

Special Feature Ties with the Others for Young People

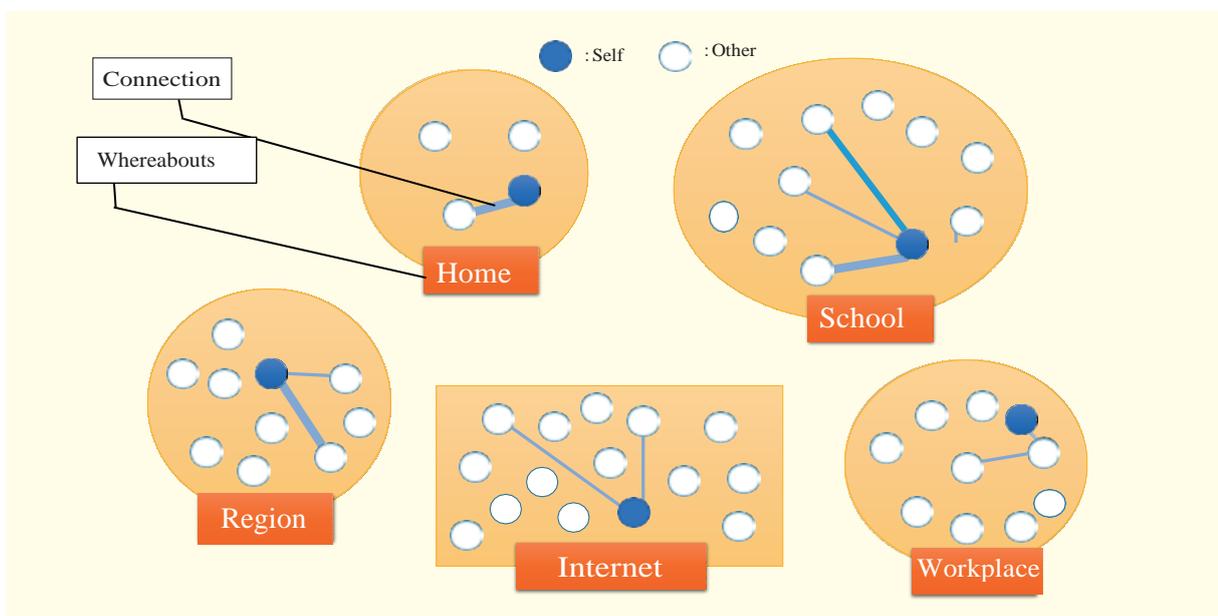
1 Introduction

- Any person from his/her birth passes through various stages of life such as early childhood, late childhood, early adolescence, adolescence and adulthood while being involved within society. In every aspect of life, people always build connections with others, help each other and go on living in ties with others.
- Young people, particularly, often face various problems during transition in life stages, like, for example, when moving on to higher learning or finding employment and the corresponding environmental changes related to these stages. It is considered that "the state of ties with the others" at homes, in schools and in the region has a very significant influence on his/her social growth and independence.
- On the other hand, among young people, there are some who find themselves in situations like cutting classes (remaining absent) or even staying indoors due to haven't been able to build or keep good interpersonal relations within groups at schools or at offices, and who do not seem to be encountering outstanding difficulties, but, remain isolated to do not have sufficient communication with their surroundings or are in situations where they do not have a person with whom they can open up to and share their worries. The main concern is that if such people continue to hold on to their problems alone, they might fall into a situation where they have a variety of complex problems.
- This special feature is based on the result of "Survey on the conscious of children and young people" (Internet survey targeted for 6000 men and women from 15 years to 29 years old in the whole country in December, 2016) conducted by the Cabinet Office in the Year 2016, considering the present problem related to the interpersonal ties of young people.

