

Mothers' IT Use in Three-Generational Communications and its Impact on Support from their Parents

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Abstract

The main findings of the study are summarized as follows:
 (1) Mothers' longer usage of IT is related to more frequent communication about childcare with their parents via IT
 (2) Mothers' IT communication with their parents/parents-in-law facilitate support from their parents/parents-in-law.

Objectives & Background

Objectives:

- How mothers' IT use for intergenerational communication affect receiving support from their parents/parents-in-law
- How mothers' and their families' characteristics influence intergenerational communication via IT

Background:

- Over 50% of adult children living apart from their parents use IT to contact their parents and one-third of them to send digital pictures to their parents (NTT Communications, 2012)

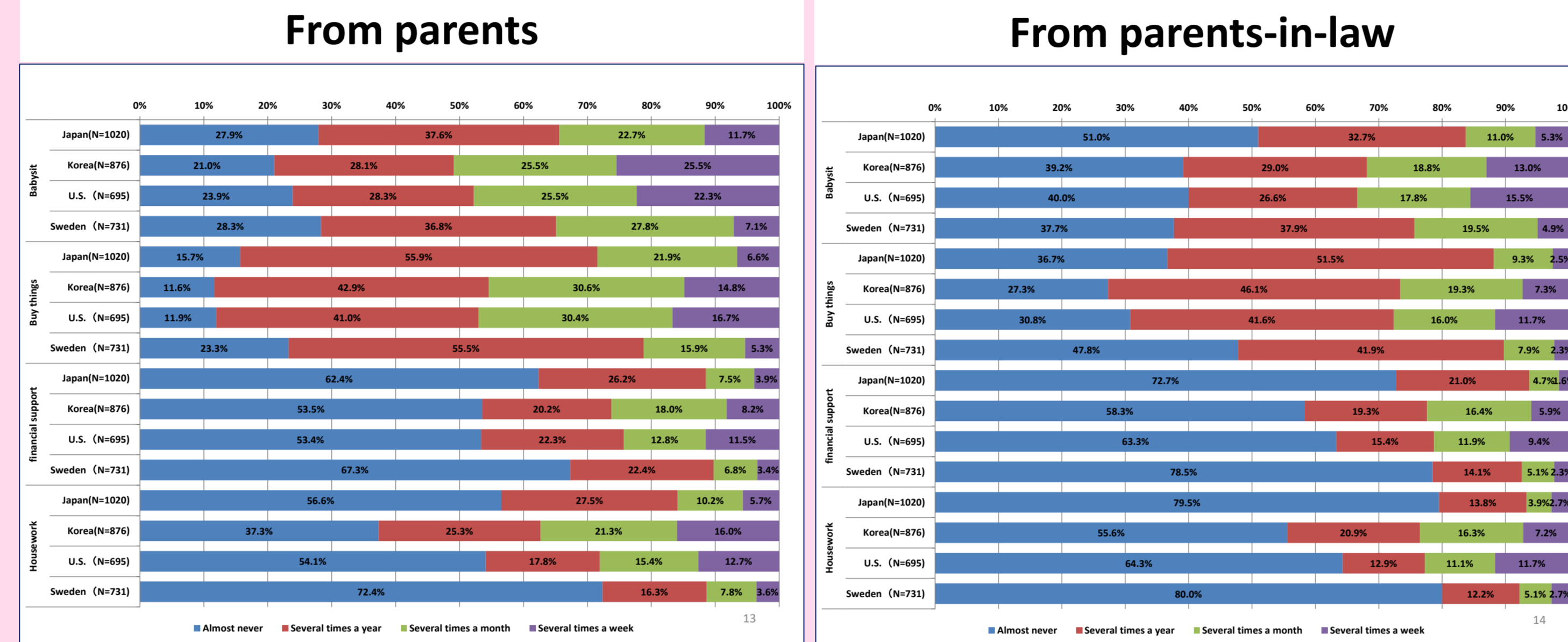
Method & Sample characteristics

- Web questionnaires conducted in 2016 and 2017
- Sample: Mothers with preschoolers, where both grandmother and grandmother-in-law are alive
- **Japan: Less work hours, Korea: High educational level, the U.S.: High educational level & Young, Sweden: Long work hours & use nursing service**

