

The existing literature on the gendered division of labor suggests that in many contexts husbands are increasingly performing household tasks, but that a gender gap still remains to varying degrees. While ongoing research has been examining changes in the gendered division of labor across a wide range of geographical settings, we have fairly limited knowledge about the current dynamics of task allocation in Filipino households, at least on a national scale. Households within the Philippines have, until recently, largely conformed to the norm that a male breadwinner is preferred, and women largely preside over domestic affairs. With substantial overseas labor migration of men and an increasing number of women who engage in long-term overseas labor contracts, things appear to be changing. Frequently, the women who go leave their husbands and children at home, often for years at a time. Some case studies suggest that the rise in Filipino households with women engaged in overseas work has caused 'left-behind' husbands and other family members to reconfigure roles within the home, at least while the woman is away. Men in wife-absent households have been engaging in housework, often to a degree that previously would have been highly stigmatized. And some studies suggest that views regarding what have conventionally been considered men's and women's domains are now shifting more broadly. We plan to use national level data from 1994, 2002 and 2012 to assess the extent to which this transformation is occurring in the Philippines. We seek to answer the following questions: Are men's and women's attitudes and behaviors about housework changing and if so, in what ways? What household and employment contexts most influence spouses' involvement in domestic labor?