

Which is Better for Working Mothers? -Nanny or Daycare-

Section4

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Introduction

Do you know how many mothers have their own job? And how many women have to quit jobs when they have their child? Should women quit their jobs for their family? I do not think so. Of course, there are many ways of life, so if women choose staying at home by their own choice, it is no problem. But if they want to keep working, they should not quit their job and instead follow the way they can continue their jobs. Fortunately, we have some ways today, and more and more fathers are involved in the housework. (Ruth Davis, 2011) In this paper, I am going to focus on nanny and daycare, then decide what way is the best for mothers to keep working.

In Japan, daycare is popular even if they have enough money to hire a nanny. Why is nannying so minor in our country and so popular in America? Which is the better for working mother, nanny or daycare? I chose this topic because in the future I want to keep working hard even if I have children, so I will make sure what the choices are, and decide which is better for me, and of course, for working mothers. First, I will introduce the reality that mothers do not have enough time to take care of their children. Second, I give possible choices for them of using nanny and daycare, explain what they are, and consider their

value from a variety of perspectives. Third, I show the result of my survey and tell what young women think about the topic. I conducted my survey with female Stanford students and interviewed a coordinator of daycare and a Ph.D candidate in Sociology at Stanford University. Those are the real voice of people. Finally, I will state implications and conclusions.

Mothers do not have time to take care of their children

The number of working women is increasing rapidly. In 1950, it was only 5.1 million, but it was 18.4 million by 1980, and by 2018, it is estimated to be more than 78 million. The rate of women in the labor force was 18% in 1900, 46.7% in 2008, and it will account for 46.9% by 2018 (DPE research department, 2010). Most Americans disagree with the old idea that women should stay at home and take care of their family, they strongly agree that both husband and wife should be involved in earning money. (Kim Parker, 2009) Furthermore, lots of women have to keep working for cost of living as dual-earner couples. The environment has been changing for working women. It is also true that more and more men are doing housework, but the time taking care of their child is increasing for both mother and father (Time, 2011). It means that still women should spend much time for housework especially for taking care of their

children.

Mothers need somebody to take care of their children through out the day

So, what should mothers do? Rely on someone else, such as grand parents, neighbors, or friends? Amy Susman (2008) mentioned that family, friend and neighbor child care (FFN) is as main stream as non-parental child care in the United States. As Houppert mentioned in his paper (2002), parents do not want someone else raise their children. Both of them can be true, but most relatives live separately and the distance is very sizeable, so parents cannot ask for FFN care constantly. It is a distance problem.

Then, who can take care of kids? In America, mothers have two main choices, nanny and daycare. Nanny is “a person whose job is to take care of young children in the children’s own home”, and Day care is “care for small children away from home during the day” (Oxford). Through my survey which I mention later, almost all girls have experienced nanny or daycare (40% nanny, 58% daycare), and their mothers have kept working. Girls mentioned that a nanny is too expensive. According to the *Costhelper* (2007), the cost depends on location, the nanny’s experience, and responsibility. It costs between \$1600-\$4000 per a month, plus tax, insurance, and agency pay, sometimes at

least at the same as the cost of living. On the other hand, daycare costs \$1600-\$1700 even in Palo Alto, CA, one of the richest places in the country. That is daycare is better in its cost. Although the cost is better, flexibility is less especially on time. In Japan, most parents are concerned about time they can leave their company to pick kids up, but in the United States, workers can leave on time, so they do not need to be afraid of being late to pick up their children. Because of this, daycare is much popular in the United States today.

To know what a daycare in America is I visited “Children’s Center of the Stanford Community” daycare and interviewed a coordinator, teachers and parents. The coordinator mentioned the importance of early socialization, such as the ability of negotiation or teamwork. Kids learn skills and grow together through their everyday experience. In addition to this, they develop the ability to express their ideas themselves. This daycare is somewhat more expensive than the other area but even if it is, they have above 150 children from eight weeks to five years old, and teachers taking care of them seriously. The most impressive point which almost all parents mentioned is that they can join the daycare and spend time with their children and their friends. Not only mothers but also fathers use this system and take care of many children and enjoy bringing children.

They can know how to bring their children through this experience. I did not know about such a system but it is becoming popular in the United States.

Also, I interviewed Ali Fogart, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at Stanford University, and she mentioned the government's lack of assistance in this situation. People cannot get economical support from the government at all for systems which I mentioned above, so both options are very expensive. The gap between rich and poor is becoming wider. The number of working mothers is increasing, but the systems for them are not enough. As a result, they have to pay huge amount of money and must keep working for their children. "Head Start" is one of the childcare options for low-income families, but it does not work very well. Finally, parents who do not have much money have no way without choosing low quality daycare. This situation causes daycare to have a bad image, even if it is not the reality.

