
Premarital cohabitation, husbands' commitment, and wives' satisfaction with the division of household contribution

ABSTRACT

Recent research suggests that cohabiting men with plans to marry do more housework than those without plans to marry. Building on this finding and drawing from commitment theory, we asked whether premarital cohabitation history and husbands’ commitment were associated with satisfaction with the division of household contributions in marriage (N = 171 couples). There were no significant effects of cohabitation history (i.e., whether the couple started cohabiting before planning marriage versus after planning or not until marriage) on satisfaction with the division of household contributions during the early years of marriage. However, husbands’ dedication was associated with wives’ levels of satisfaction with the division of household contributions, even after controlling for marital adjustment and wives’ own dedication. The practical implications of these links between men’s commitment and women’s satisfaction with the division of household contributions are discussed.