The Effect of way of mother’s communication with father’s image to their children on father’s image and family function

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ABSTRACT. In this research, the purpose was to examine the influence of father’s image transfer from mother to child ing father image of their child. We focused on two aspects of how to convey father’s image by mother, management side and content side. A questionnaire survey was conducted for 217 college students (97 males, 120 females). As a result of the factor analysis, the management aspect of how to convey father’s image by mother was constructed with “Peaceful” “Callousness” “Involving” “awkwardness” “serious” in management side and “reference to father’s presence” “mother’s perspective to the father” in the content aspect. Covariance structure analysis was conducted to examine the effect of mother’s father image transmission on family function through mediation of father’s image. As a result, it was suggested that referring to father’s day-to-day situation on the content side and “peaceful” “serious” on the management side by mothers promotes family functions by mediating a positive father’s image perceived by their child.

KEY WORDS: mother, father’s image, adolescents, management communication

Introduction

1. Characteristics of fatherless home

In Japan, there are situations that often "mother-child adherence / father absence". This is the situation where the distance between mother and child is close and father is absent in the family. The term "absence of father" as used herein includes not only physical absence of home for work etc. but also psychological/functional absence, it has been discussed as a cause of various problems held by children and parent-child relationship with mother-child adherence (Ogata, 2011). Accordi

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-ng to Minuchin(1974), who focused on the structure of the family and advocated structured family therapy, the healthy family has stronger parents relationships than parent-child relationships and clear generation boundaries, and with the two extreme states such as the relationship between mother-child or father-child is adhesion or poor it may cause pathology to the family. "Mother-child adherence / father absence" is exactly equivalent to the family structure showing this pathology, and it can be said that there is a risk of family problems. Empirical studies on the relationship between parent-child relationship and psychological adaptation of children suggest that the discord between father-child relationships is related to low self-esteem and
emotional instability of the child (Maejima, Oguchi, 2001), and young man who experienced with hikikomori tends to have a negative image against his father (Hanashima, 2007). On the other hand, it has been reported that young female who are close to their mothers and have a low sense of self-control also have low in degree of mental independence and high in degree of depression (Mizumoto, Yamamoto, 2010). Therefore, it can be said that festering father-child relationship or mother-child adherence will increase the risk of child’s inclination to pathology. Regarding family relationship, it is shown that the relationship between two parties is related to the relationship with other family members. At the result of examination on connection between parent-child relationship and parents’ relationship in adolescence performed by Itakura and Hasegawa (2012), it was reported that there were no connection between parents’ ties and mother-child ties but a positive correlation was observed between parents’ ties and father-child ties. In addition, since a negative correlation was found between mothers’s negative evaluation of father evaluated by the youth and the positive evaluation of mother evaluated by the youth, it was pointed out that mother-child adherence was established by sharing the negative evaluation of the father between mother and child (Tobita & Kariya, 1992; Itakura & Hasegawa, 2012). Therefore, it can be said that father-child relationship is related to father’s evaluation by mothers and marital relationship, mother-child adherence causes weak relationship of father-child and a vicious circle like escalating the pathology of families and children.

In order to prevent families from falling into such a vicious circle, it is important for father to involve with the family and to make a good relationship with the wife and child. However, in many cases it is practically difficult for many fathers who have work to spend time to communicate with their families. According to the survey by Kajiwara and Matsubara (2007), it indicates that 71% of the subject answered “unable to spare time to take care of child due to the volume of work” and 27% of the subject answered “consider the childcare is a women’s job” as the reason for father’s childcare rate is low in Japan. Based on these results, the reason why father does not participate in childcare is compiled into two points that the difficult situation caused by the long working hours and the traditional role consciousness of Japan which childcare is a mother’s role (Wakashima, Suenaga, & Noguchi, 2008). As for the latter, it includes a vicious circle as father acquires the identity as “earnings” by leaving childcare to mother, but on the other hand, they cannot acquire the identity as “father” since there is not enough communication with the child at home and it makes them to concentrate on the role as a “income provider” and become isolated from the family even more (Wakashima, Suenaga, & Noguchi, 2008). Therefore, the strength of father’s traditional role consciousness results in increasing working hours and decreasing involvement in families. Furthermore, when a
father encounters child’s problem, he leaves it to a mother who has a large amount of information about child, or even if he exercises authority in the family it doesn’t work in the circumstance that the intimacy from early childhood is lacking between child and father and it even cuts off the emotional exchange with the child, it ends to strengthen mother-child adherence and weaken father-child relationship (Tamura, 1997). In other words, when a father encounters child’s problem, even if father is not actually physically absent, father will leave child’s problem to mother, so that the relationship between fathers will be weaken. Meanwhile, even if father is involved, there is a situation that child lacks intimacy and does not work effectively. Therefore, in order to prevent such a situation and to maintain a good relationship of father and child it is necessary to consider a method of preventing the dilution of the existence of father in the family when the direct communication is difficult between father and child.

