

## Sweets or Alcohol? The Gender Battle within Japanese Families

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**Abstract** In this study, I examined the allocation mechanism within families by using the collective model. The empirical results suggest that a wife's income proportion affects her budget proportion. Previous research commonly used "food in home" and "food out" categories for *developed* country analysis. In this paper, food is divided into different categories according to a gender's preference based on daily data for single households. A wife's income proportion affects her budget proportion for food, indicating that her income proportion is positively correlated with her preferred share of the food budget but negatively correlated with her husband's preferred share of the food budget. I also explored the changes in a wife's income proportion and budget proportion between 1989 and 2004 and found that the correlation between a wife's income proportion and her budget proportion became larger, suggesting that the wife's distribution power strengthened during this period.