

Gender Inequality in Housework

How to Address Gender Inequality in Housework

Oct 6, 2023 (Fri) 16:30-19:00

Organizer: Gwangju Foundation for Women & Family

Background

With capitalism and patriarchy firmly established, our society has come highly evaluate the value of paid labors. Unpaid housework, however, have been dismissed or underestimated as unpleasant chores that can be done by anybody. In the 1970s, western society eventually started to recognize that housework (including giving birth and caring) was essential to enable us to promote survival and reproduction of ourselves and our family, maintain community, enhance productivity of all workers (family members), and contribute to the public production and reproduction. Those awareness shift drove the humanity to provoke 'productivity and social values of housework. Especially, struggles and campaigns to call for wages on housework mushroomed throughout UK, France, Italy, and US, which prompted their societies to socially evaluate housework and set certain policies to grant them the meaning of labors and enhance their values. Korea also launched 'household production satellite account (evaluation of unpaid housework labor values by the Statistics Korea) as part of effort to estimate values of housework. According to the 2019 data, the economic value of unpaid housework was 490.9 trillion KRW (accounting for 25.5% of Nominal GDP) and the value of unpaid Housework per person was 9.49 million KRW (13.8 million KRW for female and 5.21 million KRW for male). Nevertheless, the data did not count intangible(emotional) values of the housework, such as overall life planning to maintain family life and emotional activities to sustain family relations that could not be converted into economic values. If those intangible values were considered as well, gender inequality relevant to housework would get deepened. Therefore, now is the time to bring changes in measuring the values of housework and to socially evaluate their values. In this regard, we would like to hold a global discussion on 'inequality in housework and realization of their social values.'



Objectives

First, to identify Gwangju Metropolitan City's challenges while going over overseas cases on addressing gender inequality in housework.

Second, to discuss ways to ease the burdens of housework and caring and address gender inequality.

Third, to share the impact of social values realization for housework.

Main Agenda

First, how to evaluate intangible(emotional) housework not convertible to economic values?

Second, in taking social responsibility for housework, how should rewards be made within society?

Third, could social rewards for housework have a positive impact on addressing gender inequality and promoting labor human rights for housework done outside the households?

Forth, what is the direction that our society has to take based on takeaways from overseas policies related to housework?

