

Research-data

B. No. 10 (b)

Investigation into the Rearing
Cost of Children
2nd Survey in November 1943

by

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I. Introduction.

This second survey was carried out in November of the same year in connection with the same objects and by the same method as had been the case with the first survey. The reason which prompted the re-examination was because of the variations consequent upon the change of the months under survey. As a result of the first survey, however, there were also some alterations made in connection with the particular items of survey; especially, in an effort to clarify the reasons why the unfavorable balance of living expenses was brought about; the total expenditures of families, in addition to their basic living expenses, were investigated in the second survey.

For the purpose, objects, and method of survey, refer to Research-data B. No. 10 (a).

The families subjected to the re-examination numbered 466 in urban districts and 1,174 in rural districts, totaling 1,640. Although the number of the families under survey decreased, the distribution of families, as seen in the light of the number of children and the amount of income, is of the same composition as in the first survey. In view of the fact, however, that the number of families with five or six children, which were surveyed, was too small, the results of collection and classification did not, in many cases, show a regular tendency in these two classes.

II. Outline of the Results of Survey.

The results of the second survey were sufficient to reaffirm those of the first completely. The principal facts which have been equally revealed by both surveys are as follows:

1.

1. That families living in urban districts are suffering from the difficulty of maintaining their living comparatively more seriously than those in rural districts;

2. That the more the children, the lower the house rent a family can afford to pay;

3. That the more the children, the greater the economization imposed on the clothing expenses of their parents; and

4. That the budgets of families either with many children or too small incomes are in the red.

We might be excused from the trouble of explaining each of these re-established facts with statistical figures. Since, however, the last-mentioned item about families being in the red constitutes one of the objects of the second survey, the results of examination have to be analysed hereunder at some length.

III. The Red Caused Not So Much by Increased Expenditure as by Insufficient Income.

The following table indicates the ratio of the total expenditure of families to their monthly income, classified by the income classes. It shows the relative difficulties of living on the part of urban families, especially the distress of those families in urban districts, whose incomes are too low.

Table 1. Ratio of Expenditure to Income by Income Classes.

Income Class (yen)	Whole Country %	Urban Districts %	Rural Districts %
under 60	93.9	—	93.9
60 — 80	90.3	—	90.3
80 — 100	89.6	137.8	88.4
100 — 120	86.2	117.2	83.1
120 — 140	89.3	109.7	82.0
140 — 160	86.0	98.1	75.0
160 — 180	86.7	93.1	76.0
180 — 200	81.8	91.3	62.6
200 & over	82.4	90.2	52.0
Total	86.8	98.4	80.8

As is evident from the following table, which gives the relationship between income and expenditure in regard to urban families as classified by the number of children, it may be assumed that their going into the red is caused not so much by the increase in the number of their children as by the shortage of their income.

Table 2. Percentage of Expenditure to Income by Income Classes and Number of Children.

Number of children	Income class (yen)					
	80 — 100	100 — 120	120 — 140	140 — 160	160 — 180	180 — 200
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	137.8	117.2	109.7	98.1	93.1	91.3
0	103.2	111.0	101.8	83.0	72.2	86.7
1	162.6	118.4	100.1	95.5	85.9	77.5
2	—	100.5	120.0	97.7	100.2	88.0
3	—	102.8	112.9	96.4	100.6	92.1
4	—	—	108.1	109.3	90.2	95.6

An analysis of the items of expenditure goes to confirm still more convincingly the above-mentioned assumption. It is an accepted rule that the ratio of children-rearing expenses to total expenditure increases more or less in proportion to the increase in the number of children. The accompanying table shows that this rule, which appears appropriate from the standpoint of common sense, is also convincing in the light of this survey.

Table 3. Ratio of Children-Rearing Expenses to Total Expenditure by Income Classes and Number of Children.

Number of Children	Whole Country %	Urban Districts %	Rural Districts %
Total	23.7	23.2	25.2
1	18.9	19.5	18.5
2	22.9	21.5	23.9
3	24.6	24.3	24.7
4	26.4	26.1	26.6
5	29.8	34.6	27.1
6	23.7	24.0	23.6

When the changes in the ratio of children-rearing expenses are considered by the income class, it becomes clear that this basic tendency applies only to families whose incomes exceed a certain level. As may be seen from the following table, it is in regard to families whose incomes are between ¥120 and ¥140 that the tendency toward an increase in the ratio of children-rearing expenses is clearly observable. One step below this level, as is the case with urban families, the ratio of children-rearing expenses tends to decrease as the number of children increases. With reference to families in rural districts, the same holds true of those with four or more children.

Table 4.

Table 4. Ratio of Children-Rearing Expenses to Expenditure by Income Class and Number of Children.

— Urban Districts —

Number of children	Income Class (yen)				
	100 — 120	120 — 140	140 — 160	160 — 180	180 — 200
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	19.6	25.4	24.6	23.3	22.3
1	21.1	21.1	17.5	21.7	13.7
2	17.1	28.5	23.0	18.4	17.9
3	11.1	25.4	27.2	23.1	23.8
4	—	25.5	26.4	26.9	25.4

— Rural Districts —

	Income Class (yen)				
	60 — 80	80 — 100	100 — 120	120 — 140	140 — 160
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	31.0	22.9	23.2	24.9	23.5
1	26.5	19.4	16.7	16.5	14.9
2	30.3	25.3	23.7	23.4	21.0
3	—	27.2	27.4	23.6	23.3
4	—	20.1	26.9	31.6	24.1
5	—	—	24.8	25.6	27.7

IV. Conclusion.

Whence comes the red? Is it because of too many children? Is it because of too small income? The foregoing statistical facts are not yet enough to lay down a final conclusion, but this much is clear that families with low incomes and with many children are making their "deficit" living at the sacrifice of the

children

children themselves. We have already learned that the increase in the number of children necessitates a lowering of the general standard of living, as is evidenced by the smallness of the house rent that can be afforded; and imposes sacrifices on their parents, as is shown by the curtailment of clothing expenses for adults. Now, we cannot but recognize the fact that sacrifices are demanded of children themselves. In other words, the sacrifices paid for bringing up children, which is compensated for by their happiness, is in this case compensated for by entailing sacrifices of their own.

(End)