliable data for statistics, was conducted each year by the Statistics Bureau of the Cabinet. The matters covered by the survey included such items as expenses for rearing and for educating children. But, as the statistics were intended for a different purpose, they were not suitable for bringing out the expenses for rearing them and general living expenses, as classified by the number of children. This is the reason why the Institute of Population Problems specially carried out a survey of children-rearing expenses.

The first survey was conducted in February, 1943, in regard to the families of Primary School teachers. The families chosen for the purpose of this survey were those which consisted only of husbands and wives and children aged 12 years or less, without any other family members or lodgers. The survey also included the families of childless husbands and wives. The method of survey adopted was: Each family was required to enter on its Family Budget Book the details of the living expenses incurred during February, and by itself to collect and classify such details under specified items. The families, of which the details of living expenses were thus collected and classified under this first survey, number 1,651 in urban districts and 2,785 in rural districts, totaling 4,436 in the whole country.

II. An Outline of Families Surveyed.

To give an outline of all the families covered by the survey: In the number of children, the largest number of the families have two children each; in the amount of the monthly income of each family, the largest number of the families are in classes ranging from Yen 100 to Yen 120 each. In respect of urban districts, however, the mode of income classes

is between Yen-120 and Yen 140 each. The average number of children for each family is 2; this average, when childless families are excluded, increases to 2.4. The average monthly income for each family is Yen 127.53.

The incomes of families, generally speaking, increase in proportion to the number of their children, as is shown in the table given below. Contrary to this general observation, however, childless families draw larger incomes than one-child families. Again, it will be seen that the incomes of seven-children families are especially low. This is because the number of such families covered by the survey is extremely small, and also because all of them live in rural districts.

Table 1. Average Monthly Income Per Family
By Number of Children.

Number of Children	Average Monthly Income Per Family (In Yen)
0	119.91
1	118.08
2	125.97
3	133.37
4	142.95
5	143.49
6	154.54
7	134.08
Total Average	127.53

III. Changes in Basic Living Expenses of Families, Due to Differences in Number of Children.

Four main items of expenditure - those for housing, for food, for clothing, and for light and fuel - are assumed to constitute the basic living expenses of families. Changes in these expenses, classified by the number of children, are shown in the following table, by index numbers, childless families being taken as 100:

Table 2. Basic Living Expenses by Number of Children (Shown by Index Numbers with Childless Families as 100).

Number of Children	Whole Country	Urban Districts	Rural Districts
0	100.00	100.00	100.00
1	106.08	101.38	109.95
2	111.68	109.86	116.21
3	124.66	119.05	137.08
4	128.60	123.72	143.93
5	132.67	129.48	150.51
6	164.32	161.01	189.98
7	135.64	--	179.02

IV. The More the Children, the Worse the Dwellings.

When the above-mentioned basic living expenses are examined in respect of the detailed items composing them, the most noteworthy fact is that housing expenses, especially that part of them which is represented by house rents, decrease progressively in inverse proportion to the degree of increase in the

number of children. It may be said this fact shows that the increase in the number of children compels a lowering of the general living level of the families concerned. This condition of house rents is shown by index numbers in the following table:

Table 3. House Rents by Number of Children
(Shown by Index Numbers with
Childless Families as 100)

Number of Children	Whole Country	Urban Districts	Rural Districts
0	100.00	100.00	100.00
1	94.17	90.90	96.57
2	86.95	88.75	90.51
3	78.59	83.11	86.06
4	71.63	79.00	82.22
5	71.71	85.35	81.62
6	61.10	102.94	31.31
7	10.70	--	24.85

V. Parents' Sacrifices for Their
Dependent Children, as Shown
by Clothing Expenses.

As the number of children increases, sacrifices are imposed especially upon their parents. This fact is indicated most clearly by the clothing item in basic living expenses. The following table gives the index numbers, with childless and one-child families taken as 100, of clothing expenses divided into those for children, classified according to the number of children:

Table 4. Clothing Expenses by Number of Children (Whole-Country Average)

Number of Children	For Adults	For Children
0	100.00	1--
1	69.57	100
2	67.25	122
3	67.46	145
4	59.64	162
5	62.54	204
6	61.09	174
7	60.87	242

Note: This tendency is entirely the same in regard to classifications into urban and rural districts.

VI. Changes in Children-Rearing Expenses, Due to Increase in Number of Children.

Expenses for rearing children, such as the cost of milk and toys for sucking infants, expenses for education and extra-school lessons for school-children, etc.; in other words, total amounts of expenses for rearing children, excluding such expenses as those for food and clothing which are included in the above-mentioned basic living expenses of families, are given in the following table, classified according to the number of children, and shown by index numbers, one-child families being taken as 100:

Table 5. Children-Rearing Expenses by Number of Children (with One-Child Families as 100).

Number of Children	Whole Country	Urban Districts	Rural Districts
1	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	133.79	134.97	137.02
3	157.99	157.20	169.09
4	178.24	191.52	183.72
5	180.69	196.25	191.32
6	237.99	243.72	269.67
7	254.29	--	335.21

This tendency toward increase in children-rearing expenses, consequent upon the increase in the number of children, contrasts with the tendency toward increase in the incomes and basic living expenses of families mentioned above, as follows:

Table 6. Monthly Incomes, Basic Living Expenses and Children-Rearing Expenses by Number of Children (Index Numbers).

Number of Children	Incomes	Basic Living Expenses	Children-Rearing Expenses
0	100.00	100.00	--
1	106.15	106.08	100.00
2	111.75	111.68	137.79
3	124.73	124.66	157.99
4	128.69	128.60	178.24
5	132.65	132.67	180.69
6	164.34	164.32	237.99
7	135.66	135.64	254.29

VII. Many-Children Families' Budgets in Red.

Lastly, the ratio which the total of basic living expenses and children-rearing expenses mentioned

above bears to the amount of income is shown in the table given below. It will be seen that the budgets of families with many children are clearly in the red. Furthermore, it has to be noted that the said total of expenses does not include the so-called cultural expenses and other miscellaneous items and does not, therefore, represent the whole outlays of families.

Table 7. Ratio of Basic Expenditure to Income.

	(1) Average Income (Yen)	(2) Basic Living Expenses (Yen)	(3) Children- Rearing Expenses (Yen)	(4) Total (2)+(3) (Yen)	(5) Ratio to Average Income (5)/(1)
Total Average	126.64	83.71	22.24	105.95	0.84
0	118.48	73.21	--	77.21	0.62
1	118.20	77.66	15.95	93.61	0.83
2	125.11	81.76	21.34	103.10	0.82
3	132.04	91.26	25.20	116.46	0.88
4	141.82	94.15	28.43	122.58	0.86
5	140.73	97.13	28.82	127.95	0.87
6	154.54	120.30	37.96	158.26	1.02
7	134.08	99.30	40.56	139.86	1.04

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