

Redefinition of Home and the Turn of a Way of Life: Morality/Ethics as Guides to Rethinking the Home Economics Education

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In searching for relationship between home economics education (HEE) and moral education (ME), we can find two directions. First, basic moral education, which enables people to behave after common morals, is effectively done in ordinary community life or household practices, which HEE treats. Secondly, both HEE and ME can be reconsidered by asking what kind of morality/ethic is given priority. In this paper we therefore tried to investigate and criticize the morality that HEE is based on or presupposes, and present a different view of HEE by integrating the morality into more fruitful views of the morality/ethics.

The morality that HEE has been based on is that of liberalism, which is pervasive in modern nation states including Japan. Diversifications of liberalism into the liberal, libertarian, neoliberalism etc., and overabundance of them, however, have given rise to some social maladies. Accordingly, in recent years an alternative ethic or morality has been advocated, such as an ethic of care or a communitarian morality. When HEE is based on an ethic of care which is not a feminine ethic but a human ethic, the meaning of home will be redefined and transcend a dichotomy between the public and the private, and HEE will encourage us to turn a present way of life.

Key words; morality/ethic, moral education, liberalism, care, home