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# The Effect of Mothers' IT Use on Maternal Fulfillment and Anxiety over Children's IT Use among Dual-Earner Families

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This study examines how Japanese and U.S. mothers' communication and information gathering about child care through ICT tools are related to maternal fulfillment and anxiety over letting children use ICT tools. From multi-group path analysis, more frequent communication with husband via ICT tools may increase maternal fulfillment.

## OBJECTIVES

This study examines :  
How mothers' use of ICT for communication with their husbands , coworkers and friends and information gathering purposes are related to maternal fulfillment about childcare and anxiety over children's ICT Use.

## BACKGROUND LITERATURE

- Many parents now use the Internet, to support their child's emerging digital skills and interests in ways that are responsive to children's needs, and build safety considerations (Livingstone et al.,2017).
- Higher level of child care difficulty promotes mother's ICT use including information gathering(Okamura, 2017).

## METHOD & SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

- The data were collected from web questionnaire in 2016- 2017.
- Sample: Mothers with preschoolers aged 20 to 49 years (Entrepreneurs, owners and employed workers)

	JAPAN N=351				U.S. N=674			
	Mean	Min	Max	SD	Mean	Min	Max	SD
Age	35.66	23.00	48.00	5.18	33.54	20.00	49.00	5.14
Educational Level (Year)	14.80	9.00	18.00	1.80	15.98	9.00	18.00	1.85
Number of Children	1.64	1.00	6.00	0.74	1.99	1.00	6.00	0.97
Hours of ICT Use(Min.)	147.15	15.00	1080.00	107.92	375.37	15.00	1080.00	209.75
Frequency of Childcare	39.91	0.00	49.00	9.57	41.95	0.00	49.00	8.57
Frequency of ICT Communication with Husband	2.34	0.00	16.00	3.57	4.07	0.00	16.00	5.23
Frequency of ICT Communication with People in Workplace & Friends	1.31	0.00	12.00	2.68	2.91	0.00	12.00	4.11
Frequency of ICT Use for Gathering Childcare Information	15.07	4.00	20.00	8.84	12.03	4.00	20.00	4.54
Maternal Fulfillment about Childcare	16.64	5.00	25.00	2.82	23.05	8.00	25.00	2.82
Anxiety over Children's ICT Use	11.90	3.00	15.00	2.51	12.17	3.00	15.00	2.46

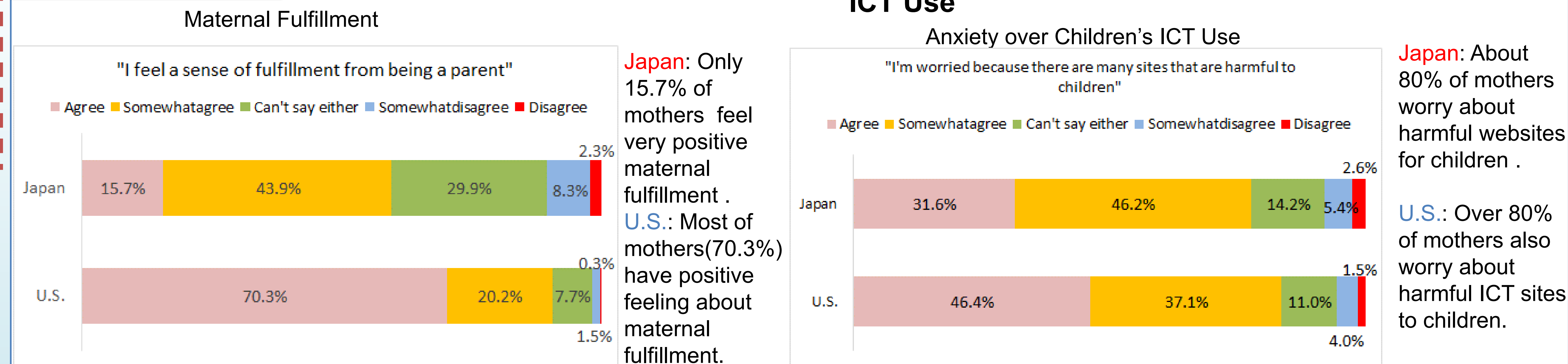
Blue : Mean is Significantly low ( $p<.05$ ),Red : Mean is Significantly high ( $p<.05$ )