2 Outline of the Survey related to Ties with the Others for Young People

- In this feature, the interpersonal ties of young people is analyzed based on the following 2 aspects,
 - ① Existence of "whereabouts" as in a more comfortable place where one can feel relaxed.
 - ② State of ties with some other person who can be of help in consulting about worries and troubles.
- **Figure 1** is the conceptually expressed figure that shows the presence of the connection between oneself and others with the line connecting to both, with respect to each place such as the home, the school, the workplace, the region, and the internet space. Its strength is represented by the thick line (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1 Whereabouts and Connection

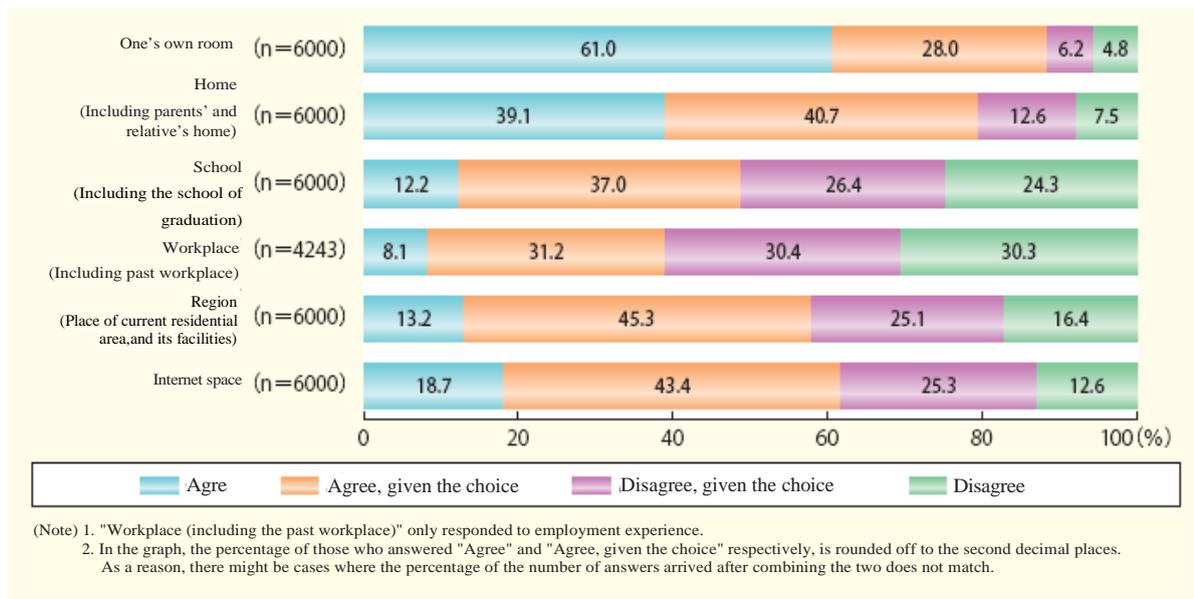


(1) Whereabouts of Young People and Situation of Connection with Other People

a Situation of Whereabouts

○ As for 6 places (①One’s own room, ②Home, ③School, ④Workplace, ⑤ Region, and ⑥ Internet space), if you see the ratio in the sense that each one of these is one’s whereabouts, then each of ①One’s own room (89.0%), ② Home(79.9%) and ⑥ Internet space (62.1%) have a comparatively high ratio (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Existence of Whereabouts

