



“ Gender ” Friendly City YOKOHAMA

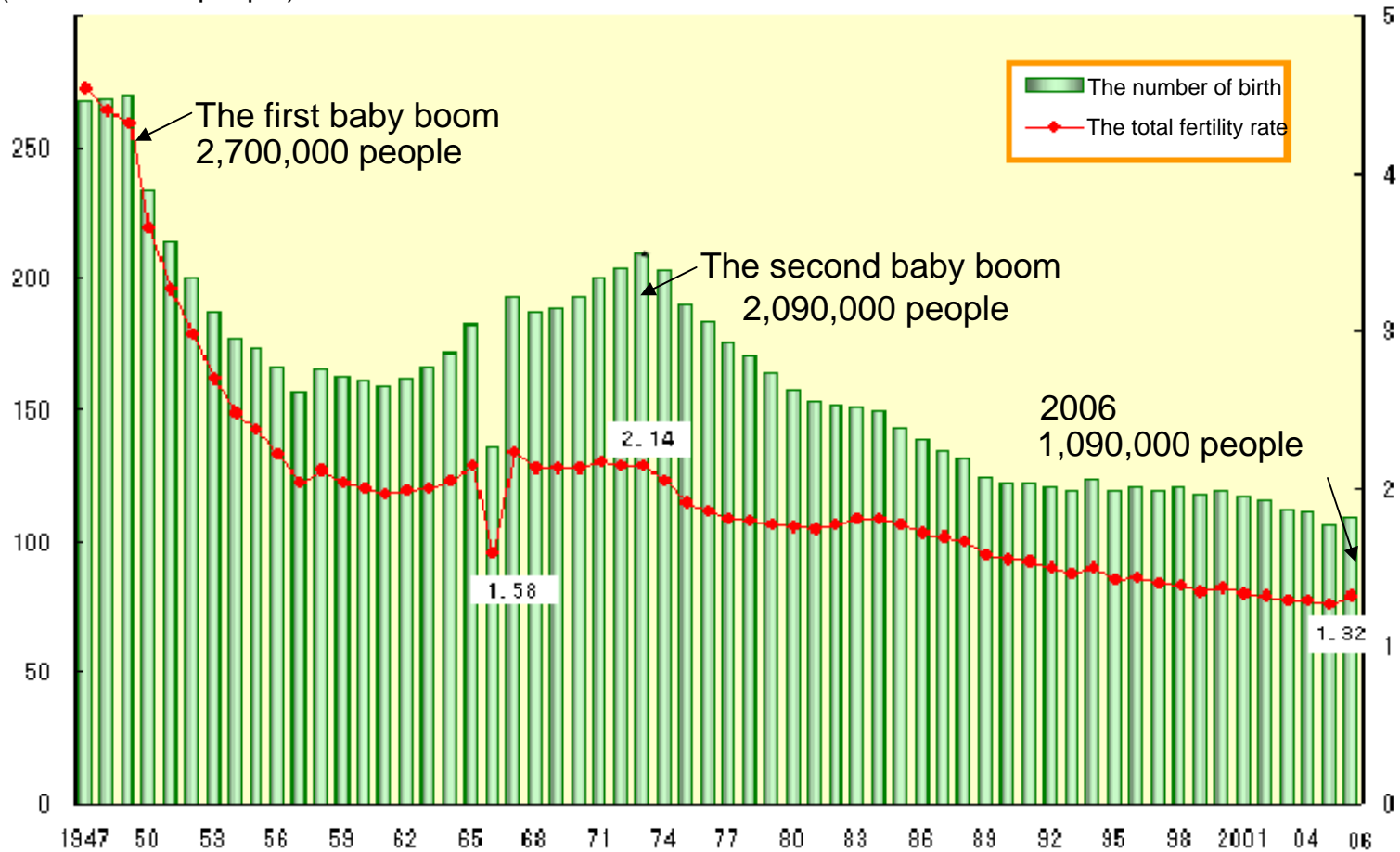
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A declining birth rate

(Ten thousand people)



What are the direct factors behind the declining birth rate?

