

Material Issue 4 Achieve a society in which diverse people can actively participate

Approach to the Material Issue

The Seven & i Group believes it is significant to realize a society in which diverse people with various backgrounds and values, including race, nationality, gender, age, religion, disability, and sexual orientation, can participate actively.

Promoting cross-cultural understanding and supporting the next generation who will create the society of the future will lead not only to the development of society as a whole but also to the provision of products and services demanded by society. We continue to promote initiatives that enable the entire society, as well as our group, to respect various values and lifestyles.

- Relevant policy

[Seven & i Group Corporate Action Guidelines](#) >

[Seven & i Group Human Rights Policy](#) >

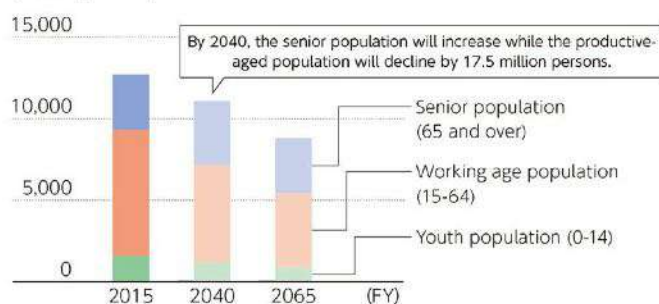
Background to the Material Issue

Aging Population and Decline in Productive-Aged Population

In Japan, the birth rate is in decline, and the population is advancing in age, leading the productive-aged population to decline. By 2040, the productive-aged population is projected to decline by approximately 17.5 million as the senior population increases. Supporting the development of the next generation is important for realizing a better society.

Population Projections for Japan in 25-Year Periods

(10,000 persons)



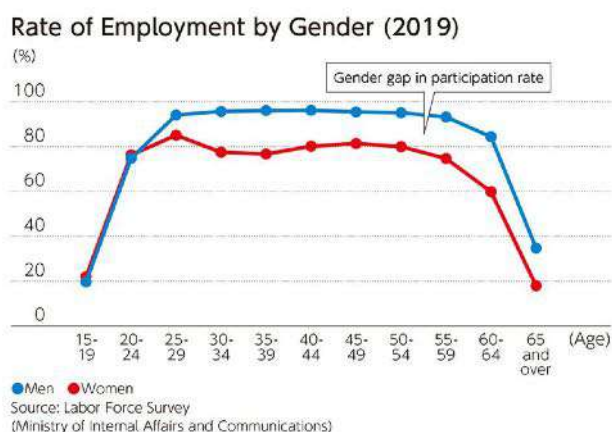
Legend: ■ Actual ■ Projected

Source: Population Estimates, statistics Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Population Projections for Japan (2017 Estimates). Statistics from the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research

Supporting Active Participation of Women

With the productive-aged population in decline, it is essential to promote active participation by women. However, many women are denied the opportunity to work, for example, because it is not possible to balance work with childcare, or because they have been unable to return to work after childcare. Furthermore, in Japan, the ratio of women in management - at 12.4%* (2020) for those in positions equivalent to section manager and above - is relatively low by international standards. Creating a society where women can participate actively is therefore an important task.