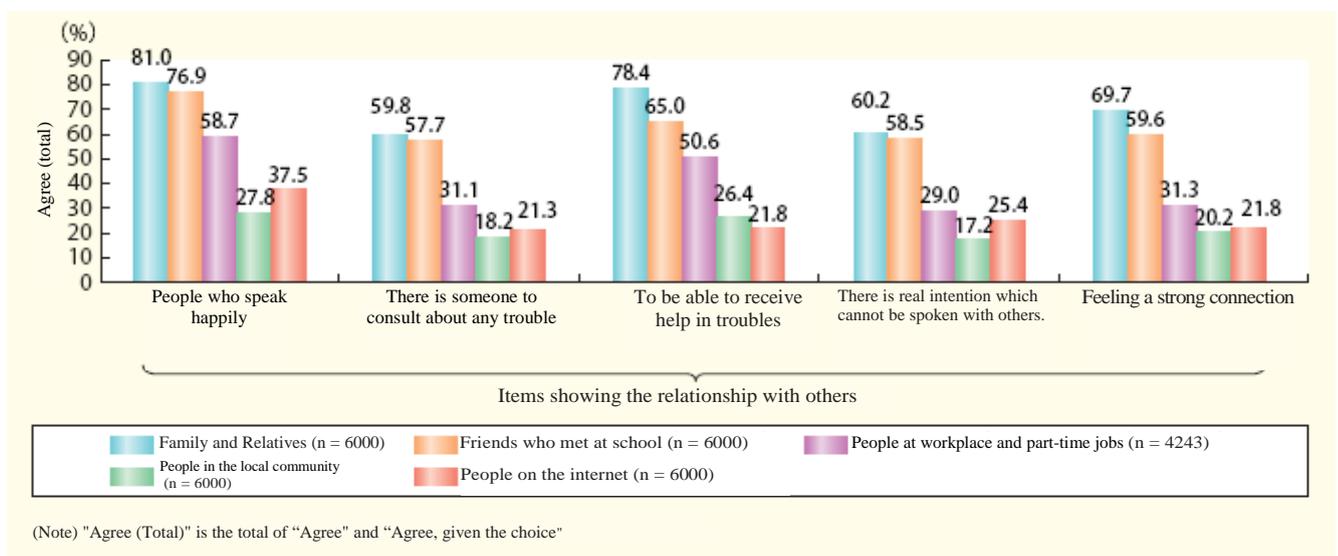


○ As for the 6 places, the average of the number of places in the sense that it is one’s own whereabouts is 3.7, and the people who answered that there are three or more whereabouts make up approximately 75% of the whole.

b Situation of Connection

- Targeted people for the connection is divided into five categories such as ①Family and relatives, ② Friends who met at school, ③People at workplace and part-time jobs, ④ People in the local community, and ⑤ People on the internet.
- Looking at the answers to the question asked regarding the strength of relationship with the other person shown in the five categories, there is a large proportion of young people feeling the strength of relationships ① with Family and relatives, and ② with the friends who met at school. This feeling of strength is due to the things such as having fun talking, consulting about troubles, sharing real intention. On the other hand, there is a large proportion of young people who feel that the ties with ④ People in the local community, and ⑤ with People on the internet are weak (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Strength of relationships according to target

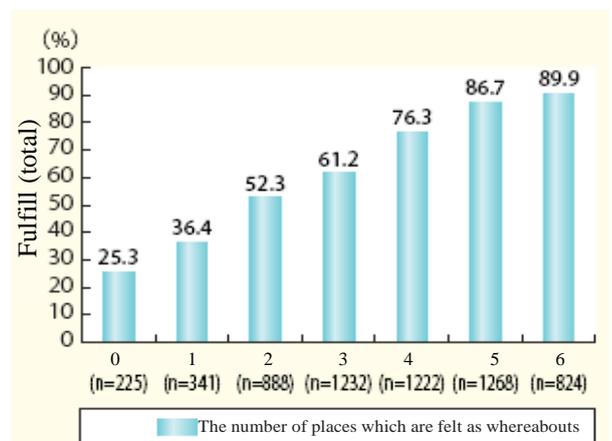


(2) Importance of Whereabouts and Connection

a The degree of fulfillment of the present life according to the number of whereabouts and the strength of relationship

- For all the 6 places, the respective proportion of respondents who feel that they are content in their present life is compared with the number of places where they feel as their whereabouts. This comparison depends on the number of places considered as one's whereabouts
- The number of those who answered that they are living a fulfilling life increases in proportion to the number of places they feel as their whereabouts (Figure 4).

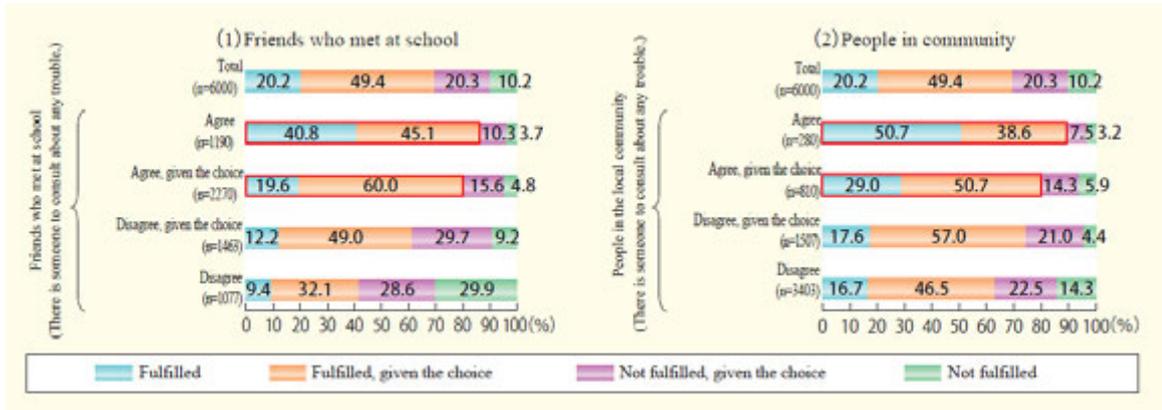
Figure 4 No. of whereabouts and the degree of fulfillment of life



(Note) Percentage of those who answered "Fulfilled", "Fulfilled, given the choice" in their present life by the number of places which they answered "Agree", "Agree, given the choice" with respect to the question asked that if it is their own whereabouts about the 6 places.