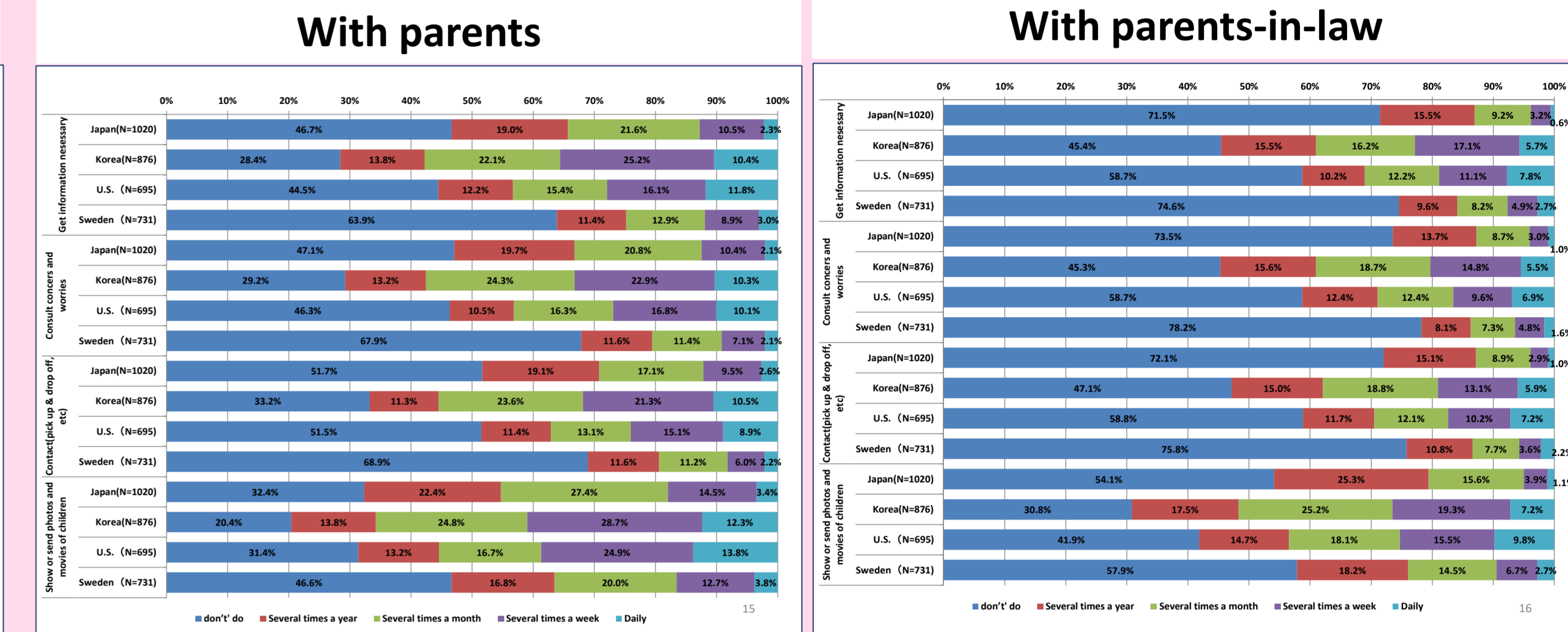
	Japan(N= 1020)			Korea(N= 876)		
	Mean	Range	S.D.	Mean	Range	S.D.
Age	35.34	22-48	5.14	35.38	20-48	3.89
Educational Years	14.53	9-18	1.76	15.41	9-18	1.56
Work Hours	2.10	0-14	3.19	5.44	0-15	3.97
Number of Children	1.68	1-6	0.77	1.63	1-5	0.71
Using of nursing services	0.49	0-1	0.50	0.71	0-1	0.45
Age of youngest child	3.20	0-7	1.95	3.21	0-7	1.88
	U.S.(N= 695)			Sweden(N= 731)		
	Mean	Range	S.D.	Mean	Range	S.D.
Age	32.93	20-48	5.07	33.41	20-49	5.85
Educational Years	15.64	9-18	2.04	14.35	9-18	2.08
Work Hours	6.56	0-24	5.96	6.60	0-23	3.30
Number of Children	1.89	1-6	0.93	1.96	1-6	0.96
Using of nursing services	0.56	0-1	0.50	0.96	0-1	0.20
Age of youngest child	2.57	0-6	1.52	2.53	0-7	1.87