The ability to keep working is possible for future mothers

I conducted a survey of 20 female Stanford University students from 18 years old to 26 years old because they have a high-level education and must have passion to work, so I wanted to know what are they thinking about their future. All girls intend to have a job for earning money or motivation in their life

and use nanny or daycare in the future. Eighty percent of them have experienced one of them because their mothers kept working even when they were very young. They do not have negative feelings against their mothers and nanny or daycare. And the rest of twenty percent were taken care of by their relatives and all of them are from Asian countries. They said nanny is not so popular and a lot of working mothers rely on their parents as Japanese. Also, ninety percent of girls want to get married in the future, and fifty percent of them answered they will choose nanny because of the level of personal care. It is true that children can receive personal care with a nanny, but through my visit to the daycare, children also can be paid attention while playing with children of the same generation and from professionals. Moreover, they constructed relationships with others naturally and interacted each other. Actually at first, I had the same opinion as the young women students at Stanford, but after seeing directly what daycare is, my opinion totally changed. Thus, girls should also know what today's daycare is and see the children's faces there.

Conclusion

In my opinion, daycare is the best choice for working mothers to bring their children. If women want to keep working, they should rely on someone

without spending so much money. But at the same time, the infant stage is important for kids thus parents must pay great attention to what is the best for their kids. Daycare is becoming mainstream because people notice the importance of socialization and interaction with each other in a group. Moreover, daycare lets children develop independence, which is attached high value in American society. From the views of cost, relationship, time and growth of kids, daycare is the best for working mothers. Time flexibility is no problem. Moreover, children can be poured enough love from their teachers, friends of course their parents. Although the government's support is not enough in America, and the working environment is not enough in Japan especially in terms of flexibility, conditions are changing and working mothers can exploit it and keep working while raising their children. What I found most important through this paper is the mothers' love for their children. From this point of view, considering about children's future, daycare is the best place to take care of children.