- Regarding the relationships with friends who met at school and people in the local community, the degree of fulfillment of the current life is considered depending on the answers given to the question “Is there anyone with whom you can consult about your troubles”. It is seen that in either type of relationship, the percentage of people who answered “they are fulfilled” among the people who think that they have someone to consult about their troubles is higher than that among the people who think that they don’t have anyone with whom they can consult about their troubles (Figure 5).

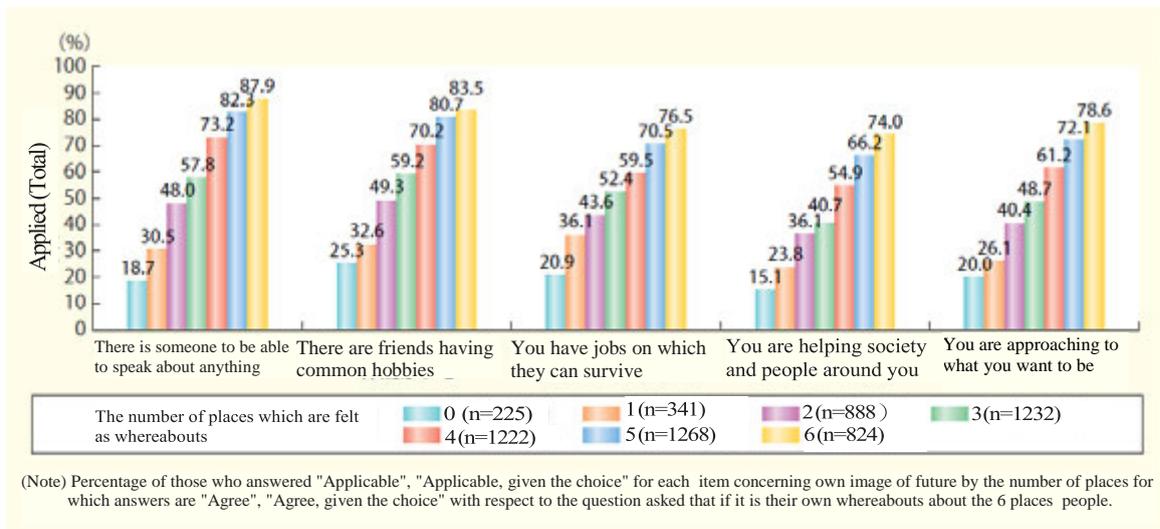
Figure 5 The degree of fulfillment according to recognition of relationship



b Own image of future according to the number of whereabouts and the strength of relationship

- With respect to the number of places that the people feel as their whereabouts and their own image of future, as the number of places where they feel as their whereabouts is increasing, the percentage of respondents who tend to draw positive image for their own future about independence of life, contribution to society, interpersonal relationships etc. is increasing (Figure 6).

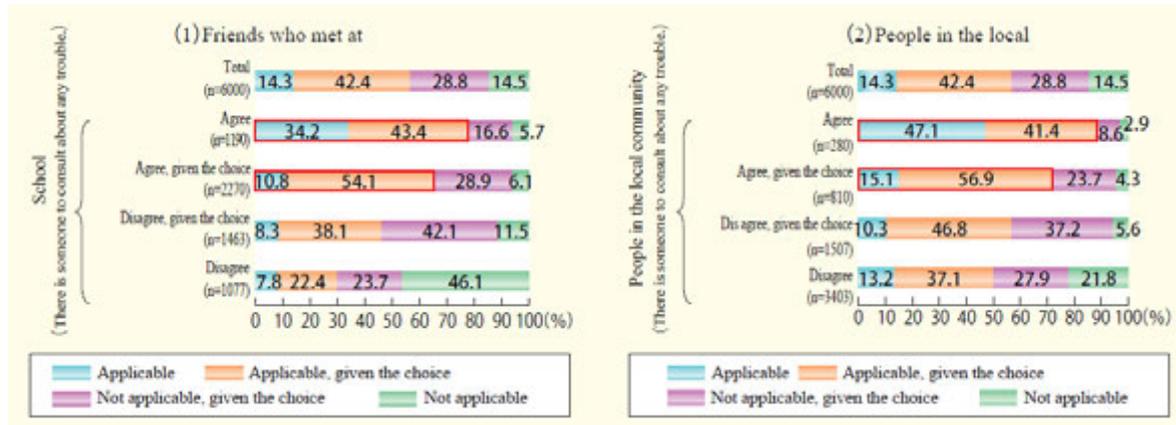
Figure 6 No. of whereabouts and own image of future (After 10 years)



