

Clarification of employment patterns of wives (mothers) from the time of childbirth to return to work in the Tokyo metropolitan area

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[SYNOPSIS]

Many households, mainly in large metropolitan areas, are using both the childcare leave system and the use of childcare centers to balance child rearing and work, and it has been shown that the childcare leave system is particularly effective in helping full-time workers to continue working. However, most of the users of the above two systems are full-time workers. Therefore, two issues remain: First, how to continue working after the birth of a second child. The second issue is that of part-time workers. While it is still difficult for part-timers to balance work and child-rearing, companies have been offering more child-rearing support to full-time workers in recent years. However, it is difficult to get a glimpse of whether full-time or part-time workers are continuing to work, and it has not been possible to clarify whether they are really continuing to work at the same employer. In light of the current situation described above, the purpose of this study is to clarify the characteristics of wives (mothers) who are able to continue working by analyzing regional differences in the distribution of places of residence before and after taking maternity leave and the trends of continuation of employment through a questionnaire survey. The survey was conducted in the Tokyo metropolitan area, where the number of dual-earner households raising children has been increasing significantly.

First, we attempted to visualize the residential trends of dual-earner households raising children using GIS tools. The percentage of households with two workers raising children tended to increase year by year in all areas. It was also clear that most of the working households raising children were concentrated in central Tokyo. The questionnaire survey revealed that the majority of wives (mothers) who are able to continue working are full-time workers who mainly go to work. On the other hand, a small number of wives (mothers) have switched to telecommuting or part-time work.