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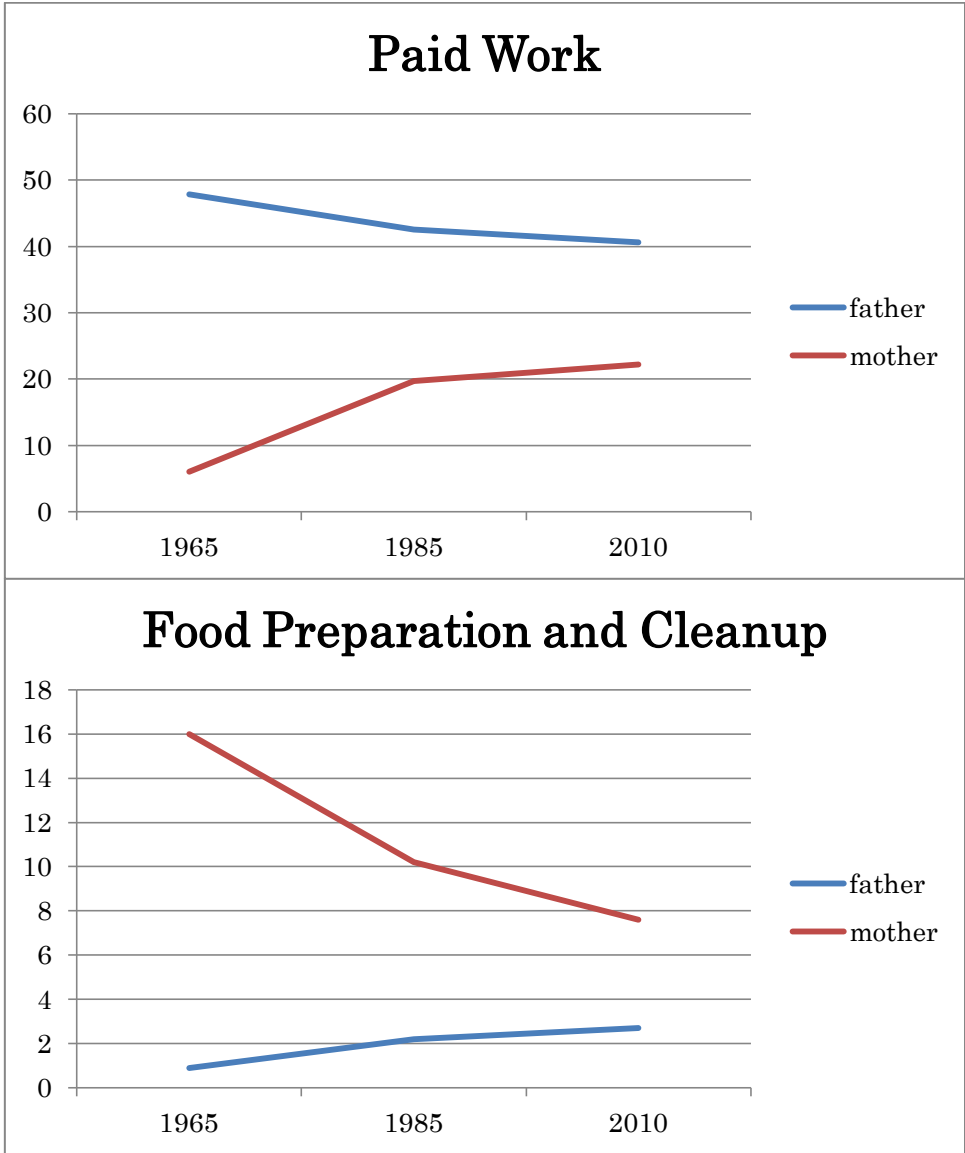
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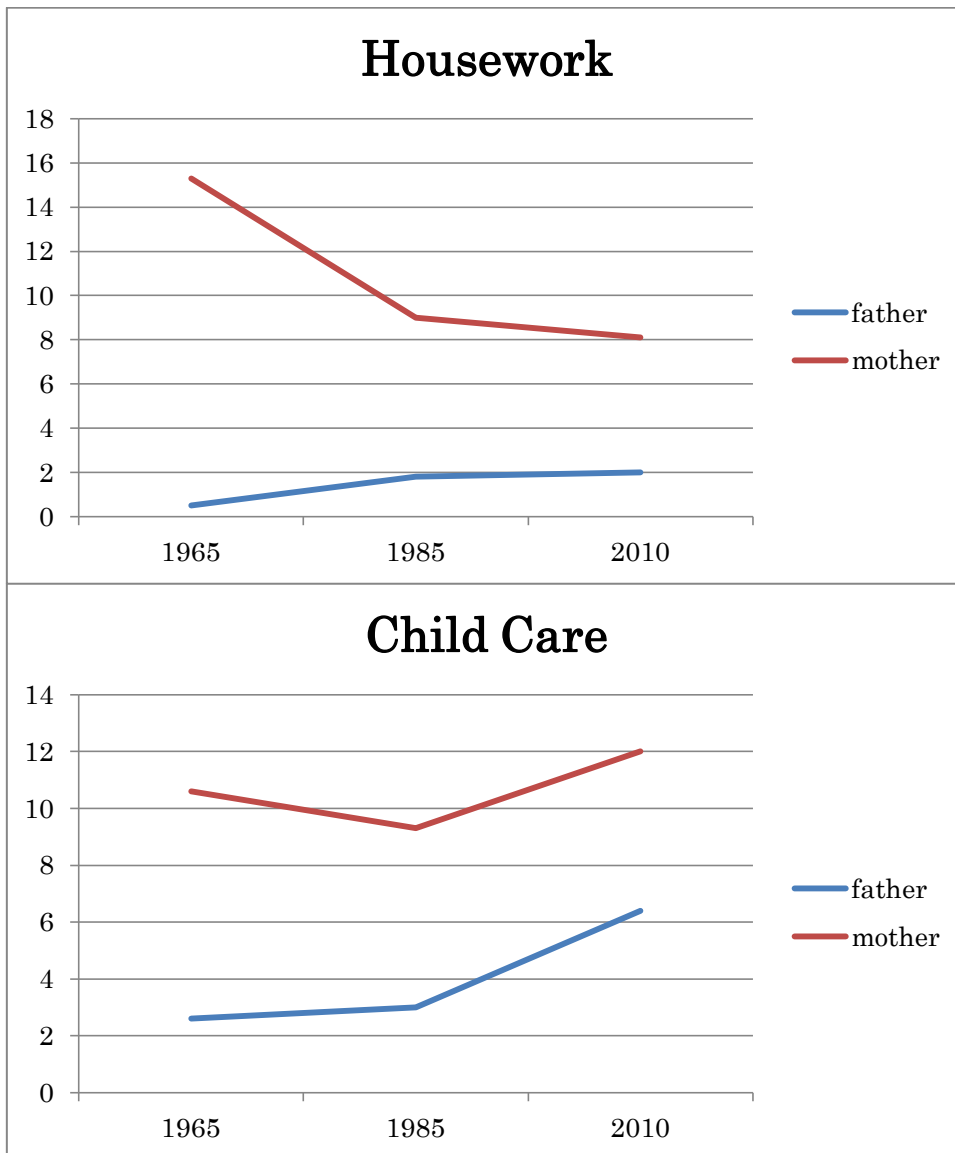
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Appendix

