In this research, qualitative examination was conducted targeting at single fathers, who are considered as a type of various family forms, about the accomplishment of their double roles at home and at work. There are four main purposes for this research. First of all, it is to investigate what the identity of single fathers is like in the current society. In order to clarify this, the background of taking custody of their child (children) and the actual situation of how much they accomplish housework, and also the relationship with their child (children) will be demonstrated. Secondly, the occupational identity of single fathers, who raise their child (children) at home, will be examined, and the ideal conditions at home and at work will be discussed. Then, what kind of networks are constructed and required among single fathers, whose isolation is questioned, will be demonstrated. Finally, exhibiting the harmony and conflicts of single fathers at home and at work will help to show the ways to produce the society, where diversity is respected.

The sampling number of this research is 10 and all the samples are single fathers living in urban areas with their child (children) aged under 18. The sampling was carried out by network-sampling through a NPO supporting single fathers. All the corrected data were divided into four groups depending on whether or not the samples live with their parent(s) who is (are) able to share child-raising, and also how to separate from their mothers (divorce or death). The data were analyzed with the constant comparative method. Since the father’s identity and their roles at home and at work were concerned in this research, the identity theoretical approach was used as a theoretical framework on the analysis.

Analyzing the interview data came out the result that the salience of the father’s identity increased before and after the separation, and separation by death especially made the parental role more receptive. The father’s identity was also found complex, mixing hegemonic masculinity and caring roles. Regarding the occupational identity, how to deal with time management was a key, and also the politics of how to make others recognize parental roles took an important role. To accomplish these two roles at home and at work caused conflicts, and “immersing themselves in child rearing with children” was a burden in some cases. On the other hand, fathers made a relationship with child (children) as a community to help each other, and this relationship supported single fathers. Apart from their working place and home, networks of single fathers on social networking services (SNS) also contributed a tremendous support.

1 Including one single father, who is living away from his family due to his work. The grandparents’ house, where his children live, is about two-hour drive, and he spends every weekend with his children. He is searching for a way to live with his children.