

# Effects of Compulsory Home Economics Education in High School on Knowledge of Cooking Terminology and Skills : A Comparison of Survey Results before and 20 Years after Compulsory Coeducational Home Economics Education

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## Abstract

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A survey about cooking terminology and skills was conducted for first-year junior high school (97 boys and 97 girls) and college students (54 males and 89 females) after highschool home economics became compulsory in 2007. I compared the results with those obtained from a similar survey conducted in 1989, before it became compulsory. The results were as follows;

It became clear that the knowledge of cooking terminology and skills of boys and girls in the first year of junior high school and of male and female college students had decreased slightly compared with their counterparts in the previous survey.

It can be concluded that the compulsory education did not improve the level of knowledge and skills of junior high school and college students. It is speculated that the number of homemaking lessons in elementary school and junior high school as well as the opportunities to cook in daily life had decreased compared with 1989. Changes in gender perspectives may also have contributed to this finding.

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*Key words;* cooking terminology, compulsory education for boys and girls, junior high school students, college students