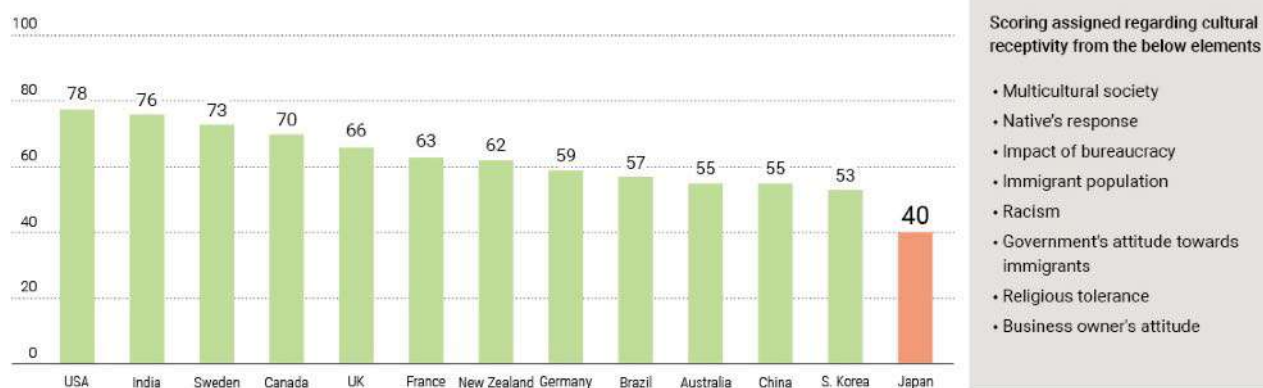
* From "Basic Survey of Gender Equality in Employment Management in FY2020," Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare



Receptivity to Other Cultures

Compared to multiple countries, Japan's receptivity to cultures different from one's own is particularly low. To create a society in which diverse people can participate actively, we must respect other cultures as well.

Comfort with foreign cultures



(Note) Based on research relating to "Comfort with Foreign Cultures" by Vijesh Jain of the Institute of Technology and Science
Source: Vijesh Jain, *Multinational Workplaces: War of Culturally Seasoned Minds*, 2015

Contribution to SDGs

By addressing this material issue, the Seven & i Group will support the active participation of diverse people, including gender equality, and contribute to achieving goals 5 and 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Seven & i Group's Initiatives

Support the Development of
the Next Generation >

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Support the Development of the Next Generation

Amid the trend toward nuclear families, there are often fewer people whom parents can easily turn to with questions about raising their children. In light of this, Seven & i Group offers various types of support through its stores.



Maternity and Childcare Counseling Service

Ito-Yokado and Sogo & Seibu has placed maternity and childcare consultation offices in 100 stores and Pre-Mama Stations in 5 stores (as of the end of February 2022). Here, consultants certified as public health nurses and midwives provide free consultations on health during pregnancy and childcare. Each of these facilities offers restrooms equipped with such conveniences as diaper-changing tables, private spaces for breastfeeding, water heaters for milk formula, and toilets for children. In addition, the consultants also collect information on the types of assistance offered by local governments and provide this information to users.



Childcare consultation office

Number of Ito-Yokado Childcare Consultations (Users)

FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
245,988	239,934	224,552	111,326※	137,559※

※In response to the declaration of a state of emergency amid the spreading COVID-19 pandemic, 78 stores closed their maternity and childcare consultation offices from April to June 2020. The number of users decreased again in FY2021 due to temporary closures of offices in response to such factors as the state of infections in the surrounding area of the stores.

Childcare Support Events

Ito-Yokado holds various events to provide childcare advice and encourage mutual interaction among parents. The company also actively takes part in events in collaboration with universities, municipalities and several product manufacturers to maintain and promote the health of mothers, offer techniques for relaxation and rejuvenation and provide helpful childcare-related information. The overarching theme of the events is “enjoyment at home through public-private-academic partnerships.” Through these events, it is helping to expand community childcare support networks. (To prevent the spread of COVID-19, no events were held in the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021 or February 28, 2022.)

And since 2021, Ito-Yokado has started holding Kids Workplace Experience Tours, where parents and their children can enjoy learning. These tours are events at which they can join workplace experience programs at Ito-Yokado and learn about such matters as initiatives that are considerate of hygiene management and the environment from the perspective of SDGs.



Kids Workplace Experience Tour, where they learn from the perspective of SDGs

Supporting Career Education

To support career education at elementary schools, junior and senior high schools, and universities, Seven & i Group cooperates with requests from schools by sending out employees to each school, providing workplace tours, and holding workplace experience programs at its Group stores, where participants have the chance to take part in conducting familiar retail store operations.

