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Employment, Well-Being and Gender

Dynamics and Interactions in Emerging Asia

158 pp., 33 tables, 5 graphs

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This book examines welfare effects of gender-related inequalities in Korean households and labor markets. It uses subjective well-being data to show that reductions of excessive levels of working hours did improve family well-being in the past decade. Moreover, benefits from major life events like marriage can differ greatly by sex if traditional gender roles dominate and women contribute much less than men to household earnings. Furthermore, the study examines dynamics in rural East Asian economies and their impact on individual welfare outcomes. Both land redistribution and productivity-enhancing reforms are found to have been highly beneficial for Korean development. The Indonesian case study demonstrates the importance of cash-crop decisions and the growing non-farm sector for rural development.

Contents: The Gender-Specific Effect of Working Hours Reductions on Family Happiness in South Korea · Adaptation under Traditional Gender Roles: Testing the Baseline Hypothesis in South Korea · Rural Reforms, Agricultural Productivity, and the Biological Standard of Living in South Korea, 1941-74 · Cash-Crop Choice and Income Dynamics in Rural Areas: Evidence for Post-Crisis Indonesia