2. Transmission of father’s image from mother to their child

Hasegawa (2005) states the problem of “absence of father” in Japanese families is that not actual absence of father but father’s existence is not mentioned or mentioned negatively. In addition, he states the importance of mothers composing child’s father statue based on constructivism perspective. Constructivism is the idea that the reality is a world that is perceived through individual subjectivity and that it is being created by interaction between individuals and others (Hasegawa, 1991). Hasegawa (2005) intervened that the mother told the children about father’s past brave episode, as the mother felt the father feeble in the family whose child had problem behavior. As a result, the problem behavior of child improved, so it can be thought that by referring to the brave aspect of the father by mother, child’s father’s image shifted from the “weak father” to the "father with a brave aspect", the reality for child was reconstructed. In families father is physically absent, unless a conversation about father is held by the families, father will be informatively absence and the sense of father’s absence will be strengthened. Such a situation leads the communication between father and other family members to a difficult direction and creates a situation where no direct conversation is carried out between father and the family even if father is present. At this time, as information against father’s real existence, fathers and other family members treat as if father is not there, and it can be said that communication is done with father’s absence. Therefore, based on the position that the reality is formed by the interaction of communication, in the case where it is difficult for father and child to direct communicate, it is possibility that father’s image can be constructed informationally by mother telling child about father.

A few studies have been conducted as "indirect communication" about communication that mother convey father’s
image to their child. It has been reported that for the group with little direct communication between father and child, young people in the group with more information transmission on father between mother and child have higher family satisfaction than the group with less information transmission (Itakura, 2013). The high degree of family satisfaction associates is related to the strength of the connection between child and father and the strength of the connection between the parents (Koiwa, 2010), it is considered that child strengthens the connection with father as the image of father existing as information by mother conveying the image of father to their child. In addition, since it is reported that information transmission on father between mother and child increase the cohesiveness of family (Itakura, 2010), an informational father image is considered to enhance family function. However, empirical studies have not been made on the influence on the family function through child’s image of father created by the transmission of father’s image from mother to their child. Therefore, in this research we examine the influence of the transmission of father’s image from mother to their on the family function by mediating father’s image perceived by children.

3. Introduction of communication theory

Regarding communication that mothers convey father’s image to their child, focus is placed on the positive and the negative of information, and the point of "how to communicate" has not been considered. The theory of human communication (Watzlawick, Bavelas, & Jakson, 1967) proposes five axioms as means by which communication influences the behavior of others. Based on the 2nd axiom "All communications have aspects of content and relations, the latter classifies the former, it is meta communication," it is said that there are two aspects of communication. They are the content aspect which is the conversation content itself and a management aspect which is the meaning attached to the conversation contents. The latter is a communication that manages a conversation and it is called "management communication" (Hasegawa, 2003). Management communication, in non-language includes body movement such as nod or gesture, face expression, tone or gaze, in language includes particles, auxiliary verbs, interjections, and nodding (Okuno, 2013). Hasegawa (2005) state that management communication is more important, not communication content. Furthermore, he is advocating the effectiveness of topic-free model that problems are solved by not intervening with the content of communication, but by intervening in that management (Hasegawa, 2005). In addition, it is suggested that management communication can be used as a means to change the system in a psychological clinical setting (Wakashima, 1997).

Therefore, it is necessary to consider not only the content of information but also the way of communicating by nothing the point of "how to communicate" about how to convey the image of father by mother. Therefore, in
this research, we conduct a study “how” to convey rather than “what” to convey while mother conveys father’s image, by focusing on the management aspect and content side of communication based on the theoretical point of view of the theory of human communication.

