

A COMPARISON OF THE DIVISION OF HOUSEWORK OF THE URBAN COUPLES IN KOREA AND JAPAN. Lee K.Y.*, Lee Y.s., Kim O.S., Cho H.K., Amona Ha., Matsubaguchi R., Amano Hi., Horiuchi K., Ito S., Saito E., Ito J., Mizunoya T., Department of Consumer and Child Studies, Seoul National University, Seoul 151-742, KOREA.

The purpose of this study is to investigate the difference between Korean and Japanese urban couples' time use in the view of sexual equality by comparisons of average housework time, the husbands' participation ratio of housework, and the division ratio of housework between husband and wife. For this empirical research, survey was conducted by using structured questionnaires and time diaries, and the data from 198 couples in Seoul and 133 couples in Tokyo were analyzed by SPSS/PC+4.0 program. The results of husbands were categorized in according to their wives' employment status—full time, part time, unemployment— and the day of the week in order to clarify the differences of couples' time use.

The major findings are as follows:

1. On weekday, there are no significant differences in the inclination of time use between two countries, but the housework time of Japanese husbands whose wives have full time job is longer than that of Korean husbands.
2. On holiday, the housework division ratios of husbands whose wives employed full time and unemployed in Japan is larger than the ratio of those husbands in Korea.
3. On weekday, the husbands' participation ratio of housework whose wives have full time job in Japan is larger than that of Korea.

These results show that Japanese husbands whose wives have full time job are more participated in housework than their Korean counterparts. And also the areas of housework which Japanese husbands participate are more various than those of Korean husbands. And in both countries, the ratio of husbands' participation of holiday is higer than those of weekday especially in the case of husbands who has unemployed wives. Japanese Husbands are more participates in Shopping.

In both countries, sexual inequity still exists in housework time and ratio. But these findings show that system of housework division of couples is more established in Japan considering gender equality. And the average housework time implies that Japanese couples put more emphasis on the housework than Korean couples.