

## Diversity of Childcare Support Networks: Focusing on the Combination of Domestic and Public Sphere

Atsushi HOSHI

This study examines childcare support networks from the perspective of mothers, as well as the attributes of people who comprise these networks, with focus on societal relations in the domestic and public sphere.

An analysis of data on married women with children under age six, from Japan's Fifth National Survey on Family 2013, clearly shows the following: (1) The more years of education these women have, the less they rely on relatives for childcare support. (2) Help from mothers-in-law acts as a substitute for childcare support obtained through public institutions, such as nursery schools and public health centers. This tendency is particularly strong in places outside of densely inhabited districts. (3) Modern family norms limit childcare support networks to a narrow domestic sphere.

Defining the diversity of childcare support networks as the combination of societal relations in both the domestic and public sphere identifies issues that should be examined to enhance societal support for mothers raising children.