- Considering the answer for the question “If you are approaching to what you want to be 10 years later?” by the answers for “Is there anyone with whom you can consult about your troubles?” in regards to the relationships with friends who met at school and people in the local community, it is seen that in either type of relationship, the percentage of people who answered that ‘they are approaching to what they want to be’ among the people who think that they have someone with whom they can consult about their troubles is higher than that among the people who think that they don’t have anyone with whom they can consult about their troubles (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Image of Future according to recognition of relationship (Approaching to one’s image of self 10 years later)

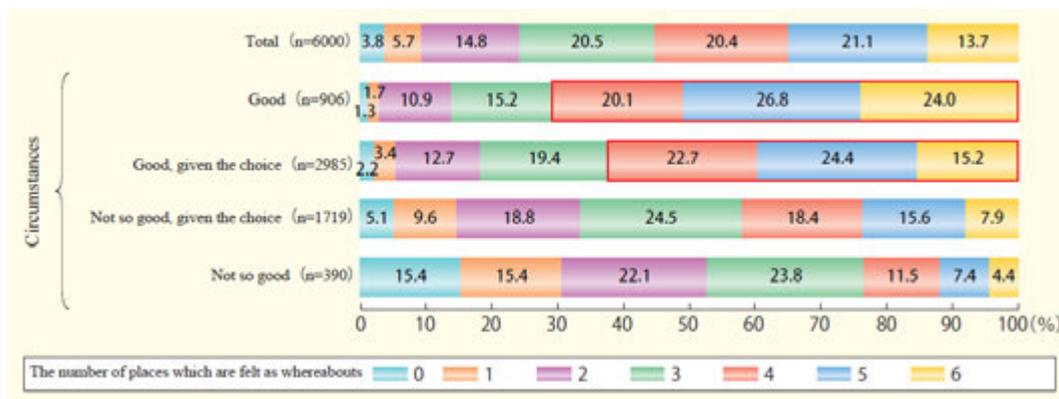


(3) What type of young people tend to go in isolation

a Relation with the circumstances

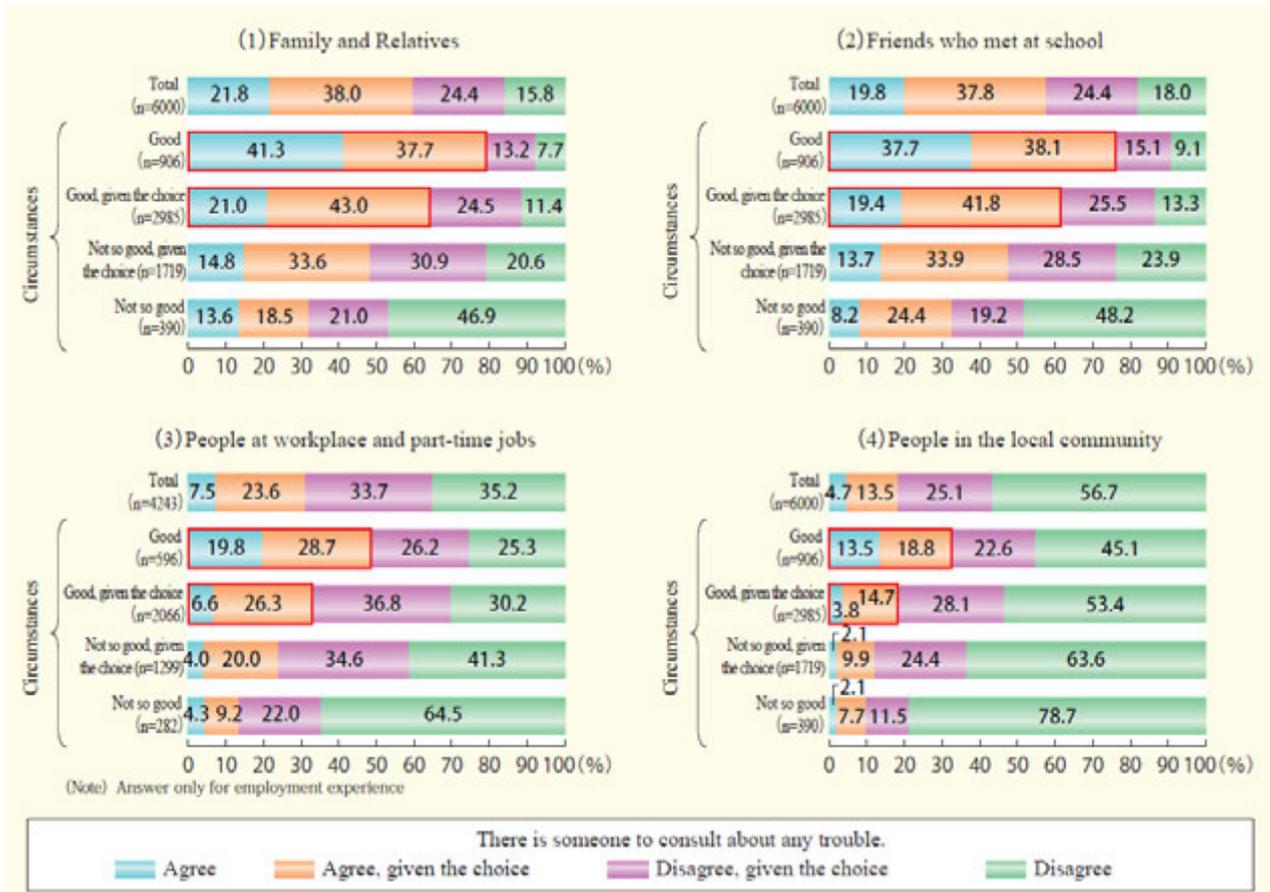
