

**Towards an Extended Resource Theory of Marital Power:  
Parental Education and Household Decision-Making in Rural China**

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**Table A1.** Sample Descriptive Statistics of Educational Attainment of Wives, Wives' Parents, Husbands, Husbands' Parents ( $N = 2,369$ )

Variable	Mean	SD	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile
Years of education					
Wife	6.0	4.0	0	6	9
Husband	7.0	3.7	6	9	9
Wife's father	4.7	4.1	0	6	9
Wife's mother	2.7	3.6	0	0	6
Husband's father	4.7	4.2	0	6	9
Husband's mother	2.2	3.5	0	0	6
Wife – husband	-1.0	3.9	-3	0	0
Wife's father – husband's father	0.1	5.2	-3	0	3
Wife's mother – husband's mother	0.6	4.4	0	0	1
Education in percentile score					
Wife	23.4	23.0	1.2	13.4	40.9
Husband	27.9	24.8	6.1	30.2	43.7
Wife's father	33.4	28.0	10.1	24.7	50.9
Wife's mother	30.1	24.2	8.3	23.2	42.1
Husband's father	35.8	27.8	11.2	29.0	54.2
Husband's mother	30.5	24.0	8.6	23.5	42.8
Wife – husband	-4.5	27.2	-27.3	0.4	5.1
Wife's father – husband's father	-2.3	35.8	-24.3	-0.2	20.2
Wife's mother – husband's mother	-0.4	30.9	-17.8	-0.2	16.1

*Note:* Numbers were weighted by survey sampling weights to adjust for sampling design and combined across 50 imputations.

**Table A2.** Sample Descriptive Statistics of Control Variables ( $N = 2,369$ )

Variables	Mean/%
Wife's income share (%)	15.4
Couple's total income in 10,000 yuan	1.9
Couple's occupation (%)	
Neither partner is in a professional job	85.4
Only wife is in a professional job	4.9
Only husband is in a professional job	7.0
Both partners are in professional jobs	2.7
Couple's homeownership (%)	
Neither partner is an owner	57.6
Only wife is an owner	1.3
Only husband is an owner	35.2
Both partners are owners	6.0
Couple's migrant status (%)	
Both partners' <i>hukou</i> locations are in the same county as current residence	92.9
Only wife's <i>hukou</i> location is in a different county	2.1
Only husband's <i>hukou</i> location is in a different county	0.8
Both partners' <i>hukou</i> locations are in a different county	4.2
Couple's communist party membership (%)	
Neither partner is a party member	93.6
Only wife is a party member	0.6
Only husband is a party member	5.7
Both are partner members	0.1
Couple's parental occupation <sup>a</sup> (%)	
Neither partner has parents in professional jobs	82.8
Only wife has at least one parent with a professional job	7.4
Only husband has at least one parent with a professional job	7.8
Both partners have at least one parent with a professional job	2.0
Couple's parental party membership <sup>a</sup> (%)	
Neither partner has parents who are party members	77.0
Only wife has at least one parent who is a party member	10.1
Only husband has at least one parent who is a party member	11.1
Both partners have at least one parent who is a party member	1.9
Living arrangements of wife's parents (%)	
Either of wife's parents lives with wife	4.7
Either of wife's parents is alive but neither lives with wife	87.7
Both of wife's parents are deceased	7.6
Living arrangements of husband's parents (%)	
Either of husband's parents lives with husband	43.7
Either of husband's parents is alive but neither lives with husband	44.9
Both of husband's parents are deceased	11.4
Wife's housework hours	2.7
Husband's housework hours	1.2
Wife's dowry in 1,000 yuan	6.1
Wife's age in 2014	36.2

Wife's age – husband's age	-2.0
Mean age of wife's parents when wife was born	28.3
Mean age of wife's parents when wife was born – mean age of husbands' parents when wife was born	-2.3
Either wife or husband is an ethnic minority (%)	17.7
It is the first marriage for both partners (%)	96.5
Number of children in the household	1.6
The household is in an urban area (%)	40.8
The household engages in farm work (%)	68.8
The household engages in family business (%)	15.6
Family questionnaire is answered by (%)	
Wife	35.7
Husband	41.3
Other	23.0
Region where the household is located (%)	
North (Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia)	18.8
Northeast (Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang)	6.9
East (Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Shanxi, Shandong)	22.0
South Central (Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan)	22.7
Southwest (Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan)	24.7
Northwest (Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, Xinjiang)	4.9

*Note:* Numbers were weighted by survey sampling weights to adjust for sampling design and combined across 50 imputations. <sup>a</sup> Each partner's parental occupation and party membership were measured by whether his/her parents had professional jobs and party membership when he/she was at the age of 14.