4. Hypothesis of this study
   In this research, we examine the influence of mother’s communication of father’s image to their child is conveyed on the family function through mediation of fathers image, on the family function through child’s image of father created by the way mother’s communication of father’s image to their child, in order to present the finding that mother’s’s way of communication of father’s image is to prevent the pathology of child and family due to the absence of father. Furthermore, the following hypothesis model was set up based on the indication that the management aspect and the conversation contents are related to each other (Okuno, 2009) on how to convey father’s image by mother.

Methods
1. Preliminary survey
   1) Survey target
      42 university students in Japan (42 valid responses, 17 men, 25 females, M=20.19, SD=1.58) was survey target.
   2) Questionnaire form
      We request to reply with free description on the following with the instruction of “please respond to the recent situation of the family” on the survey. Regarding the circumstance of mother talking about her husband, we asked for answer what and how mother talks about her husband on the following 8 items on free description. The 8 items were ① Contents  ② Reason  ③ Frequency  ④ Status  ⑤ Phrase  ⑥ Attitude  ⑦ Facial expression  ⑧ Gaze.
      Analysis: The results obtained were classified by using the KJ method, and question items were created. We referred Itakura (2013) who created question items on father-related information transmission between mother and child when creating question items on the content side.

Figure 1: Hypothesis model in this study
2. The survey

1) Survey subjects: We analyzed 217 people who answered that their parents are healthy (97 men, 120 females, M=19.89, SD=1.06) after distributing questionnaires to 237 college students.

2) Questionnaire form

We distributed the questionnaires using a part of the lecture time of the university. Also, we explained and gained consent that the individual is not specified because the answer is processed statistically and that the survey result is not used except for research.

(1) Face sheet

We asked for gender, age, family composition.

(2) Question regarding how mother convey father’s image

It is a question about how to convey the image of father by mother created from the preliminary survey. We asked for responses in the six laws of "management does not apply at all (1 point)" to "very applicable (6 points)" for 45 items on the management side and 13 items on the content side.

(3) Question on father’s image (Hanashi -ma, 2007)

Five items with large factor loads were selected for "strict nonflexibility", "intimacy", "respect and trust", "emotion understanding", "affection" and "facing attitude", respectively. We asked to answer in the 6 methods of "not applicable at all (1 point)" to "very applicable (6 points)" for all 30 items.

(4) Family function measurement scale (Kusada, Okado, 1993)

We asked to answer in the 5 methods of “absolutely not (1 point)” to “always (5 points)” on 10 items of adaptability, 10 items of cohesiveness, the total of 20 items.

3) Analysis

The factors were extracted by conducted the factor analysis on management aspect and the content aspect from the questions about how mother conveys father’s image. Furthermore, multiple regression analysis was performed with father’s image, extracted factor, family function as dependent variable. Based on the prediction of multiple regression analysis, we tried to construct a model by covariance structure analysis using Amos from the four aspects of management aspect of father image transmission by mother, content aspect father image transmission by mother, father image and family function.

Results

1. Consideration on how to convey father’s image by mother

1) Management side

From the 45 items on the management side, average values and standard deviations were calculated for each item in order to exclude items where extreme score bias was observed. The 3 items of “When mother talks about the father, she gets stuck in a story.” (=0.93), “The mother looks down when she talks about the father.”(=0.94), “The mother talks like a soliloquy when she talks about the father.”(=0.93), shows the floor effect and were deleted. After that, the factor analysis on 42 items on the management side was performed
using maximum likelihood method and promax rotation. As a result, 5 factors (23 items) were extracted considering the attenuation rate of eigenvalues and interpretability. To select factor items, factor analysis by maximum likelihood method and promax rotation was performed repeatedly with the condition of the contribution ratio of each factor is contributed by .40 or more. At the end five factors were determined from 23 items. Table 1 shows the final factor pattern and factor correlation after promax rotation.

The first factor was labelled “peaceful” as it shows mother talks about the father in bright atmosphere like "When the mother talks about the father, she smiles ", " When the mother talks about the father, she smiles.