Blue: Mean is significantly low ($p < .05$), Red: Mean is significantly high ($p < .05$)

Results-1: Receiving Support



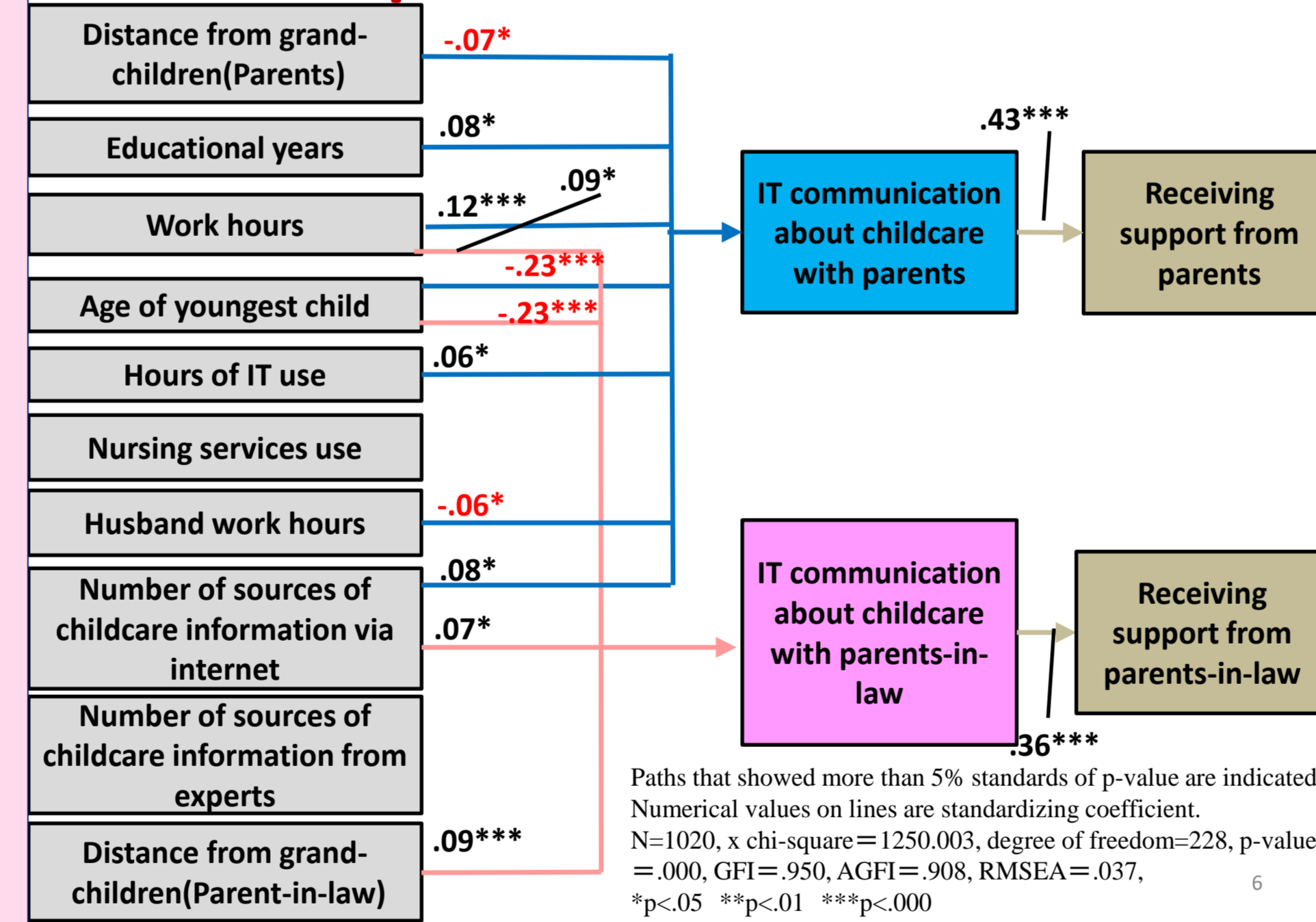
Results-2: IT communications about childcare