Over the details [Time, 2010]





Survey questions

1. How old are you?
2. What do you think of working? Choose more than one.

Tool for money/ motivation in life/ the place where you find a guy/ other

3. Do you want to get marriage in the future?
4. If so, when?

5. Does your mother work?

6. What do you think about keep after having children?

7. Will you quit your job in the future?

No/ when get married/ when have children/ whenever, time you decide/ do

not work at all

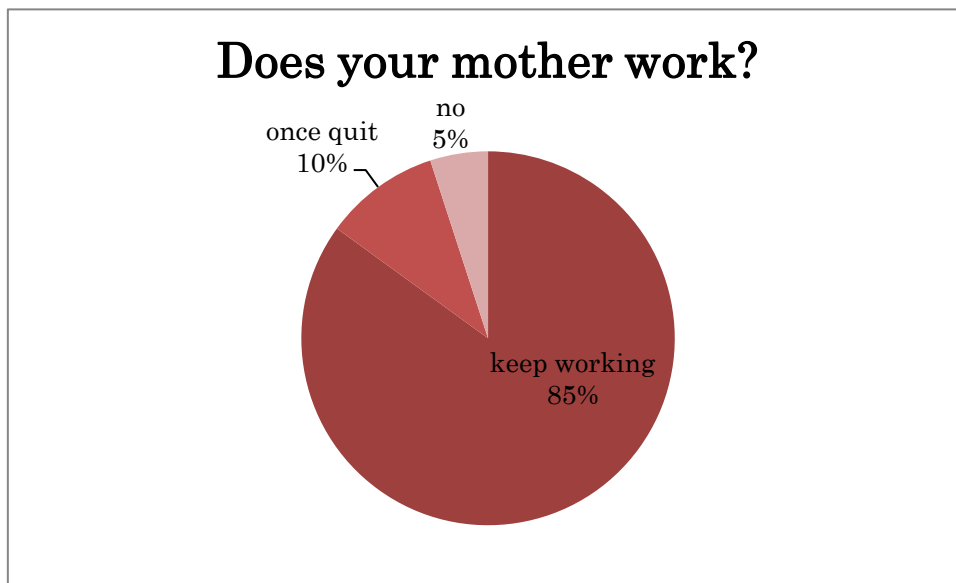
8. Can you explain the difference of nanny and daycare?

9. Have you ever experienced them?

10. If you have to choose one of them for your children, which will you choose?

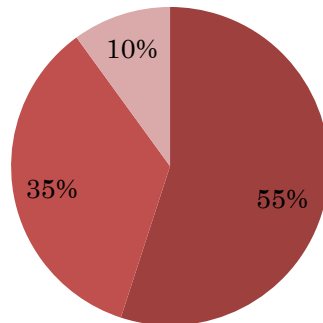
Why?

Survey results



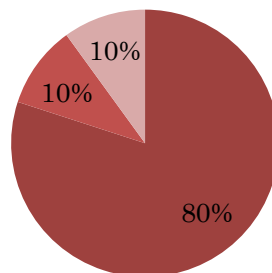
Will you quit your job?

■ No ■ Depends ■ Have children



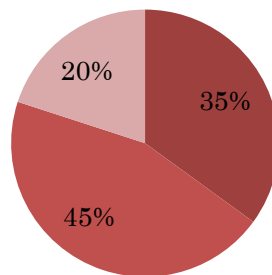
What do you think of nanny or daycare?

■ Good, I will ■ Have no choich ■ Not good



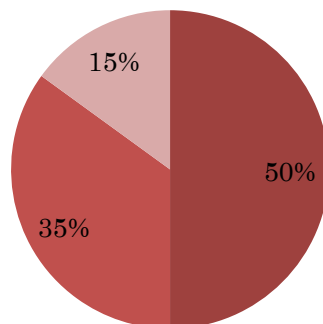
Have you experienced nanny or daycare?

■ Nanny ■ Daycare ■ No



Which one is better?

■ Nanny ■ Daycare ■ Depends



Interview questions [Ali]

1. What do you think about working mother's actual state and future state/situation?
2. What is the most important thing which women keep working for versus staying at home?
3. What is the husband role in the family?

4. Do you think nanny or daycare are better option?
5. What is the biggest problem for working mothers?