

# The Relationship between Working Hours and Household Production Time in Japanese Wives and Husbands

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I estimate effects of economic factors on couples' hours spent on household tasks and childcare considering Japanese couples' unmet desire for shortening working hours. The "collective" model of intrahousehold distribution presents that couples determine simultaneously labor supply, household production time and consumption after determining the amount of consumption for public goods and that household production time depends on couple's wage rates, nonlabor income and a distribution factor, and does not depend on working hours (Blundell, Chiappori and Meghir 2005). If couples can determine the time allocation maximizing their household utility functions, there is no unmet desire for shortening working hours. Japanese husbands' unmet desire increases according an increase in the number of their children (Yoshida 2005). Some exogenous factors may prevent maximizations of their household utility functions.

In Japan fulltime jobs and part time jobs are very deferent in the wage rate, job security and so on. When the shorter working hours are desirable in a child birth, changing fulltime job to part time job has economic demerit. This may affect household decision making.

Using data from the Japanese Generations and Gender Survey conducted in 2004, I estimate coefficients from ordered logit analyses about frequencies of household tasks and childcare. The results show that wives' and husbands' wage rates and weekly hours have statistically significant effects at the same time. And the number of children has no effect or negative effect on husbands' frequencies of household tasks and a positive effect on wives' frequencies of household tasks although its effect is expected positive from the model. Those mean working hours, especially husbands' working hours are not adjusted at the birth and prevent maximizations of their household utility functions.