EXPLORING FAIRNESS IN THE DIVISION OF LABOUR AT HOME: A CRITICAL SURVEY OF ECONOMIC MODELS OF THE FAMILY

BY ROWENA MARION TEH POH SIM (EGA 00019)

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY MALAYA IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTERS IN ECONOMICS

APRIL 2005



Chapter Outline

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Literature Review: Economic Models of the Family
 - 2.1. Common Preference Models
 - 2.1.1. The Consensus Model
 - 2.1.2. The Altruist Model
 - 2.2. Empirical Tests of Common Preference Models
 - 2.3. Bargaining Models
 - 2.3.1. The Divorce Threat Bargaining Model
 - 2.3.2. The Separate Spheres Bargaining Model

ť

- 2.3.3. The Appropriate Threat Point
- 3.0 The Division of Labour in Marriage
 - 3.1. Becker's (1989) Single-Member Household
 - 3.2. The Multiple-Member, Gender-Neutral Household
 - 3.3. Gender and Specialization in the Multiple-Member Household
 - 3.4. Complementarity in the Time of Men and Women
 - 3.5. Empirical Support of the Gendered Division of Labour
- 4.0 Sociologist and Feminist Critiques of Economic Models of Family
 - 4.1. Questioning the Fundamentals of Economic Models of Family
 - 4.1.1. Circular Reasoning of Assumptions
 - 4.1.2. The Non-Transferable Nature of Skills
 - 4.1.3. Women's Choice: Voluntary?
 - 4.1.4. The Autonomous and Selfish Agent

- 4.2. Fairness and Reciprocity in the Decisions of Families
 - 4.2.1. Fairness in the Decision-Making Mechanism
 - 4.2.2. Fairness and Reciprocity in Different Types of Social
 - 4.2.3. Fairness in Marital Relations
- 4.3. Sociologist Interpretations of Division of Labour Trends
 - 4.3.1. When Specialization Adds to Marital Stability
 - 4.3.2. When Specialization Destabilizes Marital Relations
- 4.4. Empirical Evidence of Household Attitudes Toward Division of Labour Arrangements
- 5.0 Toward a More Comprehensive Model of the Division of Labour in Households
 - 5.1. The Fairness Preference in a Unitary Model
 - 5.1.1. The Case When There is No Fairness Preference ($\beta = 0$)
 - 5.1.2. The Case When a Preference for Fairness Exists ($\beta > 0$)
 - 5.2. The Fairness Preference in a Bargaining Model
 - 5.2.1. The Case When There is No Fairness Preference ($\beta = 0$)
 - 5.2.2. The Case When a Preference for Fairness Exists ($\beta > 0$)
 - 5.3. The Validity of Widmalm's models vis-à-vis Sociologist and Feminist Theory
- 6.0 Conclusion