Identity Economics and Housework Behavior of Wives of Dual-Earner Couples

In this paper, using data from the Japanese Panel Survey of Consumers (JPSC) 2000–2008 panel data conducted by the Institute for Research on Household Economics, gender display hypothesis on housework behavior of wives of dual-earner couples were empirically investigated from an identity economics framework. The results suggest that the hypothesis supports housework behavior of wives working full-time, but it doesn’t explain that of wives working part-time. This implies that the gender behavioral norm “married women should work part-time, not full-time” still exists in Japanese society. Therefore, the government should aim to change the behavioral norm to one that assumes that married women should work full-time.

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