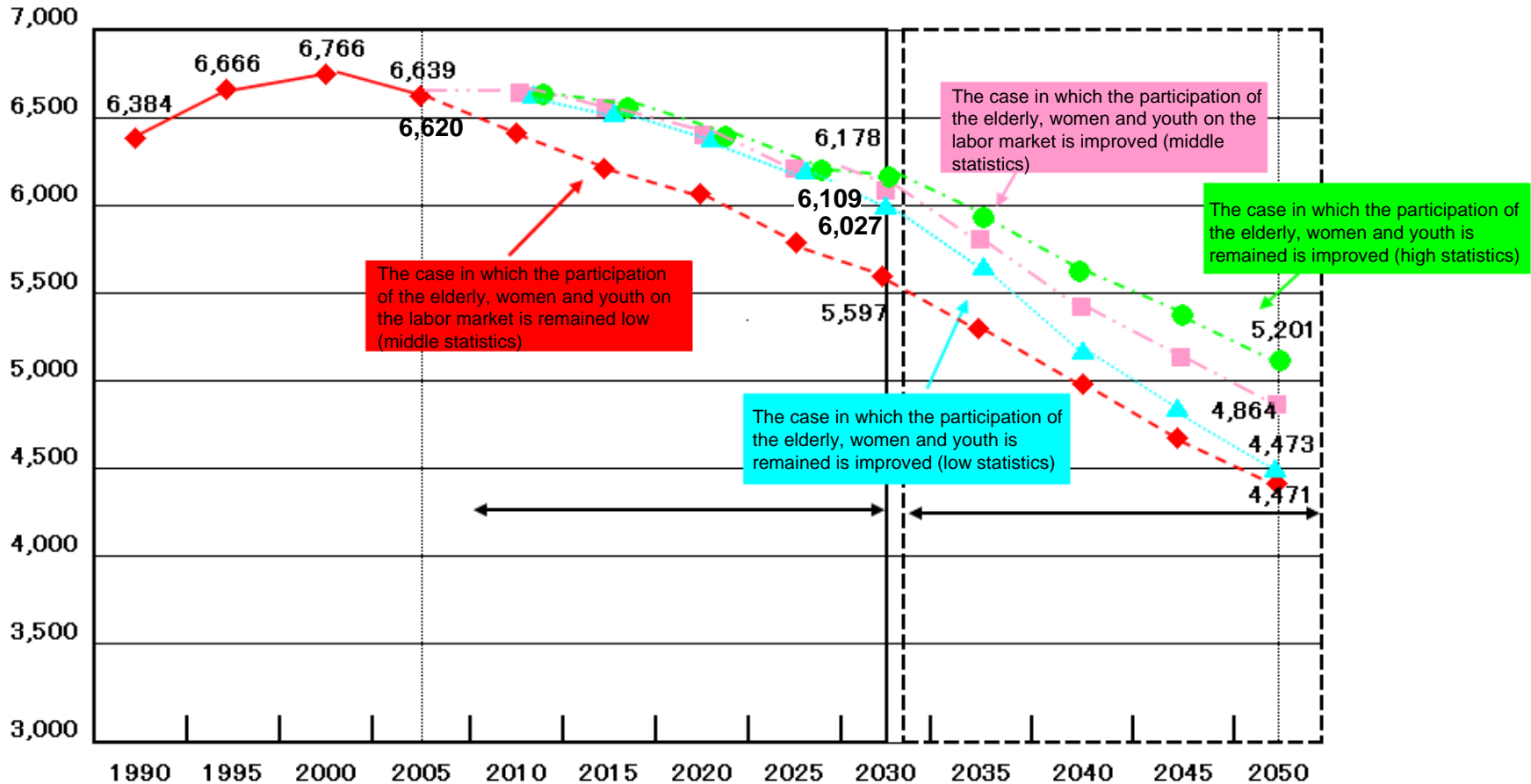
1. The increasing tendency to be unmarried
2. The increasing tendency to be married later
3. The decline in the birth rate among married couples



