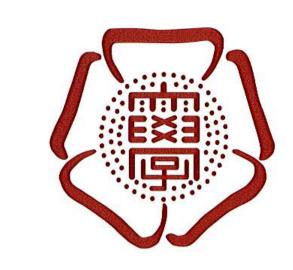


Tokyo Woman's Christian University

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

70.3%

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Ochanomizu University

of mothers also

harmful ICT sites

worry about

to children

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

- 1. 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).
- 2. 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)

| IADAN N-254 |  |   |  | LLC NL CZ4   |   |  |   |
|-------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| JAPAN N=351 |  |   | U.S. N=674   |  |   |  |   |
| Mean        | Min  | Max   | SD   | Mean   | Min   | Max  | SD  |
| 35.66       | 23.00  | 48.00   | 5.18   | 33.54  | 20.00   | 49.00  | 5.14  |
| 14.80       | 9.00   | 18.00   | 1.80   | 15.98  | 9.00  | 18.00  | 1.85  |
| 1.64        | 1.00   | 6.00  | 0.74   | 1.99   | 1.00  | 6.00   | 0.97  |
| 147.15      | 15.00  | 1080.00   | 107.92   | 375.37   | 15.00   | 1080.00  | 209.75  |
| 39.91       | 0.00   | 49.00   | 9.57   | 41.95  | 0.00  | 49.00  | 8.57  |
| 2.34        | 0.00   | 16.00   | 3.57   | 4.07   | 0.00  | 16.00  | 5.23  |
|             |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |
| 1.31        | 0.00   | 12.00   | 2.68   | 2.91   | 0.00  | 12.00  | 4.11  |
|             |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |
|             |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |
| 15.07       | 4.00   | 20.00   | 8.84   | 12.03  | 4.00  | 20.00  | 4.54  |
|             |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |
| 16.64       | 5.00   | 25.00   | 2.82   | 23.05  | 8.00  | 25.00  | 2.82  |
|             |  |   |  |  |   |  |   |
| 11.90       | 3.00   | 15.00   | 2.51   | 12.17  | 3.00  | 15.00  | 2.46  |
|             | 35.66<br>14.80<br>1.64<br>147.15<br>39.91<br>2.34<br>1.31<br>15.07 | Mean       Min         35.66       23.00         14.80       9.00         1.64       1.00         147.15       15.00         39.91       0.00         2.34       0.00         1.31       0.00         15.07       4.00         16.64       5.00 | Mean         Min         Max           35.66         23.00         48.00           14.80         9.00         18.00           1.64         1.00         6.00           147.15         15.00         1080.00           39.91         0.00         49.00           2.34         0.00         16.00           1.31         0.00         12.00           15.07         4.00         20.00           16.64         5.00         25.00 | Mean         Min         Max         SD           35.66         23.00         48.00         5.18           14.80         9.00         18.00         1.80           1.64         1.00         6.00         0.74           147.15         15.00         1080.00         107.92           39.91         0.00         49.00         9.57           2.34         0.00         16.00         3.57           1.31         0.00         12.00         2.68           15.07         4.00         20.00         8.84           16.64         5.00         25.00         2.82 | Mean         Min         Max         SD         Mean           35.66         23.00         48.00         5.18         33.54           14.80         9.00         18.00         1.80         15.98           1.64         1.00         6.00         0.74         1.99           147.15         15.00         1080.00         107.92         375.37           39.91         0.00         49.00         9.57         41.95           2.34         0.00         16.00         3.57         4.07           1.31         0.00         12.00         2.68         2.91           15.07         4.00         20.00         8.84         12.03           16.64         5.00         25.00         2.82         23.05 | Mean         Min         Max         SD         Mean         Min           35.66         23.00         48.00         5.18         33.54         20.00           14.80         9.00         18.00         1.80         15.98         9.00           1.64         1.00         6.00         0.74         1.99         1.00           147.15         15.00         1080.00         107.92         375.37         15.00           39.91         0.00         49.00         9.57         41.95         0.00           2.34         0.00         16.00         3.57         4.07         0.00           1.31         0.00         12.00         2.68         2.91         0.00           15.07         4.00         20.00         8.84         12.03         4.00           16.64         5.00         25.00         2.82         23.05         8.00 | Mean         Min         Max         SD         Mean         Min         Max           35.66         23.00         48.00         5.18         33.54         20.00         49.00           14.80         9.00         18.00         1.80         15.98         9.00         18.00           1.64         1.00         6.00         0.74         1.99         1.00         6.00           147.15         15.00         1080.00         107.92         375.37         15.00         1080.00           39.91         0.00         49.00         9.57         41.95         0.00         49.00           2.34         0.00         16.00         3.57         4.07         0.00         16.00           1.31         0.00         12.00         2.68         2.91         0.00         12.00           15.07         4.00         20.00         8.84         12.03         4.00         20.00           16.64         5.00         25.00         2.82         23.05         8.00         25.00 |

