

THE SOURCES OF INFLUENCE OF PARENTAL PARTICIPATION IN HOUSEHOLD TASKS

Maganto, J. M., Bartau, I., Etxeberria, J.

E-mail:plpmamaj@sf.ehu.es

E-mail:odpbaroi@sf.ehu.es

E-mail:juanito@sc.ehu.es

Dept. of Research Methods and Diagnose in Education
University of the Basque Country (Spain)

Abstract

We present the conclusions of an exploratory, descriptive and comparative study conducted in the Basque Country with a total sample of 1651 families (children (N=1651), mothers (N= 1043) and fathers (N=873)) that analyses which are the most relevant sources of influence of parents' and children's participation in household tasks. The main conclusions point that: a) parents' sex, followed by educational-work variables are the most relevant sources of influence; mothers participate twice as much as fathers in carrying out any sort of tasks and they spend five times as much time a week than they do; when the parents' educational level increases, the educational discrepancy between fathers favors the mother and when the woman works outside the household this tends to increase fathers' participation and to decrease that of mothers' ; b) as the *parents' and children's age as well as the number of children* increases, the participation of fathers decreases and that of mothers stays the same or even increases; c) fathers' egalitarian attitude with regard to the sexual role tends to increase their own participation in the tasks; d) there is a moderate influence of family system variables over participation in household tasks. Finally, we discuss a series of implications of this study for social and educational intervention.

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