A labor shortage

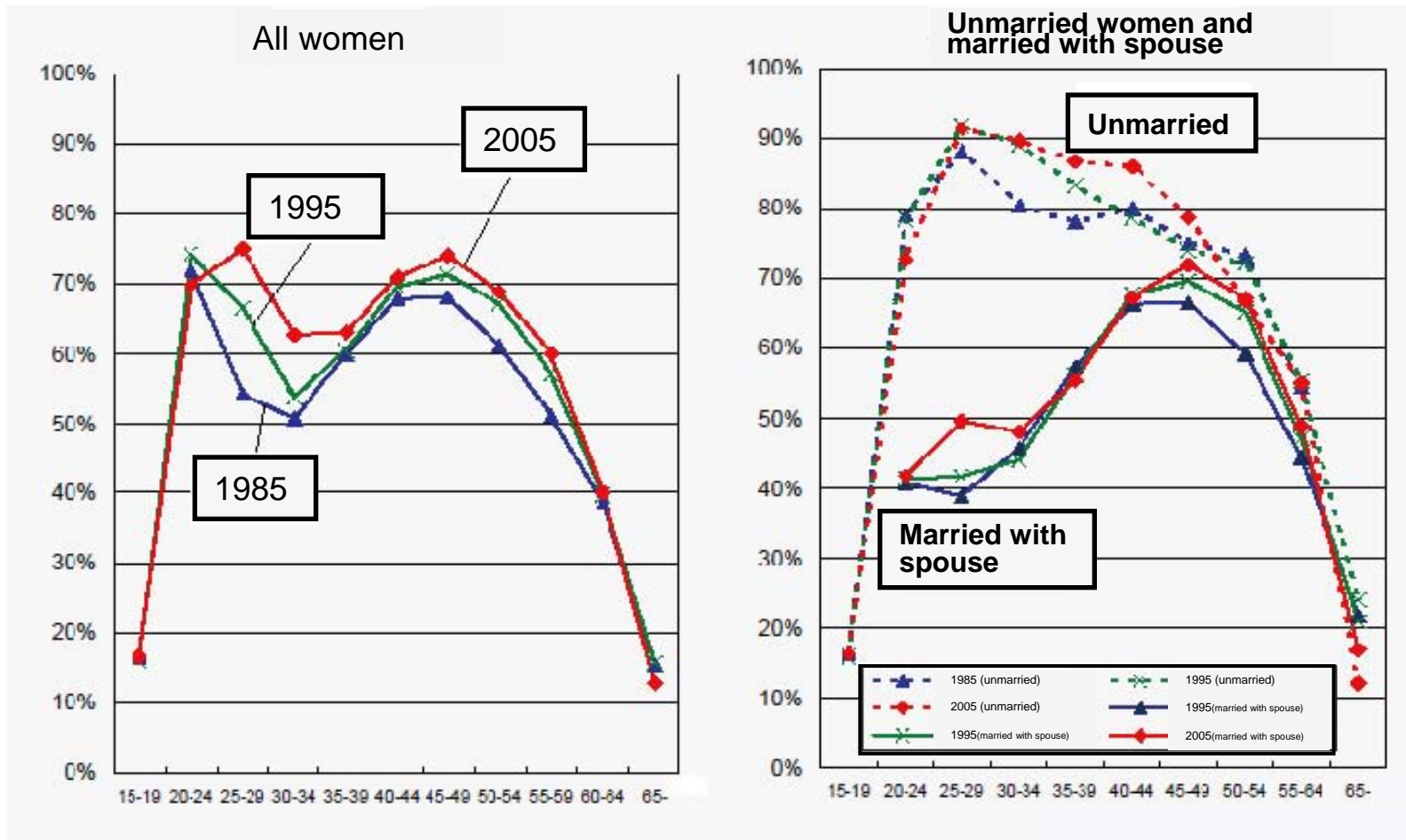
The decline in birth rate and the working population in the future

(Ten thousand people)



