

Chapter 1 Formulation of ‘Vision on Children and Childcare’

Section 1 Background of ‘The vision for the Children & Child Care’

1. Aiming at the Society for Supporting Children and Childcare

In the past, various plans were formulated and countermeasures were taken for the ‘countermeasures against declining birth rate’. However, it is difficult to realize as actual tangible results in a daily life. In the light of the current situation, the viewpoints described below are considered to be critical for continuing child and child care support measures hereafter.

- 1) The point of view to create a ‘society that values the children’, based on the philosophy of ‘children first’, which encourages for the children and child care in the society as a whole.
- 2) The point of view to change a perspective from the ‘countermeasures against declining birth rate’ to the ‘children and child care support’, and streamline the environment of education, work and life in the society overall which the individuals normally take for granted, from the viewpoint of the concerned parties such as the children and the parents who raise the children.
- 3) The point of view to promote the measures and the close coordination between the ‘Gender Equality’, ‘Work-life Balance’, ‘Children & Youth Development Support’ for taking ahead the ‘Children And Childcare Support’.

2. Reviewing Current Policies

The ‘Achievements of the society form to be aimed’ in the ‘Outlined Declining Birthrate Society Countermeasures’ (by the cabinet on June, 2004, hereafter referred as ‘old outline’) and the ‘Child and childcare support plan’ (decided by the Aging Society Policy Council on December, 2004) which determines the numerical target figure based on the ‘old outline’, are reviewed as described below according to the ‘User’s Intentions Surveys’ (March 2009).

(Achievements of ‘the society to be aimed’)

When the achievements for the ‘society to be aimed’ are reviewed, the review seems to be rigorous overall; especially, the reviews on ‘the society which enables the youth to have a strong desire to work and to be self-reliance’ and the ‘support for balancing work and family and revision of working styles’ are lowly evaluated.

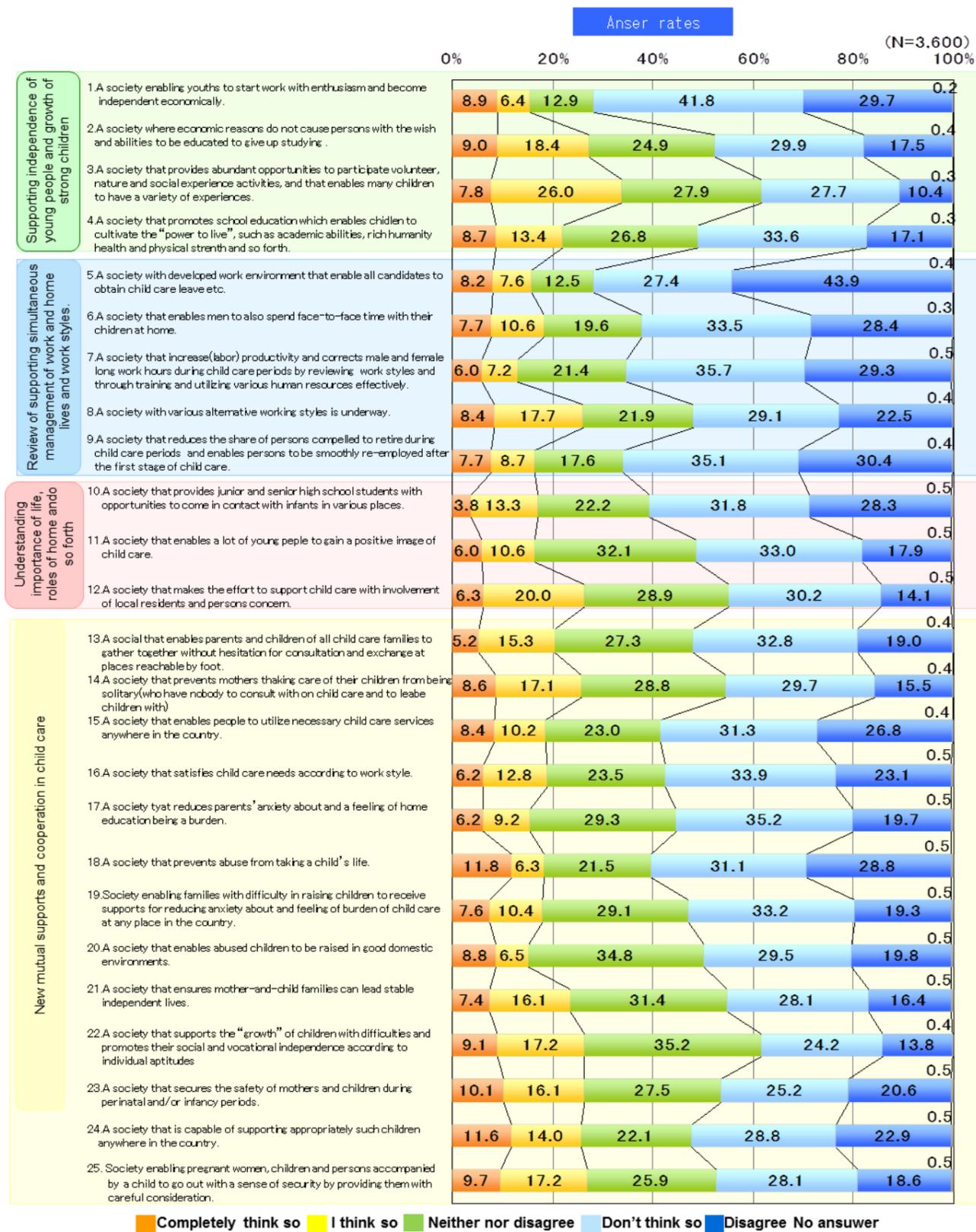
< The items with lowly evaluated. >

※The numbers are the total of ‘Not at all’ and ‘Disagree’

• A society enabling youths to start work with enthusiasm and become independent economically.	(71.5%)
• A society with developed work environment that enable all candidates to obtain child care leave etc.	(71.3%)
• A society that reduces the share of persons compelled to retire during child care periods and enables persons to be smoothly re-employed after the first stage of child care.	(65.5%)
• A society that increase(labor) productivity and A society enabling youths to start work with enthusiasm and become independent economically.	(65.0%)

Diagram

Degree of achievement of Ideal society



(Reviewing 'measures of the country')

Reviewing measures of the country to achieve the 'society to be aimed', the evaluations are overall rigorous. Specifically, the evaluations for 'measures of achieving Work-Life Balance' and measures of enhancing the pregnancy and delivery support system and the perinatal medical care system' are lowly evaluated.

< The items with lowly evaluated. >

※The numbers are the total of 'Not at all' and 'Disagree'

- Efforts to disseminate father program for promoting male participation in child care and so forth. (59.2%)
- Environmental improvement efforts toward realization of a good work-life balance such as in reducing (54.8%)
- Efforts to improve systems of pregnancy and child birth support and perinatal period medical care. (52.9%)
- Efforts to promote work environment improvements enabling people to continue work with a sense of security even after pregnancies and child birth. (50.4%)