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Motivation and Object of Lifelong Learning

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Although there are various reasons or motives when individuals start on life long learning activities, different tendencies were seen in each countries from our international comparative research date. Importance of reasons or motives for enrolling in the current learning program was questioned from four aspects: personal development reasons, family-related reasons, work/employment reasons and social/civic-related reasons. The following are some result from date analysis.

For example, the United States shows high percentage for "personal development reasons." Items showing high percentage in all four countries are "gain self-enrichment" and "expand my general knowledge and perspective." Meanwhile, the percentage of "make friends" in Japan is relatively higher than other countries.

For "family-related reasons," the percentage of "acquire knowledge and skills related to family life and daily living" are about the same level except for Norway which shows relatively low percentage. The percentage of "improve my knowledge on child rearing" is high among female respondents in Korea.

The United States shows relatively high percentages for "Work/employment reasons" and "social/civic-related reasons." Norway shows high percentages on "upgrade knowledge and skills related to my job." The percentages in most items are low in Korea compared to other countries.

For 'social/civic-related reasons,' the percentages of "gain more awareness of political issues/social issues" and "increase my ability to make a contribution to my community/society" are higher for Japan and the United States. On the other hand, the percentages in most items of Korea and Norway are relatively low.