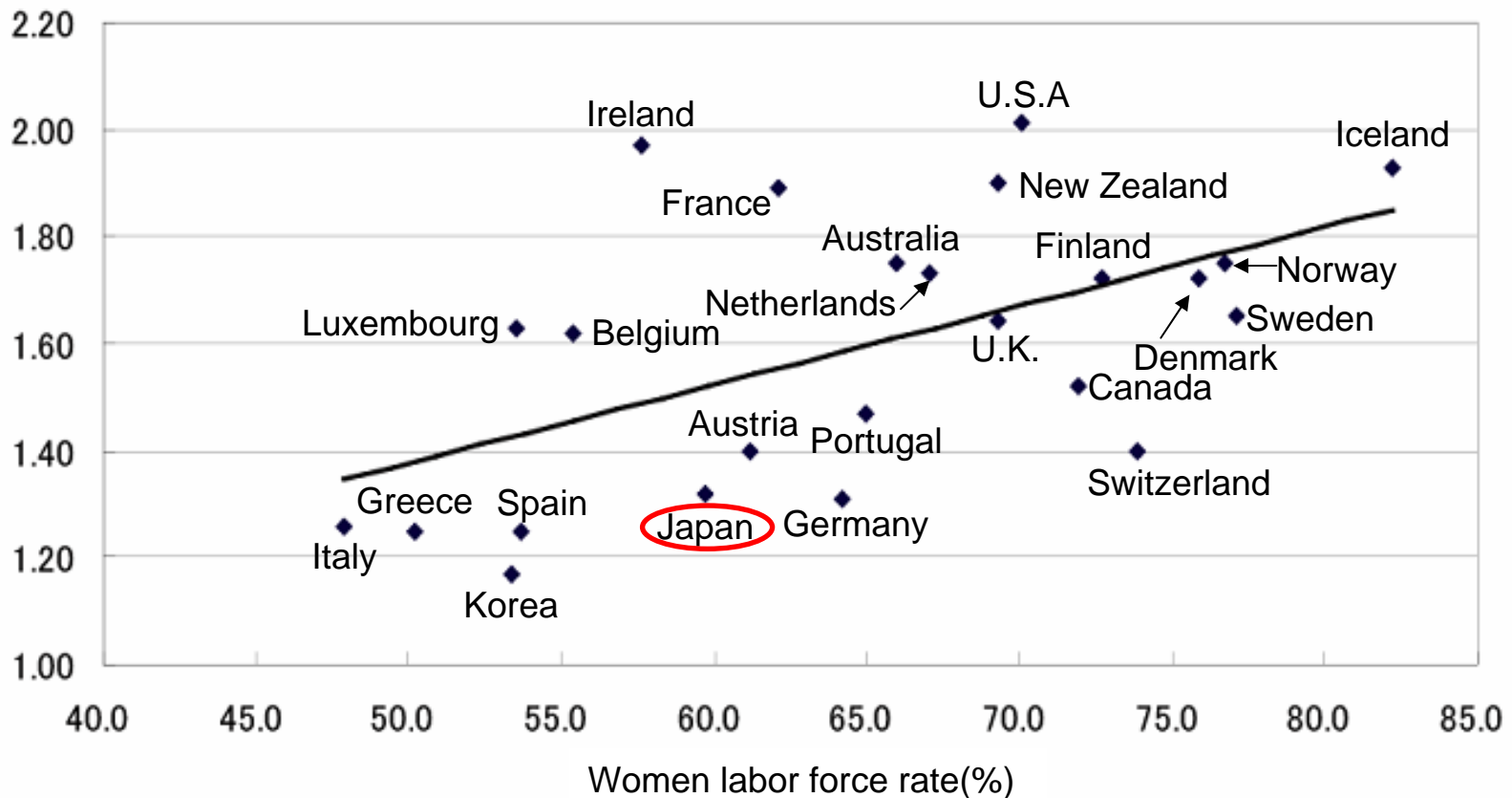
Changes in the labor force participation ratio amongst women until 2005

(all women and according to one's marital status)



