

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PAID LABOR SUBSTITUTION OF
HOUSEWORK BETWEEN KOREAN AND JAPANESE FAMILIES.** Lee Y. S.*,
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The purpose of this study is to compare the extent of and attitude to paid labor substitution of housework (PLSH) between Korean and Japanese families. The data for the analysis were collected by structured questionnaires and consist of 208 and 133 Korean and Japanese working couples living in Seoul and Tokyo respectively. The relationship between employment status and differences in the percentage of and attitude to PLSH of housewives of the two nations are analyzed.

The following is a summary of major findings. (1) The Korean couples hire paid labor more than their Japanese counterparts do. For Korean couples, employment status of housewives is a major contributing factor. The substitution rate of paid labor for housework of the housewives with full-time job is higher than that of those with part-time or no job. For Japanese couples, however, employment status of the housewives does not affect the substitution rate. (2) Substitution rates of different areas of housework vary. Housing repair shows the highest substitution rate in both nations. Japanese couples do not hire paid labor for dish washing, button repairing, and financial management but Korean couples do. Japanese couples rarely hire paid labor for sewing, knitting, and tutoring but Korean couples commonly hire paid labor for these works. (3) Attitude to PLSH is different between the two nations. Korean couples have more positive attitudes than Japanese couples do. (4) Wives of both nations have more positive attitudes to PLSH than their husbands do. (5) Wives of both nations with full-time job have more positive attitudes to PLSH than those with part-time job and no job. (6) Housing repair is accepted by the couples of both countries to be the most common area for paid labor substitution.

In conclusion, PLSH is common among Korean couples but rare among Japanese couples. And Korean couples have more positive attitudes to the PLSH than Japanese couples. Differences in the cost and availability of paid labor between the two countries seem to be the contributing factor but further study on the differences in social and cultural factors between the two countries is needed to fully account for the findings.