**Japan:** Relatively low communication via ICT tools with husband and friends.

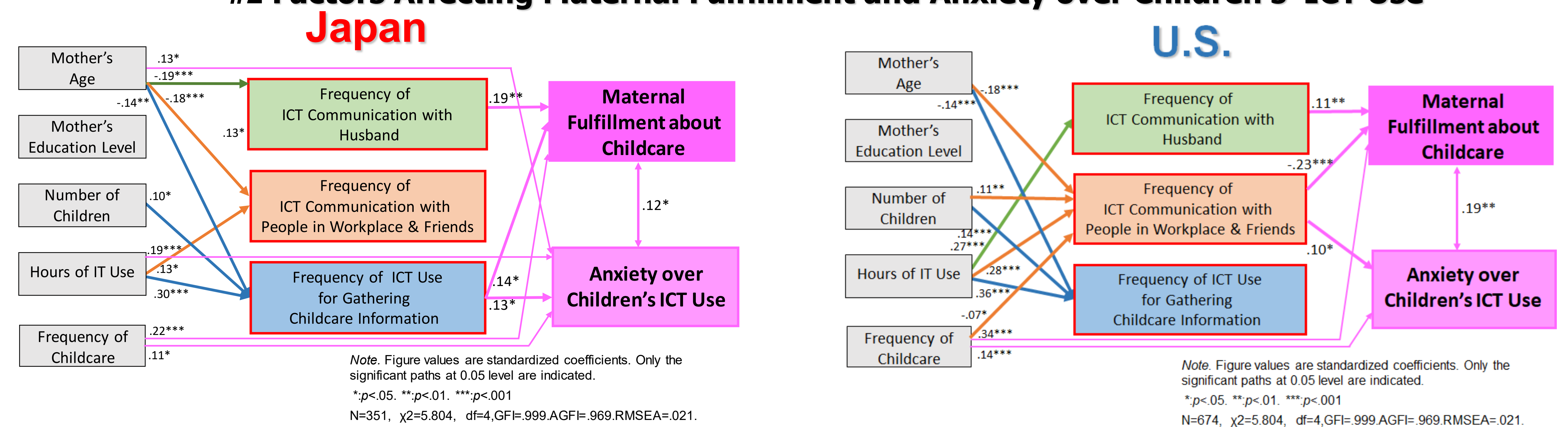
**U.S.A.:** Anxiety over letting children use ICT is the same level as Japan.

## RESULTS

### #1 Differences Between Japan and U.S.: Maternal Fulfillment and Anxiety over Children's ICT Use



### #2 Factors Affecting Maternal Fulfillment and Anxiety over Children's ICT Use



- ✓The frequency of communication via ICT tools with husband and ICT use for gathering information positively predict maternal fulfillment.
- ✓The longer hours of ICT use and frequency of ICT use for gathering information positively predicts anxiety over children's ICT use.

- ✓ The frequency of communication via ICT tools with husband positively predicts maternal fulfillment.
- ✓ The frequency of communication via ICT tools with people in workplace & friends and frequency of childcare positively predicts anxiety over children's ICT use.

## CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- Both Japanese and U.S. mothers use the ICT for communication with husbands about childcare, and mothers get cooperation from fathers about childcare. Japanese and U.S. mothers consequently improve maternal fulfillment. It is implied that Japanese and U.S. mothers enjoy childrearing with husbands through using ICT Tools.
- Japanese mothers use ICT tools less frequently compared to U.S. mothers. However, both Japanese and U.S. mothers are concerned about the children's ICT use regardless of ICT usage time. They understand the convenience of using ICT, but do not know about educational effect on children by using ICT.
- For both Japan and U.S., more frequent child care may lead to maternal anxiety over letting children use ICT tools . The anxiety may represent mothers' commitment to childcare. Opportunity for learning children' ICT use should be provided for parents.

References: Livingstone et al.,2017,"Maximizing Opportunities and Minimizing Risks for Children Online : The Role of Digital Skills in Emerging Strategies of Parental Mediation ," *Journal of Communication*, 67 :pp.82-105.  
Okamura,R.2017, "Mother's Use of IT Devices for Child Rearing and Their Perceived Fulfillment in Life," *Kazoku Syakagaku Kenkyu* 29 (1):pp.7-18.  
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