

The Influence of Career Education on the Job Satisfaction of Working Mothers

-Study of Interdisciplinary Research-

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study was to investigate how career education affects the life and job satisfaction of women in Japan. This study examines how career education influences the life of working mothers. The first objective was to examine whether career education influences the job satisfaction of working mothers in Japan, most of whom work part-time. The second objective was to examine what else affects the job satisfaction of working mothers. We considered several factors related to job satisfaction, such as human capital (age, school career), husbands' housework, children's age, responsibility of housework, and income. This study reports the results of an interview survey conducted in 2010 and a questionnaire survey conducted in 2011. The data were collected from 180 married Japanese working mothers residing in Japan with children under the age of 12. We analyzed the data using path analysis. The following results were obtained: Firstly, career education increases women's positive consciousness towards employment of women, gender equality, experience of multiple roles and job satisfaction. High education was important to women's employment. Secondly, other factors that affect work mothers job satisfaction were multiple-role holders, equal opportunity workplaces and continuing to learn about work now. Despite the length of education years and career education experience, desire to continue working at the time of school graduation did not rise. However, career education experience is directly enhancing job satisfaction. In addition, because it influences life and consciousness after school graduation such as career education experience, we were able to reconfirm the importance of education. Thirdly, a higher income of the husband did not affect women' working style. In accordance with previous studies, we cannot confirm the theory of P. H. Douglas and Arisawa in Japan. Finally, the job satisfaction of working mothers was not affected by the youngest child's age. The older the youngest child, the more tasks mothers have to fulfill, for example, to look after homework, pick them up after school activities etc. Most mothers take on the responsibility to take care of children more from elementary school. These findings suggest that career education remains an important factor affecting women's job satisfaction.