- Considering the proportion of the number of places that the people feel as their whereabouts from the 6 places by the recognition of circumstances at present, it is seen that the number of whereabouts of the people who feel that their present circumstances is good is more than that of the people who feel that their present circumstances is not so good (Figure 8).

Figure 8 Number of whereabouts according to the circumstances



- Considering the answer for the question “If there is someone with whom you can consult about any troubles?” by the recognition of circumstances at present, in regards to the relationships with family members and relatives, friends who met at school, people at workplace and part-time jobs, and people in the local community, it can be seen that in any type of relationship, the proportion of the people who replied “Agree / Agree, given the choice (Yes I think so)” among the people who feel that their present circumstances are good, are more than that among the people who feel that their present circumstances are not so good (Figure 9).

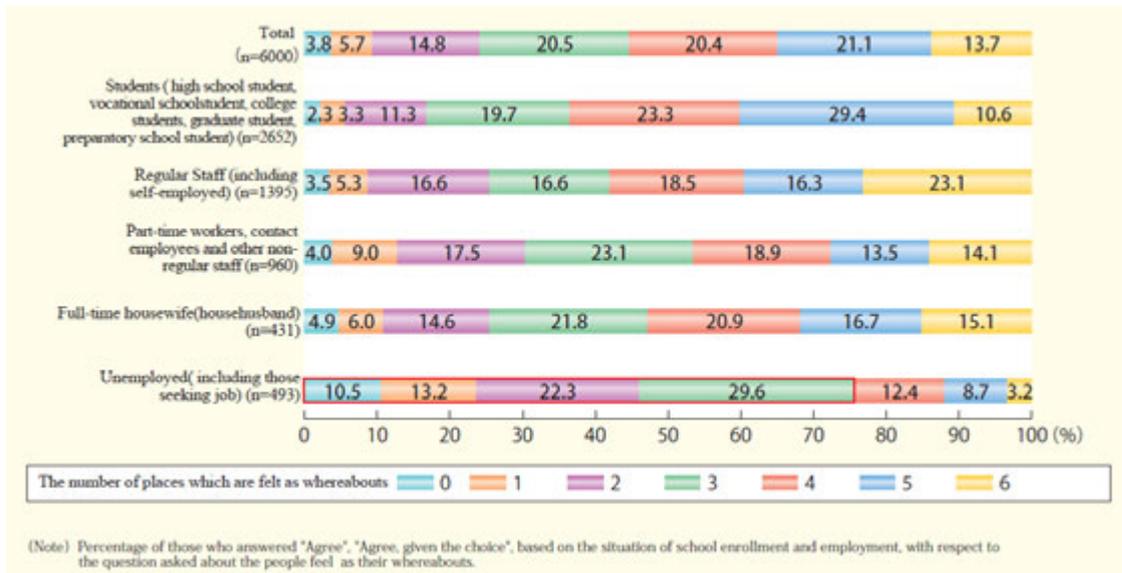
Figure 9 Recognition of relationships according to the circumstances