Table 1: Results of factor analysis on the items of management aspect of how to convey father’s image by mother

| Item description                                                                 | F1    | F2    | F3    | F4    | F5    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| **peaceful α=.901**                                                            |       |       |       |       |       |
| When the mother talks about the father, she smiles.                            | 0.92  | -0.05 | -0.09 | 0.04  | 0.05  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she has sweet expression.              | 0.9   | -0.04 | -0.09 | 0.1   | 0.14  |
| The mother talks humorously and funny about the father.                        | 0.86  | 0.21  | 0.01  | 0.02  | -0.08 |
| The mother talks happily about the father.                                     | 0.77  | -0.18 | 0.11  | 0.13  | -0.11 |
| When the mother talks about the father, she has light and bright tone.         | 0.74  | 0.07  | -0.06 | -0.01 | -0.07 |
| When the mother talks about the father, she is not active.                    | -0.57 | 0.09  | -0.03 | 0.13  | 0.1   |
| The mother talks about the father when he is.                                  | 0.55  | 0.05  | 0.21  | -0.11 | 0.04  |
| **Callousness α=.902**                                                        |       |       |       |       |       |
| When the mother talks about the father, she rolls her eyes.                    | 0.14  | 1.01  | -0.04 | -0.18 | 0.13  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she uses cool tone.                   | 0.11  | 0.95  | 0.01  | 0.03  | 0.16  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she has unpleasant expression.         | -0.13 | 0.68  | 0     | 0.15  | -0.07 |
| When the mother talks about the father, she looks tired.                       | -0.16 | 0.67  | -0.01 | 0.1   | -0.04 |
| When the mother talks about the father, she looks sullen.                     | -0.12 | 0.66  | 0.01  | 0     | -0.1  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she do not sound pleasant.            | 0.07  | 0.6   | -0.08 | 0.2   | -0.1  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she uses the phrase to look him down. | 0.03  | 0.6   | 0.22  | -0.11 | -0.07 |
| **Involving α=.760**                                                          |       |       |       |       |       |
| When the mother talks about the father, she asks you for agreement.           | -0.02 | 0.04  | 0.89  | -0.04 | 0.08  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she asks you for opinion.             | 0.03  | -0.13 | 0.81  | 0.16  | 0.02  |
| When the parents cannot communicate well, the mother talks to you about the father. | 0.06  | 0.18  | 0.49  | -0.06 | -0.12 |
| **awkwardness α=.749**                                                        |       |       |       |       |       |
| When the mother talks about the father, she talks hesitate.                   | -0.04 | 0.02  | 0.07  | 0.75  | -0.08 |
| When the mother talks about the father, she talks too formally                 | 0.11  | -0.15 | 0.01  | 0.75  | 0.14  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she talks with more nervous than usual.| -0.02 | 0.2   | -0.02 | 0.67  | -0.01 |
| **serious α=.630**                                                            |       |       |       |       |       |
| When the mother talks about the father, she talks calm.                       | 0.09  | -0.08 | 0.03  | -0.09 | 0.77  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she talks coldly with bland tone.     | -0.19 | 0.08  | -0.15 | 0.09  | 0.58  |
| When the mother talks about the father, she has serious expression.           | -0.12 | 0.11  | 0.16  | 0.19  | 0.54  |

**factor correlation**

|       | F1    | F2    | F3    | F4    | F5    |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| F1    | -0.62 | 0.06  | -0.39 | -0.01 |       |
| F2    | 0.27  | 0.42  | -0.12 |       |       |
| F3    | 0.01  | -0.25 |       |       |       |
| F4    | 0.27  |       |       |       |       |
talks about the father, she has sweet expression”, “The mother talks humorously and funny about the father”. The second was labelled “Callousness” as it shows mother’s’s negative attitude against the father like “When the mother talks about the father, she rolls her eyes”, “When the mother talks about the father, she uses cool tone”, “When the mother talks about the father, she asks you for opinion”, “When the mother talks about the father, she talks coldly with bland tone”. On cronbach’s coefficient alpha, the results were followings, "peaceful"; α=.901, “Callousness”; α=.902 , ”Involving”; α=.760, "awkwardness"; α=.749, “serious”; α=.630.

The third factor, the fourth factor and the fifth factor have an cronbach’s coefficient alpha of 0.8 or less, and it is necessary to pay attention to statistical interpretation, but we will use it for analysis in order to examine the management aspect in detail.

