

Japanese fathers' intention to cooking: associations with maternal gatekeeping, family money management, and learning experiences of opportunity cost

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日本の父親たちの料理に対する行動意図：母親のゲートキーピング、家計管理、機会費用の学習経験との関連

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To increase the fathers' involvement in cooking is one of the salient issues for dual-earner couples in Japan. Using survey data from 1448 married men with a child/children of dual-earner couples, the authors examined the association of intention to cooking with maternal gatekeeping, family money management, and learning experience of opportunity cost. A framework of theory of reasoned action was employed. Path analyses showed that "maternal gatekeeping," and "family money management" were significantly associated with "intention to cooking", among Japanese fathers. However contrary to our prediction, "learning experience of opportunity cost" had negligible influence on the "intention to cooking". The implications of these results for future family-based research are discussed.

Keywords : gatekeeping (ゲートキーピング), theory of reasoned action (合理的行為理論), family money management (家計管理), opportunity cost (機会費用), intention to cooking (料理をする意図), Japanese fathers (日本の父親)

INTRODUCTION

Background and purpose

With the decline of birthrate and the economically active population of Japan, married women are expected to participate in all fields in the workplace. However, even after 20 years of enforcement of the Child Care and Family Care Leave Law, 60% of women quit their jobs at the time of their first childbirth, and devote themselves to family life (Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office, 2018). To change this tendency and promote women's career development, numerical targets for women's managerial positions were set in the Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality. However, time spent on household work has changed little between men and women, and even now, women shoulder the majority of it.

As Blair & Johnson (1992) appropriately pointed it out, cooking is a task that must be performed daily and has little room for the discretion. In addition, we do not have a Hawker center like other countries in Southeast Asia. It ties married working women to preparation for dinner every evening. We need to investigate which factors enhance husbands' / fathers' commitment to cooking.

The authors have already tested the association between intention of cooking and cooking ability, nutrition knowledge of Japanese fathers (Kuramoto, Kurokawa, & Takahashi, 2015). The current study extends our earlier research and examines unexplored factors, specifically maternal gatekeeping, family money management, and learning experiences of opportunity cost with a framework based on a theory of reasoned action (Ajzen & Fishbein, 1977).

cooking related activities: grocery shopping, cooking, and washing dishes ($\alpha = .727$).

Maternal Gatekeeping. Respondents rated this on their wives' belief and behavior. *Maternal Gatekeeping* belief was measured by 3 statements. Those are "My wife thinks that household work is not the work men do", "My wife thinks that household work is the work she should do", and "My wife thinks that household work is the meaningful work" ($\alpha = .619$). *Maternal Gatekeeping* behavior, "gate-closing" and "gate-opening", was measured by 2 statements, respectively. Two of the "gate-closing" statements showed weak correlation ($r = .188$). Thus, we entered them separately. Those were "My wife has lots of negative opinions for what I do", and "My wife says thank you to me when I do household work (reverse)." The latter "gate-opening" is "My wife asks me to help with household work on every holiday", and "My wife always asks me to help with household work" ($r = .704$).

Leaning experiences of opportunity cost was rated by 2 statements. One is "Lifetime income for female permanent employee is approximately \$ 2 million", and the other is "Lifetime income for female who left off the work after birth and re-entry as non-permanent employee is approximately \$ 6 hundred thousand" ($r = .807$).

Above measures except for "gate-closing" employed a self-

report, 4-point Likert scale, and the higher sum indicates the higher level of the concept, respectively.

Family money Management was measured using fathers' reports on a following item: "Which type best describes your family money management?" We constructed a dummy variable that took a value of 1, if they chose the "housekeeping allowance" as a type of family money management, and 0 for other choices.

RESULTS

Descriptive statistics of the variables and the correlations are shown in Table 1. Figure 1 presents the results of path analyses; every index of this model fits the observed data well, and except for 3 paths, the result supports the hypothesized paths.

DISCUSSION

This study extended our earlier research on fathers' involvement in cooking with a framework based on theory of reasoned action. The data analyses revealed that "gate-closing" maternal gatekeeping behavior and "allowance" type of family money management had a small but negative effect on Japanese fathers' intention of cooking.