b Relation with school enrollment and employment

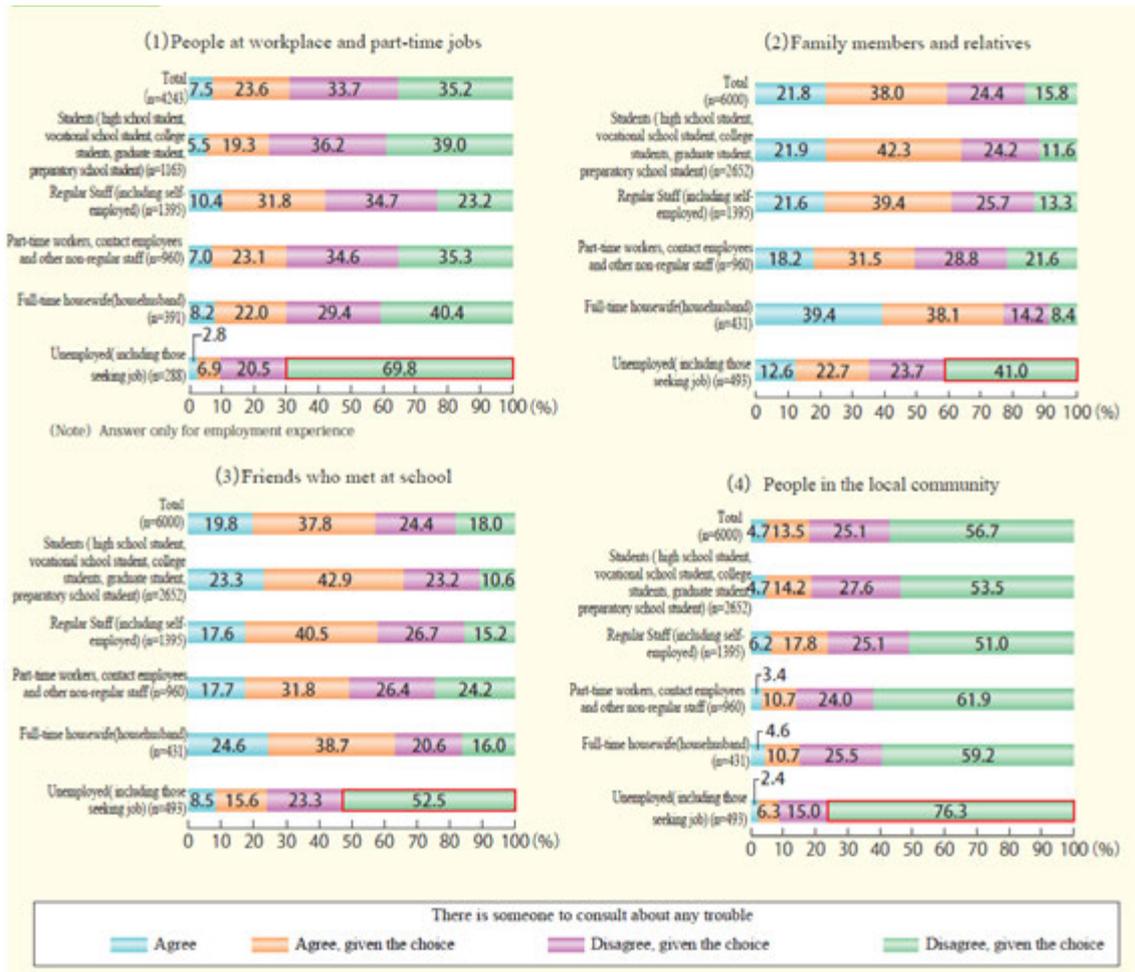
- Considering the proportion of the number of places that the people feel as their whereabouts from the 6 places by the situation of entering school and employment, it is seen that in case of unemployed people, the percentage of people having less number of whereabouts is higher than that of the other categories (Figure 10).