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 ICT Use Maternal Fulfillment Anxiety over Children's ICT Use Japan: About Japan: Only "I'm worried because there are many sites that are harmful to "I feel a sense of fulfillment from being a parent" 80% of mothers 15.7% of worry about Somewhatagree Can't say either Somewhatdisagree Disagree mothers feel Agree Somewhatagree Can't say either Somewhatdisagree Disagree harmful websites very positive for children maternal 43.9% 15.7% 29.9% fulfillment. 46.2% 31.6% U.S.: Over 80% J.S.: Most of

mothers(70.3%)

have positive

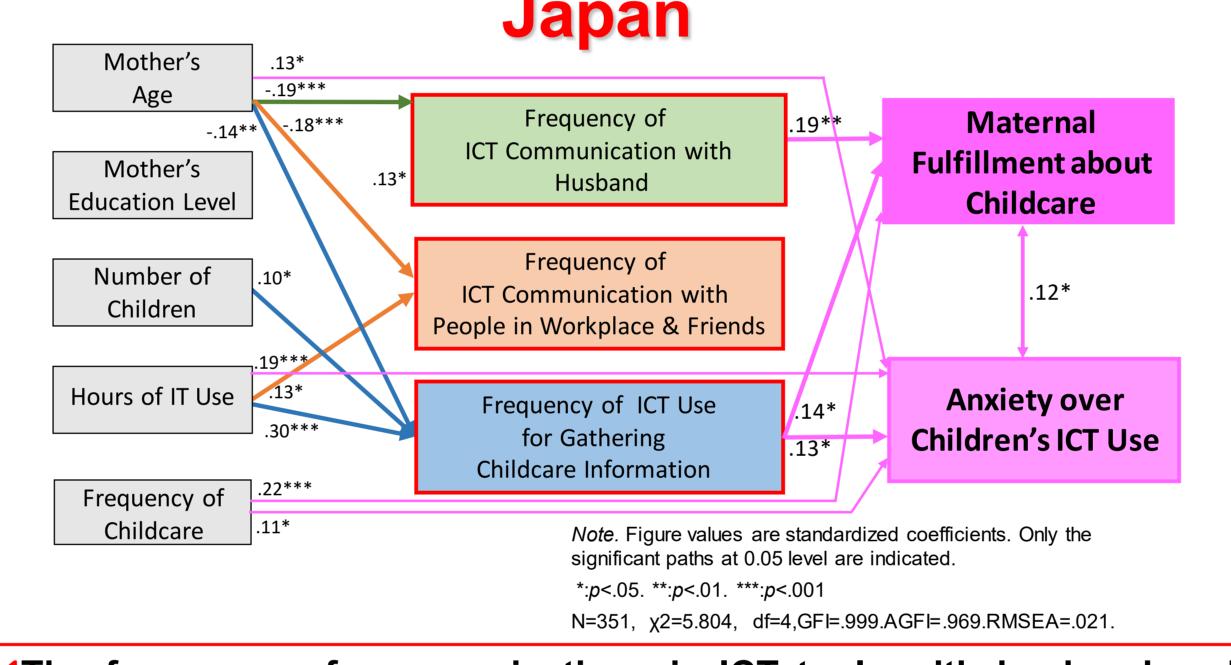
feeling about

maternal

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

46.4%

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



ICT use for gathering information positively predict maternal fulfillment.

information positively predicts anxiety over children's ICT use.

U.S. Frequency of Maternal ICT Communication with **Fulfillment about** Mother's Husband **Education Leve** Childcare Frequency of Number of ICT Communication with People in Workplace & Friends Hours of IT Use **Anxiety over** Frequency of ICT Use Children's ICT Use for Gathering Childcare Information Frequency of Childcare Note. Figure values are standardized coefficients. Only the

37.1%

✓ The frequency of communication via ICT tools with husband and 
✓ The frequency of communication via ICT tools with husband and positively predicts maternal fulfillment.

✓ The frequency of communication via ICT tools with people in ✓ The longer hours of ICT use and frequency of ICT use for gathering workplace & friends and frequency of childcare positively predicts. anxiety over children's ICT use.

# CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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 Syakaigaku Kenkyu 29 (1):pp.7–18. Acknowledgement: The authors gratefully acknowledges Professor Ishii-Kuntz for her permission to use the date, "Child Caring and Relationships with Family and Friends in ICT Society: A Cross-Cultural Comparison in Japan, South Korea, U.S. and Sweden," which was funded by the Grand-in-aid for Scientific Research, Japan.