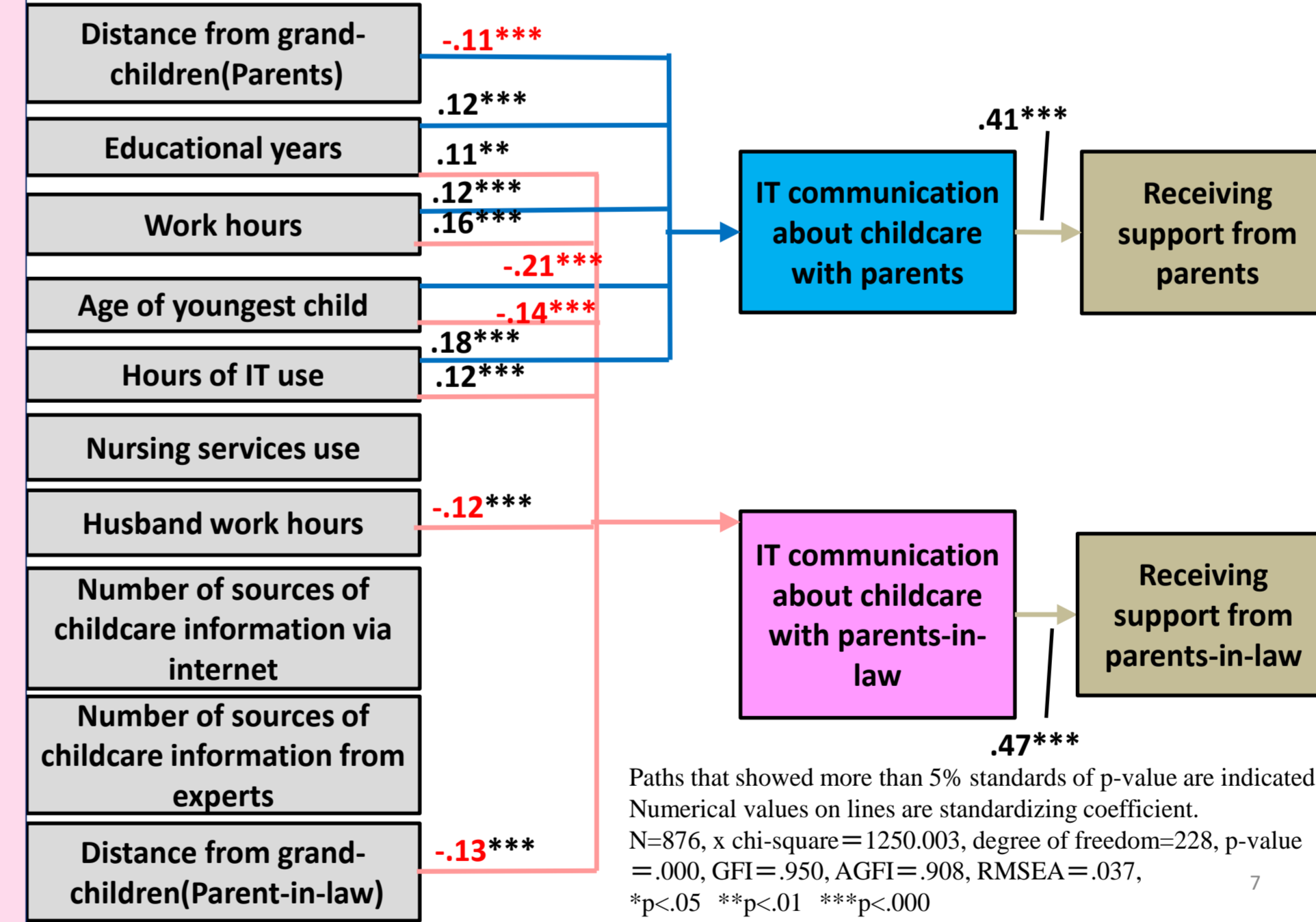
Japan & Sweden: Less support from parents/parents-in-law, **Less IT communication** with parents/parents-in-law
Korea & U.S: Frequent support from parents/parents-in-law, **Over 10% of mothers communicate daily** with parents via IT

Results-3: Path Analysis(multi-group structural equation modeling)