Figure 10 No. of whereabouts according to situation of entering school and employment



- Considering the answers for “If there is someone with whom you can consult about any trouble?” by the situation of school enrollment and employment in regards to the relationships with people at workplace and part-time jobs, family members and relatives, friends who met at school, and the people in the local community. It can be seen that in any type of relationship, the percentage of people who replied “Disagree / Disagree, given the choice (I don’t think so)” in non-employed category is higher than that of the other categories. (Figure 11).

Figure 11 Recognition of relationship according to the situation of entering school and employment



3 Measures for Preventing Isolation

- In order to prevent young people from falling into a difficult situation by dealing with their problem on their own, it is considered to be important for young people to have a more comfortable place other than one's home where he/she can relax. At the same time, it is also important to build the relationships with people who will support them in their difficult situation.
- The possibility of isolation is considered to be higher for the people who feel that recognition of the present circumstances is not good and the unemployed as compared to the other categories. Thus, in addition to economic support and employment support, the measures to create whereabouts and relationships to protect young people from isolation and to support the growth of them are in demand.
- To deal with these issues, it is greatly expected not only measures by the government but also the delicate measures to snuggle up young people and build the relationship with them by the private groups such as NPO Corporation.
- Lastly, we would like to cite some examples and conclude this special feature. The example explains the efforts of some groups to provide more comfortable place to relax and more opportunities to connect with variety of people from society for young people who are feared to become isolated from the society.
- Case Studies

Effort supporting the creating whereabouts and a chance for the young people in region

~NPO corporation With Yu" Membership tavern (Yui)" ~

NPO Corporation "With Yu" mainly targets Okitama area in Yamagata prefecture. This corporation is aiming to create a society where, especially they are working on independence support to young people who could not go to school as well who chose not to go to school and young people who feel that it is difficult to live in today's society, and anyone can live happily in one's own way. This corporation provides employment support and the support for reentering the school or changing the school through consultation, job training, and various independence support programs for the young people who have not worked for a long time, who are staying at home and don't want to be a part of society, and who find it difficult to go to or are no longer going to school such as upper secondary school.



(State of conclusion)

There is concern that people who have no whereabouts outside their house and have few opportunities to communicate with others are more and more estranged from the society. This corporation started the "Membership tavern (Yui)" for employment support of such young people.

Yui is a place where the young people, who do not have any work experience or who cannot step into the society easily, have an opportunity to get training for the employment. The people who understand and support the purpose of *Yui* will be a member and use this tavern. Because it is a tavern, the young people can get the opportunity to communicate with customers in relatively easy manner and can learn from the conversation the social skills that are necessary to get along in the society. And, the content of training can be adjusted according to the status of the skilled person, for example, the young people who are not good at communication are initially allotted the work in back yards such as cooking and dish-washing. Especially, the guest who visits

Yui became a member after understanding the purpose of this project, so the problem between the customer and the employee be often caused due to the personal service can be avoided. It is thought that because of such work environment, this tavern can act as a place where the young people training at this tavern are at ease and build the connections with the society. The mid-term work at *Yui* is a popular program among young people as a program that they can get the training for the fast growth and gives good results.

There are 35 young people who have left the *Yui* and started on their own since start-up of February 2013, and number of members has reached 3,750 on March 2017.

[Consideration]

It is said that a wide range of support that is not limited to employment measures, such as participation in activities that have social experience implications is required for the young people who are unemployed, especially for those who do not have work experience.

In this case, young people aiming to work get confidence through the interchange with people in the region, and they are ready for self-reliance.

The community is becoming not only a place where the people offering the opportunity of work support training and the young people who are being offered this opportunity are gathered together but also a place where keeps a close watch with warm hearted support on the young people who aim at independence and where helps these young people to grow as a member of the regional society is being gradually formed.

In addition,

- Effort of supporting prevention of isolation of young people in school library of upper secondary school ("*Pikkari*café" at Tana high school in Kanagawa prefecture)

- Effort for developing the restaurants for children at a place where the local people are gathered ("*Sonokko Yuyake Shokudo*" in Kanagawa prefecture, Amagasaki city, Hyogo prefecture)

are introduced.