Table 2: Results of factor analysis on the items of content aspect of how to convey father’s image by mother

| Item description                                                                 | F1    | F2   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------|
| Reference to father’s presence α=.813                                           |       |      |
| My mother talks about what my father is interested in                            | 0.89  | -0.2 |
| My mother talks about my father's hobby.                                        | 0.88  | -0.12|
| My mother talks about memory with my father.                                    | 0.57  | 0.08 |
| My mother talks about my father's past episode.                                 | 0.53  | 0.29 |
| My mother talks about what my father thinks.                                    | 0.48  | 0.21 |
| My mother talks about my father's day-to-day situation.                         | 0.42  | 0.04 |
| mother’s perspective to the father α=.633                                        |       |      |
| My mother talks to about her dissatisfaction with my father.                    | -0.15 | 0.69 |
| My mother talks frankly about my father.                                        | 0.05  | 0.62 |
| My mother talks about my father's character.                                    | 0.29  | 0.44 |

Factor correlation

|           | I   | II  |
|-----------|-----|-----|
| F1        | 0.36|     |
2) Content aspect

To exclude items with extreme bias in score from 13 items of content side, the average value and the standard deviation were calculated. No floor effect or ceiling effect was seen. Factor analysis was conducted on 13 items on the content side by maximum likelihood method and promax rotation. As a result, two factors were extracted considering the attenuation rate of eigenvalues and interpretability. To select factor items, factor analysis based on maximum likelihood method and promax rotation was performed repeatedly, with the contribution ratio of each factor contributing more than .40. Finally, two factors were determined from nine items. Table 2 shows the final factor pattern and factor correlation after promax rotation.

The first factor consists of 6 items, and it shows high load on the content of father’s interest or his day-to-day situation such as “My mother talks about what my father is interested in”, “My mother talks about my father’s hobby”, “My mother talks about memory with my father”. Therefore, it was labeled as “reference to father presence”. The second factor consists of 3 items, and it shows high load on the content which shows how mother’s thinks about father such as “My mother talks to about her dissatisfaction with my father ”, “mother talks frankly about my father”. Therefore, it was beled as “mother’s viewpoint on father”. On cronbach’s coefficient alpha, the results were followings, “reference to father presence” ; $\alpha = .813$, “mother’s viewpoint on father”; $\alpha = .633$.

2. Model structure on how to convey father’s image by mother, father’s image, and family function

Based on the hypothetical model (Fig. 1), we constructed a related model of how mothers transmit father’s image to their child, father images, and family functions. We analyzed

![Figure 2: Prediction model of relation between how to convey father’s image by mother to children, father’s image, and family function](image-url)
using data of 97 males and 119 females, total of 216 people (M = 19.89, SD = 1.067) and input the average value for the missing values for convenience of the analysis. In constructing the model, we conducted multiple regression analysis by stepwise method with management aspect and content aspect of father’s image told by mother to child as explanatory variables and father’s image as dependent variable. In addition, multiple regression analysis was performed using father’s image as explanatory variable and family function as dependent variable. We constructed the model by predicting the results of these multiple regression analysis. The model at this time is shown in Fig.2. In the following models, the correlation coefficient between explanatory variables is omitted due to the complication of the notation. The general fitness criteria of the model was set as GFI> .90, AGFI> .90, RMSEA <.05. At this time, the fitness index of the model was \( \chi^2 (38) = 100.980 \) (p <.000), GFI = .931, AGFI = .858, CFI = .925, RMSEA = .088, AIC = 180.980.

After that, we corrected the model. When making modifications, we removed not meaningful paths and added paths within a range that is theoretically understandable with reference to the correction index. As a result, it was constructed with "peaceful" "serious" for “how to convey the father’s image by mother to child” as management aspect and “reference to father’s presence” as content aspect, “intimacy” “emotion understanding” “affection” “facing attitude” for father’s image, “cohesiveness” “adaptability” for family function in the final model. The model at this time is shown in Fig.3. The fitness index of the final model was \( \chi^2 (22) = 30.805 \) (p = .100), GFI = .971, AGFI = .940, CFI = . 987, RMSEA = .043, AIC = 76.805. Since model fitness improved, we adopted a model.