Despite authors' expectation, leaning experiences of

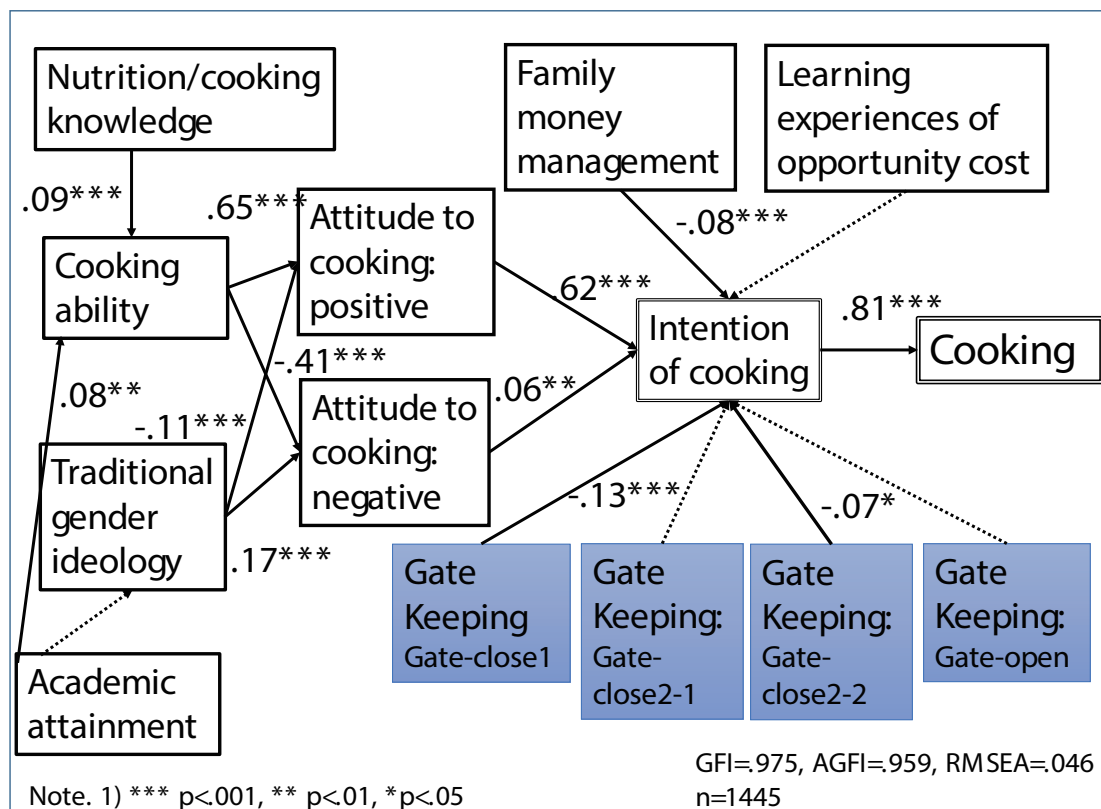


FIGURE 1. FACTORS THAT AFFECT JAPANESE FATHERS' INTENTION OF COOKING

opportunity cost showed no association. As of right now, it could be mainly explained by 2 reasons. One reason is a socio-economic factor. Fortunately, as for the current state of Japanese economy is not so bad like other developed countries. According to the analyses by a Cabinet Office, real wage income of employees is about 106 (CY2011=100), and unemployment rate is low with 2.2%, and thereat based on these dates, they summarize that our economy has been recovering at a moderate pace. Under these circumstances, we Japanese are go-as-you-please, and tend to feel that it will be all right on the night.

The other is an educational factor. For example, in the United State, not all but significant proportion of students have learned the basic concepts of economy, such as opportunity cost, scarcity, and trade-off in social studies, and/or personal finance class of the high school. On the contrary, we Japanese have little chance of learning such basic concepts. Of course, further research is needed to make this association more clear.

We has some limitations. This study was based on the cross-sectional survey, so we should do research with longitudinal method.

NOTE

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和文抄録

日本の共稼ぎ夫婦にとり、料理という家事に父親の関与を増やしていくことは重要な課題のひとつである。合理的行為理論の枠組みで、共稼ぎ夫婦 1448 人に実施した父親データを用いて、妻のゲートキーキング的行動、家計管理のあり方、機会費用に関する学習経験が父親の料理意図とどのような関係にあるか検討を行った。パス解析の結果、妻のゲートキーキング的行動、家計管理のあり方は父親の料理意図と統計的に有意な関連を見せたが、予想に反して、機会費用に関する学習経験は有意な関連を示さなかった。家族研究におけるこれから行うべき研究を示唆している。