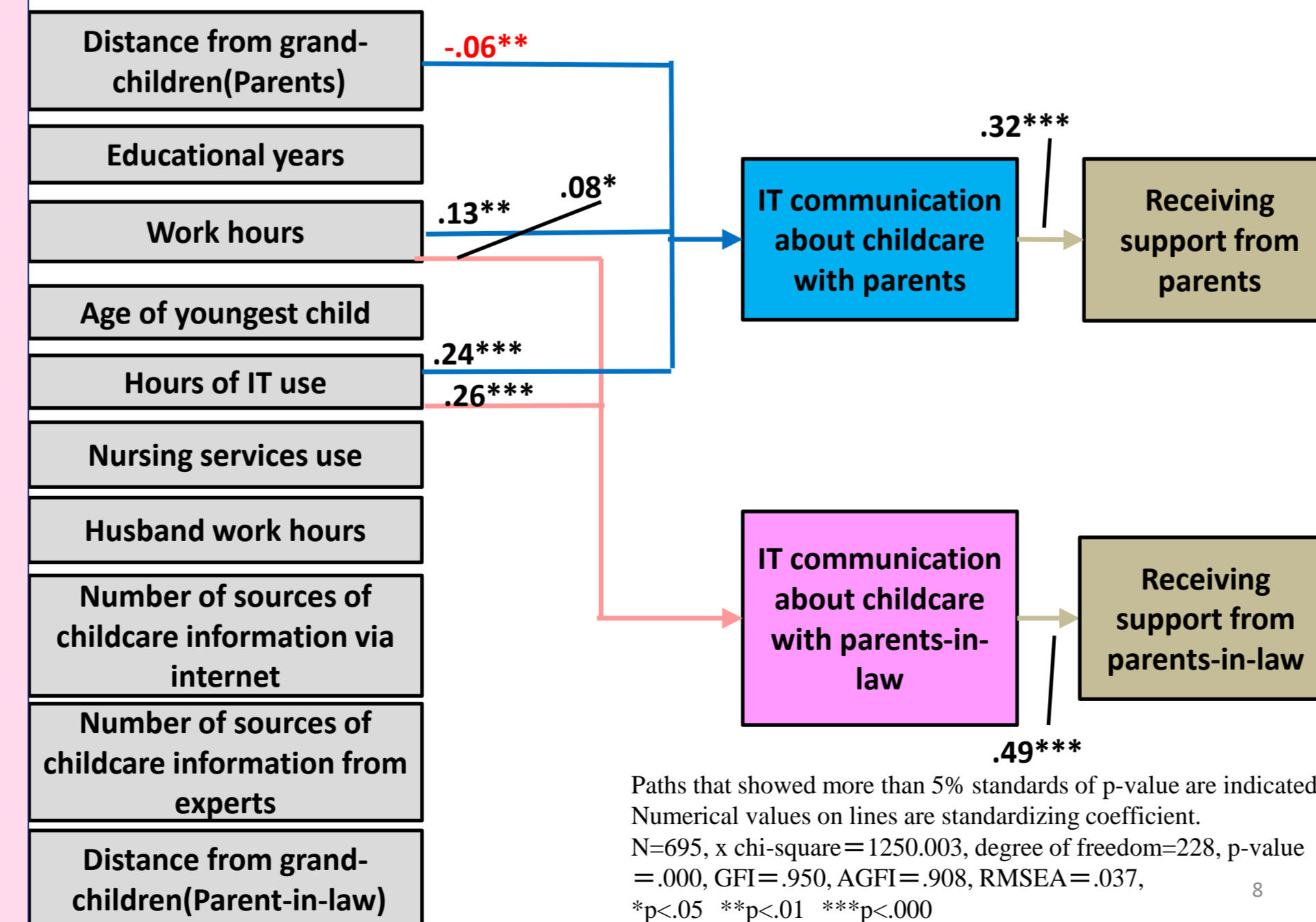
Results: Japan



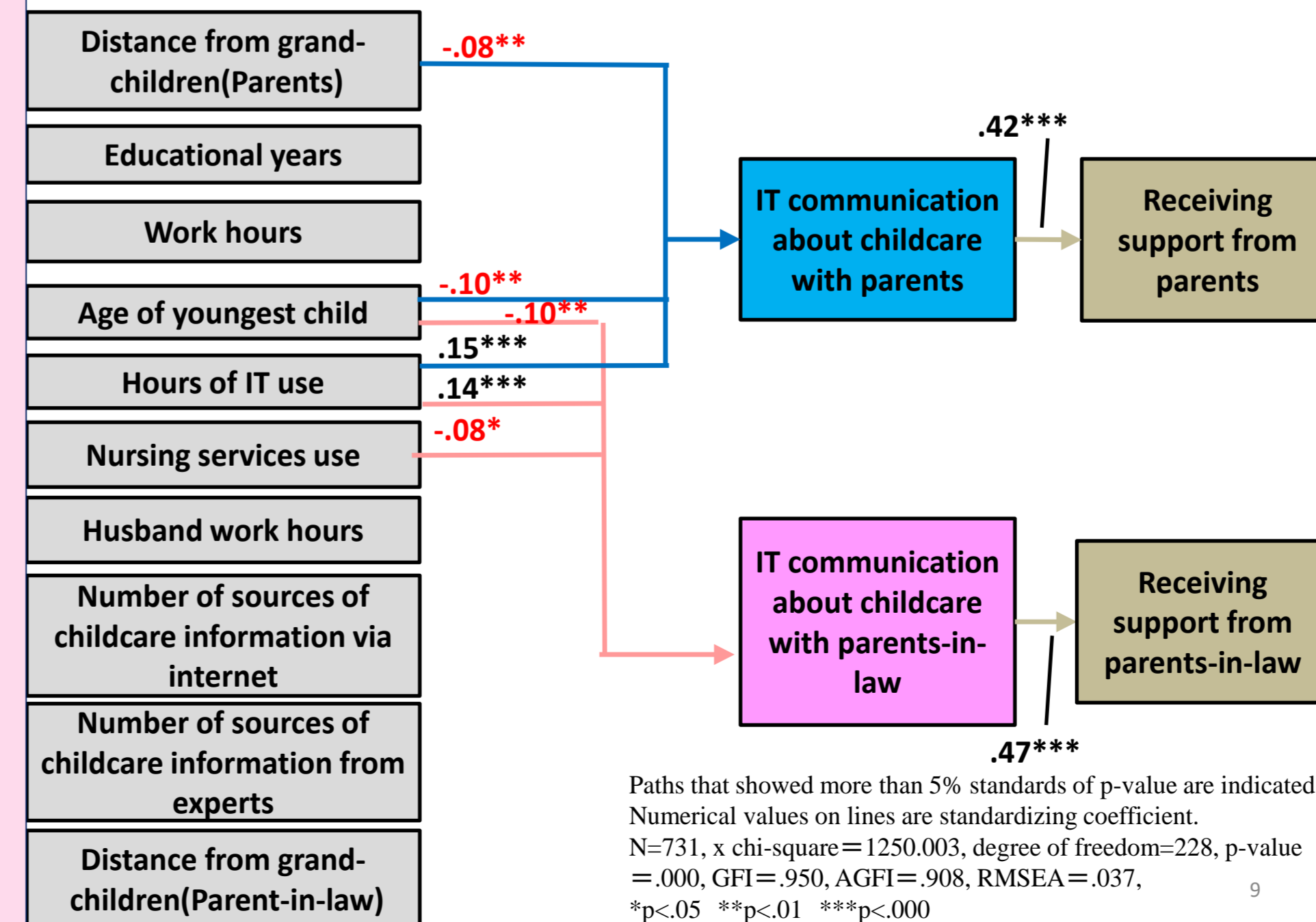
Results: Korea



Results: U.S.



Results: Sweden



Findings & Conclusion

Similarities

- IT communication with parents/parents-in-law ⇒ (+) receiving support from parents/parents-in-law
- Mothers' usage of IT ⇒ (+) IT communication about childcare with their parents.

Differences

- Japan, Korea, & U.S.: **Mothers long working hours ⇒ (+) IT communication with parents/parents-in-law**
- Japan, Korea, & Sweden: **Age of youngest child ⇒ (-) IT communication with parents/parents-in-law**

Conclusion

- The effect of IT use on intergenerational exchanges has been shown
- **Governments' childcare policies effect intergenerational IT communication**
- **IT communication is becoming similar to face-to-face communication**

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