Gender equity in housework: combining time use and register data from Finland

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Time Use Surveys in Finland


• Comparable data on time spent in various activities.
• All family members aged 10+ years keep a diary for two days

• Harmonized data collection (comparability across European countries participating in TUS, also with US data)
What we used

• In 2010: time used data from 2000 households, comprising 3800 individuals.

• Combined with register data on subsequent fertility
Results: Parents spend more time in childcare activities (comparison 1988-2010)

Time use in childcare activities, employed mothers and fathers (min/day)
Families with below school-age children (0-6 yrs) and school-age children (7-17 yrs)

Population Research Institute, TUS 1988-2010/Statistics Finland
Gender equality in employment and domestic tasks increases - but slowly

Men’s share of time used in different activities in families (% of total time use of men and women), employed mothers and fathers of 0-6 y o children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid work</td>
<td>58 %</td>
<td>57 %</td>
<td>58 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household chores</td>
<td>36 %</td>
<td>38 %</td>
<td>43 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>33 %</td>
<td>39 %</td>
<td>41 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unpaid and paid work</td>
<td>48 %</td>
<td>49 %</td>
<td>50 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure time</td>
<td>54 %</td>
<td>54 %</td>
<td>52 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Population Research Institute, TUS 1988-2010/Statistics Finland
Gender division of housework and fertility: How does it matter?

**Women’s housework decreases fertility: Evidence from a longitudinal study among Finnish couples**

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Division of housework and fertility: does it matter?

**YES**
Increase in a woman’s housework time decreases the likelihood of childbearing

**NO**
Men’s share of housework is not related to childbearing in couples

**CHILDCARE**
Men’s share of childcare tasks is positively associated with continued childbearing

Weekly housework time, women (h/w)
(on average, women in dual-earner couples spend 14.6 h/w doing housework, men 6.4 h/w)
Thank you for your attention!