**Table A3.** Coefficients from Logistic Regressions of Whether Wives Had the Final Say over Financial Decisions by Different Measures of Education ( $N = 2,369$ )

Predictor	Model 3	Model 8	Model 9	Model 10	Model 11
	Father	Mother	Max	Mean	Min
	<i>B (SE B)</i>	<i>B (SE B)</i>	<i>B (SE B)</i>	<i>B (SE B)</i>	<i>B (SE B)</i>
Panel A: Percentile Score/100					
Wife's parental education – husband's parental education	0.49* (0.21)	0.07 (0.23)	0.46* (0.22)	0.52 (0.29)	0.29 (0.30)
Wife's education – husband's education	0.80** (0.25)	0.85** (0.25)	0.80** (0.25)	0.80** (0.25)	0.83** (0.25)
Panel B: Years of Education/10					
Wife's parental education – husband's parental education	0.37* (0.15)	0.02 (0.16)	0.30 (0.15)	0.35 (0.20)	0.16 (0.18)
Wife's education – husband's education	0.46* (0.18)	0.52** (0.18)	0.47** (0.18)	0.48** (0.18)	0.51** (0.18)

*Note:* All models controlled for the mean education of the wife and her husband, the mean education of her father and father-in-law, her income share, the couple's total income, the couple's respective occupation, parental occupation, homeownership, migrant status, party membership, parental party membership, and housework hours, living arrangements with her parents and parents-in-law, her dowry, her age and its difference with her husband's age, mean age of her parents when she was born and its difference with mean age of her husbands' parents when she was born, whether either spouses was an ethnic minority, whether it was non-first marriage for either spouse, whether the household was in an urban area, whether the household engaged in farm work, whether the household engaged in family business, number of children in the household, who the family respondent was, and the region in which the household was located. Numbers were weighted by survey sampling weights to adjust for sampling design and combined across 50 imputations.

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$ ; \*\*\* $p < .001$  (two-tailed tests).

**Table A4.** Descriptive Statistics of Couples in which Either Partner had Urban *hukou* ( $N = 1,031$ )

Variables	Mean/%
Wife had the final say on at least one of the following decisions (%)	52.0
Who had the final say on household expenditure (%)	
Wife	40.2
Husband	39.8
Other	20.0
Who had the final say on savings, investment, and insurance (%)	
Wife	37.5
Husband	44.9
Other	17.6
Who had the final say on housing (%)	
Wife	29.8
Husband	54.1
Other	16.1
Who had the final say on buying expensive consumer goods, such as refrigerators, air-conditioners, and furniture sets (%)	
Wife	39.3
Husband	45.6
Other	15.1
Years of education	
Wife	10.7
Husband	11.3
Wife – Husband	–0.6
Wife’s Father	7.3
Husband’s Father	6.7
Wife’s Father – Husband’s Father	0.7
Education in percentile score	
Wife	59.1
Husband	63.7
Wife – Husband	–4.5
Wife’s Father	51.8
Husband’s Father	49.9
Wife’s Father – Husband’s Father	1.9
Wife’s income share (%)	27.4
Couple’s total income in 10,000 yuan	3.8
Couple’s occupation (%)	
Neither partner in a professional job	53.0
Only wife is in a professional job	13.5
Only husband is in a professional job	16.0
Both partners are in professional jobs	17.5
Couple’s homeownership (%)	
Neither partner is an owner	48.5
Only wife is an owner	7.0
Only husband is an owner	32.3
Both partners are owners	12.3
Couple’s migrant status (%)	
Both partners’ <i>hukou</i> locations are in the same county as current residence	88.2
Only wife’s <i>hukou</i> location is in a different county	3.3
Only husband’s <i>hukou</i> location is in a different county	3.2

Both partners' <i>hukou</i> locations are in a different county	5.2
Couple's communist party membership (%)	
Neither partner is a party member	80.7
Only wife is a party member	2.3
Only husband is a party member	14.1
Both are partner members	3.0
Couple's current <i>hukou</i> (%)	
Only wife has urban <i>hukou</i>	10.5
Only husband has urban <i>hukou</i>	17.9
Both partners have urban <i>hukou</i>	71.7
Couple's <i>hukou</i> at age 12 (%)	
Neither partner had urban <i>hukou</i> at age 12	25.9
Only wife had urban <i>hukou</i> at age 12	11.5
Only husband had urban <i>hukou</i> at age 12	19.0
both partners had urban <i>hukou</i> at age 12	43.6
Couple's parental occupation <sup>a</sup> (%)	
Neither partner has parents in professional jobs	53.9
Only wife is in a professional job	18.4
Only husband is in a professional job	16.4
Both partners are in professional jobs	11.2
Couple's parental party membership <sup>a</sup> (%)	
Neither partner has parents who are party members	56.6
Only wife has at least one parent who is a party member	13.9
Only husband has at least one parent who is a party member	19.8
Both partners have at least one parent who is a party member	9.7
Living arrangements of wife's parents (%)	
Either of wife's parents lives with wife	5.0
Either of wife's parents is alive but neither lives with wife	90.2
Both of wife's parents are deceased	4.8
Living arrangements of husband's parents (%)	
Either of husband's parents lives with husband	33.1
Either of husband's parents is alive but neither lives with husband	56.4
Both of husband's parents are deceased	10.5
Wife's housework hours	2.0
Husband's housework hours	0.9
Wife's dowry in 1,000 yuan	16.3
Wife's age in 2014	36.4
Wife's age – husband's age	-2.5
Mean age of wife's parents when wife was born	27.7
Mean age of wife's parents when wife was born – mean age of husbands' parents when wife was born	-3.4
Either wife or husband is an ethnic minority (%)	10.6
It is the first marriage for both partners marriage (%)	94.7
Number of children in the household	1.2
The household is in an urban area (%)	87.2
The household engages in farm work (%)	13.8
The household engages in family business (%)	18.2
Family questionnaire is answered by (%)	
Wife	41.5
Husband	39.1
Other	19.5

