

MALE AND FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS' IDEAS TOWARDS HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION IN TOKYO AND SEOUL. Makino K.:

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OBJECTIVE: Co-education home economics(HE) at senior high schools started throughout the country in Japan in 1994. In Korea, co-education HE at junior high schools started in 1995. This research aimed to examine how male and female students feel and what they think about home HE education in Japan and Korea both of which have been facing changes in girls' education. It also aimed to get information for effective and useful HE education through the opinion of boys and girls. **METHOD:** The questionnaires were completed by high school students of both sexes in Tokyo and Seoul in 1994/95. The questions were; (1) what words do you associated with "home economics class", (2) what are your ideas which would promote effective and enjoyable HE classes. The open ended questions answered by 139 boys and 194 girls in Tokyo and 86 boys and 109 girls in Seoul, were analyzed. **RESULTS:** Home economics classes were associated mainly with the words relating to food and clothing in Tokyo, and mainly with "female" in Seoul. Diversity in the words were found among the Seoul students more than the Tokyo students. Gender differences were smaller than the cultural differences. Students' proposals for effective HE classes were classified to curriculum, co-education, methods of teaching, learning style and others. Many students in both cities want to learn practical activities such as cooking, fashion shows, visiting childcare centers, and experiments. More opinions about co-education were found in Seoul than in Tokyo. The female students were more positive than the male students in Seoul. Various interesting proposals for the learning styles were given by the students in both cities among both sexes.