Figure 3: Final model of relation between how to convey father’s image by mother to children, father’s image, and family function.
Discussion

1) Communication behavior on how to convey father’s image from mother to child

As a result of investigating on factors how mother’s transmission of father image to their child is composed, 5 factors “peaceful” “coldness” “involving” “awkwardness” “serious” for management aspect, 2 factors “reference to father’s presence” “mother’s viewpoint of father” for content aspect were extracted. In the previous study, it was pointed out that the scene where of mentioning father between mother and child was the scene where mother praises father or talks positive image of father, or the involving scene which mother complains about father to child when parents fight (Toda et al. 2002; Yamamoto & Ito, 2012). In other words, the information on father was either positive or negative. However, in this study, we can say that by focusing on the management and content aspects of communication, it was possible to show the characteristics of mother’s’s more specific behavior when conveying father’s information from mother to child.

“Peaceful” and “coldness” from management aspect are composed with items that show mother’s perception of father, and it can prove to indicate parents’ relationship directly. “Involving” is an action that mother seeks consent from child and it involves child in parents’ relationship. Moreover, it is considered to be an action to involve child in the married couple’s conflict as it contains the item “When the parents cannot communicate well, the mother talks to you about the father”.

However, if it is "involving" when referring to the positive aspect of father, it is considered to have a positive effect on father’s image and it is necessary to examine the management items more carefully. "Awkwardness" is composed of factors such as mother talking uncomfortably, talking too formally, and is an avoidance attitude towards the reference to father. Finally, "serious" consists of items such as mother talking calmly, serious expression, which shows that the interpersonal distance with their child is centrifugal. From these factors, it can be considered to contain aspects how is mother’s perception of father and how she maintains and communicates the interpersonal system with child in the management action related to the way mother transmits father’s image to child.

In content aspect, In “reference to father’s presence”, mother shows father’s day-to-day situation and father’s specific episode. On the other hand, "mother’s perspective to father” shows her viewpoint of father. Therefore, it indicates that there are two methods of presenting information such by talking father’s day-to-day situation or his hobby or by talking her perspective and thought of father when mother conveys the information of father to child.

2) How to communicate effectively to improve father’s image that their child perceives

In this study, It is shown that mother talking about father peacefully with a smile or bright tone, or mother talking calmly and seriously with a serious expression is effective to
improve father’s image that child perceives. From this, it is considered that even though talking “peacefully” on a daily basis, talking “seriously” when you need to tell father’s feeling or thought to child will improve father’s image that child perceives. Having mother talking about father “peacefully” doesn’t only constitutes child’s good father’s image but also leads to mother showing a good relationship with father, and it promotes the clarification of intergenerational boundaries (Minuchin, 1974).

It is also indicated from the fact that management aspect’s "peaceful" has bigger influence on father’s image than content aspect’s “reference to father’s presence”. In other words, in addition to the actions to convey father’s information, parent’s good relationship is transmitted to child by management aspect “peacefully”, and it is considered to affect father’s image that child perceives positively. This is consistent with the finding (Toda et al., 2002) that the mother’s function to adjust father and child influences image of fathers recognized by their child by mediating parents’ good relationship.

Furthermore, among mother’s way of communicating father’s image, "seriousness" was also shown to be a mother’s management behavior to improve father’s image of child. "Serious" is composed of items such as "talk calmly" "talk coldly with bland tone" "being a serious expression", at first glance it seems to act in a centrifugal (direction to collapse interpersonal relationship) in the interpersonal system. However, Okuno (2008) proposes "interactional space communication" as a communication that elicits independence of the conversation partner while maintaining the sense of distance with the conversation partner. This is a communication used by experts in medical and educational situations, while indicating afferent using nod or gaze, etc. in non-language (direction to maintain interpersonal relationship), it also indicates efferent using affirm and honorific expression at the end of sentence in language. If the communication behavior of "serious" obtained in this research is also "interactional space communication", it seems that movement of system in the opposite direction exists in language and non-language. In other words, there is a possibility that it may be afferent with non-language such as gaze and nodding. For the convenience of the questionnaire survey, we are unable to clarify the distinction in this study, but the communication behavior of "serious" enable to convey the necessary information to the other person clearly while mother talks about father without increasing the intimacy, and maintaining the interpersonal distance.

In the content aspect regarding how to convey father’s image by mother, since "reference to father’s presence" was included but "mother’s viewpoint of father" was not included in the model it is considered that mother talking about father’s hobby or father’s situation to child is more effective than mother’s perspective to father to improve father’s image of child. In addition, since "reference to father’s presence" has a moderately positive correlation with management aspect "peaceful", it shows that
content aspect and management aspect of mother’s transmission of father’s image to their child are mutually related.

