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
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)

RESULTS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Fulfillment</td>
<td>Anxiety over Children’s ICT Use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agreement</td>
<td>Disagreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan: Only 15.7% of mothers feel very positive maternal fulfillment.</td>
<td>U.S.: Most of mothers (70.3%) have positive feeling about maternal fulfillment.</td>
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#2 Factors Affecting Maternal Fulfillment and Anxiety over Children’s ICT Use

- The frequency of communication via ICT tools with husband and IT 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.

CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS
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 children use ICT tools. The anxiety may represent mothers’ commitment to childcare. Opportunity for learning children ICT use should be provided for parents.


Okamura, R. 2017, “Mother’s Use of IT Devices for Child Rearing and Their Perceived Fulfillment in Life, Children, and Information Gathering(Okamura, 2017).”

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