Paternal Roles in Home Economics

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Abstract

This article reports on several research outcomes regarding the influence of home economics education on paternal roles. In order of presentation, the research examines the following: How are paternal roles represented in home economics textbooks? How do university students who have taken part in these home economics education have paternal roles? Finally, the effectiveness of home economics education in influencing university students' perceptions of paternal roles is discussed.

Home economics textbooks in junior high and high school typically presented fathers as active participants in housework and childcare from 1980 to 1984. Recent home economics education has encouraged fathers to become as involved in housework and childcare as mothers are, prior to official changes in the legal system and in educational policy. All textbooks in home economics have been creating and developing new father's models in a gender-equal society since 2003.

Comparing the 2003 and the 2008 surveys, the students in the latter placed more importance on fathers prioritizing the family and playing a variety of roles within the family. For mothers, the 2008 students saw a greater role for mothers outside of their family. Students in the 2008 survey are more likely to view men's and women's parental roles as equal. Results from these studies suggest that home economics education may be influencing students' perceptions of paternal roles.

Key words; paternal roles, home economics education, gender-equal society, fathers' involvement in housework and child-care, home economics textbook