

# Effects of Socio-Economic Status on Support Network of Child Rearing Women

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This paper aims to examine the effects of child-rearing women's socio-economic status on their child care networks. Previous studies on the determinants of social networks have confirmed that people with higher status have more varied networks than those with lower status. However, few studies have explored the determinants of child care support networks.

In this study, data from the Fourth National Survey on Family in Japan was analyzed. The target of analyses was a subset of married female respondents whose children were three years old or younger. Two type of child care support networks were assessed: (1) a person or an agency that the respondents could rely on when they were worried about child care and (2) a person or an agency that cared for the respondent's first child when he/she was younger than three years of age.

The findings from this study are as follows: (1) the academic background of the wife and her employment status influence the child-rearing norm, but her socio-economic status does not have a direct influence on the support network. (2) Wives' employment has a direct positive effect on the use of public services for child-rearing. (3) Traditional child-rearing norms have a negative influence on the use of public services for child-rearing. (4) Husbands' income restricts the traditional child-rearing norm. These results show that the process of formation of child care support networks differs from the formation of social networks that are based on sociability and friendship. The implications of these findings are discussed.