Region where the household is located (%)	
North (Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia)	18.2
Northeast (Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang)	22.5
East (Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Fujian, Shanxi, Shandong)	19.6
South Central (Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan)	25.6
Southwest (Chongqing, Sichuan, Guizhou, Yunnan)	9.1
Northwest (Shaanxi, Gansu, Ningxia, Xinjiang)	5.0

*Note:* Numbers were weighted by survey sampling weights to adjust for sampling design and combined across 50 imputations. <sup>a</sup> Each partner's parental occupation and party membership were measured by whether his/her parents had professional jobs and party membership when he/she was at the age of 14.

**Table A5.** Logistic Regressions of Whether Wives Had the Final Say over Financial Decisions among of Couples in which Either Partner had Urban *hukou* ( $N = 1,031$ )

Predictor	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
	<i>B</i> ( <i>SE B</i> )	<i>B</i> ( <i>SE B</i> )	<i>B</i> ( <i>SE B</i> )
Wife's father's education – husband's father's education (in percentile score /100)	0.12 (0.32)		0.15 (0.32)
(Wife's father's education + husband's fathers' education)/2 (in percentile score /100)	1.03 (0.55)		0.97 (0.55)
Wife's education – husband's education (in percentile score /100)		-0.10 (0.41)	-0.16 (0.42)
(Wife's education + husband's education)/2 (in percentile score /100)		0.57 (0.52)	0.41 (0.53)
Wife's income share spline			
50% or less	0.36 (0.66)	0.28 (0.66)	0.35 (0.66)
More than 50%	-0.05 (0.84)	0.03 (0.84)	-0.06 (0.84)
Couple's total income in 10,000 yuan	-0.03 (0.02)	-0.04 (0.02)	-0.04 (0.02)
Couple's occupation (ref. = neither partner in a professional job)			
Only wife is in a professional job	0.01 (0.33)	0.02 (0.33)	-0.01 (0.34)
Only husband is in a professional job	-0.08 (0.32)	-0.04 (0.32)	-0.12 (0.32)
Both partners are in professional jobs	0.47 (0.32)	0.52 (0.32)	0.42 (0.33)
Couple's homeownership (ref. = neither partner is an owner)			
Only wife is an owner	0.92 (0.48)	0.88 (0.48)	0.91 (0.48)
Only husband is an owner	-0.21 (0.24)	-0.23 (0.24)	-0.21 (0.24)
Both partners are owners	-0.09 (0.36)	-0.10 (0.35)	-0.11 (0.36)
Couple's migrant status (ref. = <i>hukou</i> location of both partners is in the same county as the current residence)			
Only wife's <i>hukou</i> location is in a different county	0.16 (0.53)	0.26 (0.51)	0.16 (0.53)
Only husband's <i>hukou</i> location is in a different county	0.88 (0.66)	0.99 (0.65)	0.92 (0.67)
Both partners' <i>hukou</i> locations are in a different county	0.17 (0.47)	0.15 (0.48)	0.18 (0.47)
Couple's party membership (ref. = neither partner is a party member)			
Only wife is a communist party member	-0.77 (0.48)	-0.78 (0.48)	-0.79 (0.47)
Only husband is a communist party member	-0.31 (0.34)	-0.45 (0.34)	-0.37 (0.34)
Both partners are communist party members	-0.02 (0.64)	-0.13 (0.64)	-0.08 (0.63)
Couple's current <i>hukou</i> (ref. = both partners have urban <i>hukou</i> )			
Only wife has urban <i>hukou</i>	-0.67 (0.37)	-0.61 (0.37)	-0.64 (0.37)
Only husband has urban <i>hukou</i>	-0.37 (0.31)	-0.38 (0.31)	-0.38 (0.32)
Couple's <i>hukou</i> at age 12 (ref. = both partners had urban <i>hukou</i> at age 12)			
Only wife had urban <i>hukou</i> at age 12	-0.18 (0.37)	-0.24 (0.37)	-0.17 (0.37)
Only husband had urban <i>hukou</i> at age 12	0.49	0.47	0.50