7-Eleven Store in Shinagawa Student City

Seven-Eleven Japan has a store in Shinagawa Student City, which has been run jointly by Shinagawa-ku and Junior Achievement Japan since 2003. The concept of Shinagawa Student City is to create a virtual town inside an elementary school, with various companies setting up shops and providing experience of working and society. The children working in the 7-Eleven store experience customer service, store shelf organization, and other operations to learn about the systems of society.



Shinagawa Student City

> [More details about the Student City economic activity experience can be found here \(in Japanese\)](#) 

Workplace Experience at Stores

Ito-Yokado welcomes elementary, junior high, and senior high school students from educational institutions for workplace experience programs. They experience the joy of thinking up and expressing their own proposals through such interactions with customers as coordination proposals and in-store sampling, and they experience the importance of complying with basic standards to ensure safety and reliability. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, it conducts workplace tours using online conferencing tools in the fiscal year ended February 28, 2021 or February 28, 2022.

York provides opportunities to observe the food processing operations and to practice stocking the shelves in the store with products. Around 7,000 elementary and junior high school students participate each year. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, stores refrained from holding such in-store studies in the fiscal year ended February 28, 2022. Among other things, however, they did respond to interviews from teachers and distribute the CSR booklet "*Our Initiatives for Society*" and the Environment to students.



Workplace experience program with online conferencing tools (Ito-Yokado)

Workplace Experience at Training Center

Seven & i Group training facility, Ito Training Center, provides store shelf organization and food processing experiences, as well as opportunities to provide service from various customer perspectives, such as helping customers in wheelchairs. Through these experiences, students can feel the value of working and the joy of interacting with customers.



Learning about cash registers through hands-on experience at Ito Training Center

Outreach Classes for Company-School Exchange

Seven-Eleven Japan holds outreach classes at an elementary school as a part of the Yomiuri Education Network, which seeks to increase interactions between companies and schools. Through the group work, the children come to understand in a fun way the roles that 7-Eleven plays in society. At the same time, they learn about how the products and services of 7-Eleven, which aims to build stores that are convenient and close to people, have changed (CRM strategy* and response to SDGs) in accordance with changes in society (changes in customers' needs). The class provides a good opportunity for children to think about their society from the everyday perspective of a convenience store.

*CRM strategy: Customer Relationship Management strategy

This is a management strategy/method aimed at expanding sales and improving profitability through improving customer satisfaction and loyalty.



Outreach class in progress

Support through Free Picture Book, Bonolon, Warrior of the Forest

Since 2005, Seven Bank has cosponsored and cooperated in the publication of Bonolon, Warrior of the Forest*, which is a free picture book created with the hope that such qualities in the heart-warming world of Bonolon as kindness and courage will help future generations grow to have enriched minds. Among other activities, the bank also distributes picture books free of charge and holds storytelling sessions led by employees to contribute to the sound development of the youth.

*With the aim of making them readily available for children, parents, and grandparents all over Japan, approximately 800,000 copies are issued every even month and distributed free of charge at 7-Eleven stores and Denny's restaurants throughout Japan as well as York-Benimaru stores, Akachan Honpo stores, and elsewhere.



Storytelling session led by employee volunteers

Support for Dietary Education

Seven & i Group promotes dietary education activities for children through various experiences in order to prepare them to be people who can convey knowledge about foods and practice sound and healthy dietary habits.

For example, some Denny's restaurants operated by Seven & i Food Systems regularly hold dietary education classes for children. These classes are opportunities for children to learn about how to use chopsticks, knives, forks, and spoons as well as proper table posture and other basic etiquette. They are also opportunities to learn in an enjoyable way through explanations using ingredient-themed panels and quizzes on seasonal vegetables, and more. While stores have refrained from holding face-to-face classes to prevent the spread of COVID-19 since 2020, it holds dietary education classes via online meeting tools.



Dietary education class