

# **How does Education Matter? Relative and Moderating Effect of Education on the Division of Domestic Work in Taiwan**

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## **Abstract**

Education has been proven to be influential in the division of housework. Higher educated men tend to do more whereas higher educated women tend to do less. In Taiwan, higher education expansion has taken place for some time, which results in a rise in education level among women. Under such background, the effect of education on the division of housework, both in absolute and relative terms, might change accordingly. Using a sample of 2,113 respondents from Taiwan Social Change Survey, 2002 and 2012, we ask two questions. First, how do different educational level combinations between spouses affect the division of housework? When educational homogamy is the case, how do different education levels matter? Could a threshold effect exist? When educational heterogamy happens, how much educational credential distance is needed to bring a more egalitarian division of housework. How is this distance different for educational hypergamy and hypogamy? Second, previous studies have provided evidence for the Relative Resources Theory and gender role attitudes in the division of housework. Yet, what are less explored are their possible interaction effects with education, despite the fact that both is strongly associated with education. In this research, we probe into their relations in more detail.

**Key Words:** Division of Housework, Educational Hypogamy, Gender Role Attitudes, Relative Resource Theory