

Peer Review

Review of: "Women Power in Family Matters from Perspective of Intersectionality Theory"

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The case report by Chen and Ting is particularly interesting because it is based on an autoethnography of the first author. It provides valuable insight into how an urban, highly educated woman navigates power within a patriarchal system in contemporary urban China. The authors interpret their findings through an intersectionality framework to demonstrate how the social positioning of educated urban women shapes their ability to negotiate patriarchal structures.

In relation to marital residence, the authors describe how the husband relocated to the wife's place of employment rather than following the more conventional patriarchal expectation that the woman would move to join the husband. This decision was facilitated by structural factors: the husband's profession as a medical doctor allowed greater employment mobility due to labour demand, whereas the wife's position as a university lecturer was geographically fixed and difficult to transfer. Thus, this outcome appears to be influenced not only by gender and class but also by differences in occupational flexibility.

Regarding bride price and dowry practices, the authors argue that these functioned primarily as symbolic rituals rather than mechanisms of economic dependence. This was largely possible because both spouses were financially stable, well employed, and held high social status through their professional positions. Their economic independence reduced the traditional power implications of these practices.

In the domain of childcare and household labour, the study shows how support from the spouse and in-laws enabled the author to pursue further career advancement, including completing a doctoral degree while raising two children. The findings suggest a shift away from the traditional model of women as primary caregivers toward a more cooperative arrangement, in which the husband assumed substantial caregiving responsibilities with the support of his parents. This arrangement appears closely linked to

the value placed on the wife's education and career, as well as the perceived long-term economic benefits of her professional advancement.

The author also reports having significant autonomy in reproductive decision-making, including the timing of childbirth, without strong pressure from parents or in-laws. This autonomy again seems connected to her professional status and her role as an economic contributor within the family.

Overall, the case report highlights the growing importance of female education and employment as key resources that enhance women's bargaining power within households. This reflects a broader social trend in which women increasingly pursue education and paid work as pathways to improved life opportunities and greater autonomy.

However, an important dimension of family power that receives less attention in the analysis is the role of emotional relationships and intimacies within marriage and extended family networks, particularly with in-laws. The level of support a woman receives is often shaped not only by structural factors such as education and occupation but also by affective bonds, trust, and relational dynamics. The article would therefore benefit from incorporating this relational and emotional dimension of power alongside its current emphasis on intersectionality.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.