	(0.33)	(0.33)	(0.33)
Neither partner had urban <i>hukou</i> at age 12	0.02	0.01	0.06
	(0.32)	(0.32)	(0.32)
Couple's parents' occupation <sup>a</sup> (ref. = neither partner has parents in professional jobs)			
Only wife has at least one parent with a professional job	-0.36	-0.28	-0.37
	(0.34)	(0.34)	(0.34)
Only husband has at least one parent with a professional job	0.17	0.25	0.18
	(0.32)	(0.32)	(0.33)
Both partners have at least one parent with a professional job	0.06	0.23	0.05
	(0.41)	(0.40)	(0.41)
Couple's parents' party membership <sup>a</sup> (ref. = neither partner has parents who are party members)			
Only wife has at least one parent who is a party member	-0.42	-0.37	-0.44
	(0.37)	(0.37)	(0.37)
Only husband has at least one parent who is a party member	0.38	0.38	0.37
	(0.32)	(0.31)	(0.32)
Both partners have at least one parent who is a party member	-0.21	-0.13	-0.20
	(0.41)	(0.41)	(0.41)
Living arrangements of wife's parents (ref. = both were deceased)			
Either parent of the wife lives in the household	0.13	0.09	0.13
	(0.86)	(0.86)	(0.86)
Either parent of the wife is alive but neither lives in the household	0.16	0.16	0.15
	(0.65)	(0.65)	(0.64)
Living arrangements of husband's parents (ref. = both were deceased)			
Either parent of the husband lives in the same household	-1.32**	-1.30**	-1.32**
	(0.46)	(0.45)	(0.46)
Either parent of the husband is alive but neither lives in the household	-0.27	-0.25	-0.29
	(0.44)	(0.43)	(0.43)
Wife's housework hours	-0.08	-0.06	-0.07
	(0.09)	(0.09)	(0.09)
Husband's housework hours	0.02	0.01	0.02
	(0.10)	(0.10)	(0.10)
Wife's dowry <sup>b</sup>	-0.00	0.00	-0.02
	(0.11)	(0.11)	(0.11)
Wife's age	0.03	0.03	0.03
	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Wife's age – husband's age	-0.02	-0.02	-0.01
	(0.04)	(0.04)	(0.04)
Mean age of wife's parents when wife was born	-0.01	-0.01	-0.01
	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Mean age of wife's parents when wife was born – mean age of husbands' parents when wife was born	0.01	0.00	0.00
	(0.02)	(0.02)	(0.02)
Either wife or husband is an ethnic minority	-0.37	-0.28	-0.37
	(0.36)	(0.37)	(0.37)
First marriage for both partners	-1.30*	-1.38**	-1.33**
	(0.51)	(0.51)	(0.51)
Number of children in the household	0.25	0.23	0.26
	(0.19)	(0.19)	(0.19)
The household is in an urban area	0.28	0.22	0.28
	(0.33)	(0.32)	(0.33)
The household engages in farm work	0.34	0.31	0.36
	(0.36)	(0.36)	(0.36)
The household engages in family business	-0.07	-0.08	-0.06
	(0.29)	(0.29)	(0.29)
Family questionnaire is answered by (ref. = wife)			
Husband	-1.97***	-1.96***	-1.98***

	(0.23)	(0.23)	(0.23)
Other	-2.95***	-2.90***	-2.94***
	(0.37)	(0.36)	(0.37)
Region where the household is located (ref. = North)			
Northeast	0.86*	0.88**	0.90**
	(0.33)	(0.33)	(0.33)
East	-0.10	-0.16	-0.10
	(0.37)	(0.37)	(0.37)
South Central	0.05	0.07	0.05
	(0.31)	(0.31)	(0.32)
Southwest	0.63	0.60	0.66
	(0.52)	(0.52)	(0.52)
Northwest	0.07	0.04	0.06
	(0.63)	(0.62)	(0.62)
Constant	0.17	0.12	-0.06
	(1.59)	(1.61)	(1.63)

*Note:* Numbers were weighted by survey sampling weights to adjust for sampling design and combined across 50 imputations. <sup>a</sup> Each partner's parental occupation and party membership were measured by whether his/her parents had professional jobs and party membership when he/she was at the age of 14. <sup>b</sup> Dowry was measured as the square root of the real value in 100 yuan.

\* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$ ; \*\*\* $p < .001$  (two-tailed tests)