3) Relationship with family function evaluation

The family function scale used in this study was created by Kusada & Okado (1993) translating Olson’s FACES III into Japanese. Olson’s circular model consists of three dimensions of cohesion, adaptability, and communication. Cohesiveness is the emotional connection of families and adaptability indicates coping with problems and changes. The circular model assumes a curve linear hypothesis that familial function works best when adaptability and cohesiveness are intermediate levels. However, as a result of examining the reliability and validity in Japanese families, the curve linear hypothesis is not demonstrated and the stability is confirmed as a linear scale that the higher the cohesion is better (Kusada, 1995). In addition, in Noguchi (2009), it is reported that the stronger the family ties, the higher the youth’s family satisfaction is. Therefore, we will consider it assuming that higher cohesiveness is positive for family in this study. From the results of this study, it is shown that “peaceful” and “serious” in mother’s way of communicating father’s image promotes cohesiveness of child’s family recognition by mediating child’s good father’s image. Therefore, how mother tells child about father is considered to have influence on emotional ties in the family. In Japan, it is said that mother-child relationship is stronger than father-child relationship as it is called "mother-child adherence / father absence", but by utilizing its characteristics, mother can communicate father’s information to child to increase family cohesiveness.

In addition, this study suggested that a youth’s good father’s image has a positive influence on adaptability evaluation of family function. As mentioned above, family adaptability refers to how to solve family problems adaptively. It is reported that such problem solving is highly evaluated by children in youth who consider that fathers have authority in their families (Nakami & Katsurada, 2008). Father’s authority mentioned here is regarded as on father’s presence and an influence on the ultimate decision - making authority on the family. A good relationship between father and his family is necessary as a precondition for the decision power of father to effectively work on family problem solving. If the relationship between father and his family is not good, the problem solving by father will stay in the pretending situation that the family superficially or temporarily follows the decision of father (Tamura, 1997). Therefore, how to convey father’s image to their child from mother becomes important. Based on the results of this study, it is important to show the good relationship of parents by management of reference about father in the situations like mother talking positive information on father in a bright atmosphere, sometimes talking about father seriously. It is considered that these management behaviors by mothers constitutes a good father’s image of youth and brings
awareness of family relationship that father’s influence acts on family problem solving effectively.

4) Clinical implications

In this study, it was shown that the way mother conveys father’s image to child has an influence on father’s image of the youth and furthermore has a positive influence on the evaluation of the family function recognized by the youth. In case father-child relationship is not well due to lack of communication or conflict, mother’s peaceful transmission of father’s good image increases the intimacy between father and child. Sometimes, talking calmly with a serious expression also has an influence on father’s image and family function recognition of child.

On the other hand, in families whose father tends to be away due to work, direct communication between father and child is reduced. Moreover, it is difficult to show the good relationship between parents directly. Therefore, it can be said that it shows the possibility that mother influences the positive father’s image of their child and improves the evaluation of the family function by considering how mother to convey father’s image to their child. Furthermore, when treating family problems in psychological clinical situations, when the presence of a father and the position are weak, from the family structure approach it is assumed that the relationship between father and other members in the family is sparse, we can intervene on how mother refers to father. This research suggests the possibility that the way mother to mention on father may help to change the family system by promoting recognition of family functions by mediating child’s father image.

Conclusion

In this study, it presented the communication relate to how mother conveys father’s image to their child and how the communication improves their child’s image of father and family function. In the way of transmitting father’s image, it is effective to convey it peacefully and seriously. And it shows that the evaluation of the family function of the young is also enhanced with positive father’s image created by the way mother communicated.

However, in this research, there is no focus on the direct communication between father and child. In the future, it is necessary to clarify the effect of transmission of father’s image by mother to their children by inputting direct communication of father-child as a variable in order to investigate whether father’s image of a youth is composed by the transmission of father’s image by mother to children. Furthermore, based on the findings obtained in this study, it will be important to accumulate case studies that have been utilized for actual clinical site support.

Appendix

This paper is with additional and modification from a part of the graduation thesis submitted to the Department of
Humanities and Social Sciences of Iwate University in 2015. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who cooperated in the research.

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