The relationship between women's employment and the birth rate 1

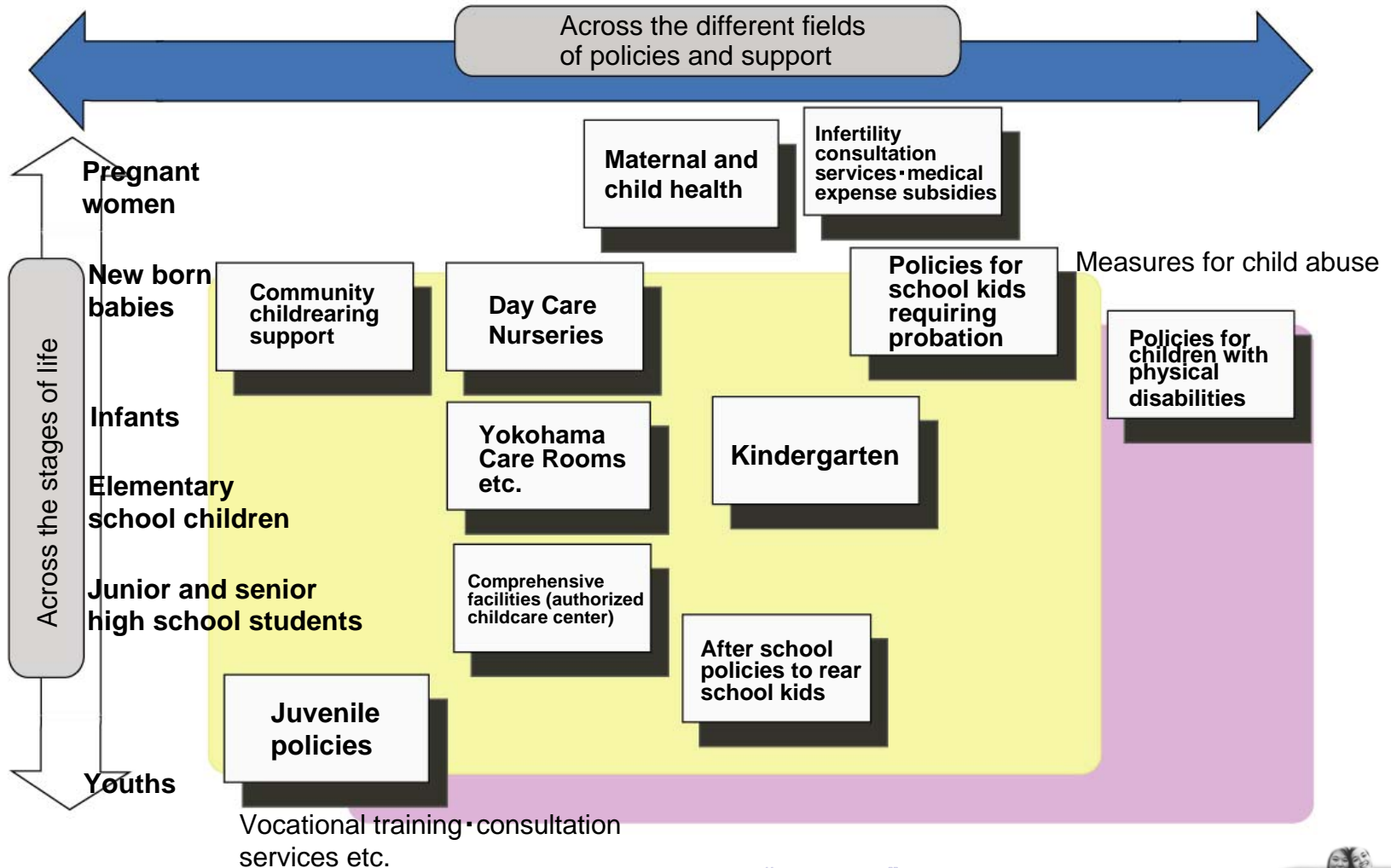
The total fertility rate



- In response to the situation, it is urgent to create an environment where women are able to get married, have babies, and work as well as raise children.
- However, comprehensive support should be provided in matters concerning children and women, covering from pregnant period to later adolescence (34years old and younger).
- Medical, welfare, and employment policies should be integrated.
- Setting up of Child and Youth Bureau.



Major policies and projects of Child and Youth Bureau



Results

- Setting up of Child and Youth Bureau has crystallized the children's issue as an important policy.
- Realization of uninterrupted support scheme through all stages of life.
- Increasing the number of day care nurseries (267 nurseries in 2003, 420 nurseries in 2009), substantiate support for childrearing, and maternal and child support.
- Care will continue for children with physical disabilities and abused children.



Difficulties facing childrearing support

① Shortage of revenue sources

In order to set up a new day care nursery, building plots of land and management expense are necessary.

② Shortage in human resources

More considerate care is needed: administrative efforts are not enough.

③ A lack of understanding of childrearing support

Not only administrative staff but also society as a whole doesn't understand the necessity of support:

They don't know why support is needed to help mothers who deliver and raise children.

(In Yokohama where the ratio of the full-time housewives is high, and they also need support.)

④ A lack of understanding of women's employment

They don't understand why they need to employ women.

⑤ Worsening working environment

Working environment has been worsening in recession: for example, those women who work longer and have children become the target for dismissals resulting of a restructuring process.



What to learn

- Education is important so that the number of those who are able to understand the necessity of support for women and children should increase.
- Administrative efforts are not panacea.
- Various social resources should be mobilized with the collective agreement in society.
- Involvement of all factors including citizens, NPO, and businesses.



The current problems

The number of those mothers who have to work in recession to make ends meet has been increasing.

- ① Shortage of jobs with preferable workplace conditions
- ② Shortage of day care nurseries
- ③ No job for youths



**I would like to thank you all
for listening so attentively.**

