

Do working mothers reduce their home production?

Miki Kohara

This paper examines whether or not mothers' labor supply affects time devoted to home production. Although time use data are usually used for the analysis of home production, we use data on goods purchased by each household. The composition of goods expenditure helps us determine how much time-consuming home production each household conducts.

Using scanner panel data on food expenditure in Japan, we find that only part-time workers in higher life classes use less home production time compared to non-workers in these life classes, but this negative effect is not found in the lower life classes. Full-time workers in the middle life classes may even spend more time on home production. Note, however that these effects disappear when we remove mothers' unobserved characteristics by within-mother estimation, in addition to the endogeneity problem of a mother's decisions on time use by instrumental variable estimation. We conclude that the amount of labor a mother supplies does not decrease her home production time in Japan.