

Household Chores and Child Care

By:

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History Of Childcare 1950's vs. present

Cassie Ealy

History of the 1950's

- ◉ Korean War (1950-1952)
 - > A civil war that started out between North Korea and South Korea.
- ◉ Rock and Roll
 - > Little Richard
 - > James Brown
 - > Elvis Presley
- ◉ Presidency
 - > Harry Truman
 - > Dwight Eisenhower
- ◉ Famous People
 - > Marilyn Monroe
 - > James Dean
 - > Clint Eastwood

Childcare in 1950's

- Children were more socialized in the 1950's
 - > There was no TV for children to watch
 - > There were no video games or computer games
 - > Children used imagination to play by themselves
 - > Children were not spoiled like they are today.
 - > A lot of children ended up getting jobs at young ages.

Childcare in 1950's

◉ Stay at home moms

- > Once their kids were school age, they went out and found jobs to help support the family.
- > Quality vs Quantity
- > Daycare was not used often
 - A lot of moms stayed at home or whenever they needed someone to watch their children, they just went to an aunt or mom or grandmother to be watched.

Current Childcare (1990's-present)

- Children are not as socialized as they were in the 1950's
 - > Technology has affected the way children are raised
- Parents work
 - > Send children to daycare facilities

Housework & Childcare

Rahim Kapadia

Housework/Childcare on Google Images



Google's top searches for Housework/Childcare in Western Society



How are the responsibilities of
housework and childcare
performed in Indian households
(In India) compared to
American households?

Indian Culture: Backwards to Western Society

● Housework

- The role of each gender in Indian society is one that is steeped in religion and culture and makes for a domineering tradition.
- Oppression caused by geographical locations throughout the country, education, economic and religious reasons.
- Indian women usually suffer from a low social status compared to men and are sometimes treated negatively.
(compare to Western Society)

Indian Culture: Backwards to Western Society

◉ Women As Nurturer (India)

- A woman's sole purpose in life is to devote her life to her husband and children.
- Women are thought to "eat and do nothing".
- The wife is to be submissive and attentive to her husband's needs. She also must not question his authority and adore him to keep him happy

Interesting:

"sati". This is where upon the death of a woman's husband, to show entire devotion to him she will commit suicide to join him. This is often done by throwing herself on the funeral pyre.

Differences

- **Household tasks differ by gender.** Men contribute most to yard work and home maintenance, while women carry 75% of the burden for grocery shopping, cooking, laundry, and dishwashing
- Results from the 1990 National Child Care Survey suggest that when there are pre-school age children in the household, **men provide child care** in about 1 in 5 cases. Women are more likely to turn to neighbors and other relatives for care.
- **Women do more housework than men.** On average, women ages 18-65 spend about 30 hours per week in paid employment and 22 hours doing housework. Men average about ten hours per week doing housework, a figure which changes little when their wives work and they have young children in the household.

Gender Roles vary amongst Social Classes

- The highly educated societies in India relate to Western society compared to rural societies in India.
- The idea of a typical “mans job” is readily equivalent to the “females job” as well and vice versa.
- Gender roles are not freedom based, differing them from Western Society. Gender roles have not changed from the traditional way of life being male dominated.

Gender Roles amongst Social Classes

- Highly educated societies are always looking for new developments, and enhancing its standard of living and in this class you will see that the break between gender roles decreases
- Rural areas in India, where they are still attempting discoveries to make transitions creasing away from under-developed areas the caste system still holds great significance where gender determines what you are able to do.
- Men of the house earn money and women stay at home, doing the needful to manage home and children.

Childcare - Why Is Childcare Important?

- ◉ some societies, mothers as well as fathers can provide childcare, food, clothing, and shelter for their families through work located in or near the family home.
- ◉ In other situations, men are employed away from home and the daily care of children becomes the primary responsibility of women (Carnoy 2000).
- ◉ Some women work only before marriage.

Gender Roles amongst Social Classes

- Many mothers with young children today work outside the home and can no longer fill the traditional responsibilities of home and childcare.
 - Because children's early experiences and relationships with caregivers have a significant influence on their future development and achievements

Differences

- Countries such as India have highly centralized patterns of authority and provide universal support for childcare. In other countries such as the United States, family and childcare policies and standards are created at state, province, or local levels and child-care is the responsibility of the family.
- Many childcare programs include an educational component. The role of teacher varies by culture. Data show that a low teacher-child ratio and a language-based curriculum are essential parts of an effective program.

Sources

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Nannies

Are they really the
best thing for families?

History

- ◉ Nannies today are different from nannies in the past
 - > Place in family
 - Nannies used to be like another family member. Today, their place is different.
 - > Responsibilities
 - In past times, the responsibility was higher.
 - > Popular in high society
 - Over half of families today are dual-career or dual-earner families

Society's View Today

- Family should be the first and primary caregiver toward children
 - > Parents shape the child's future
 - > Mothers and fathers play a vital role
 - Both are responsible for developing their child's lingual, social, cognitive and emotional skills ~ *Child and Child Care Development*
 - Preschool age is the most important time period for this development
 - Good involvement can lead to better social skills and school performance
 - What will happen if a nanny takes on the role of the mother and father?

Society's View Today

◉ Materialistic Society

- > For some parents, their children start to become objects, rather than important people who need their parent's love and guidance ~ *The Day Care Dilemma*
 - "In some ways, parents are ridding themselves of their children just as bulimics are regurgitating their food. Many are not accepting their responsibilities, or the consequences, of having children. They don't not want to raise them, they do not want to nurture them as long as they can hire others." ~ *The Day Care Dilemma*

Positives

- ◉ Less Stress

- > Housework
- > Raising the children

- ◉ Company for children

- > While the parents are working, the children don't have to be home alone

- ◉ Freedoms for parents

- > Job/Money security and freedom
- > Relationship as a couple

Negatives

◉ Responsibility

- Parents should be the ones instilling morals in their children
 - How responsible will the child be later in life?

◉ Abuse

- Having a nanny is sometimes inviting a stranger into your home
 - Possible physical/emotional abuse of the children
 - “Nanny Cam”

◉ Family Time

- Because the parents work more, the quality of the time they do spend with their children is less beneficial

Video Clip

- Abusive nanny caught on the ["Nanny Cam"](#)



Discussion

- What do YOU think?
 - > Do the benefits of having a nanny outweigh the risks that come with it?
- If parents have no other choice than to hire a nanny, how can they preserve their gender roles in the eyes of their children and maintain their gender identities?
- What are some alternatives?

Credits and Citations

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Convergence of Parental Responsibilities in Childcare

by Kathleen Staley

“Is the rise in dual income families contributing to a mutual shared responsibility of childcare between parents?”

“Work and Care Strategies of European Families: Similarities or National Differences?”

Trine P. Larsen

- ◉ Study of 27 dual-earner European families with young children (ages 7 months to 12 years)
- ◉ Findings:
 - > Similarities across countries. (Finland, Italy, Portugal, UK)
 - > Reliance on formal and informal care
 - > Dual earners => convergence of childcare responsibilities

“Work and Care Strategies of European Families: Similarities or National Differences?” Trine P. Larsen

- ◉ Major determinates of childcare:
 - > Flexibility of work schedules determines sharing
 - > Attitudes toward gender roles in parenting
 - > Orientation toward professional career vs. family
- ◉ What do you think matters more: work schedules or attitudes toward roles?

“Husbands at Home: Predictors of Paternal Participation in Housework and Childcare”

Francine M. Deutsch, Julianne B. Lussier, and Laura J. Servis

- Study of 66 dual-earner couples with newborns in US from birth to 8 months.
- Findings:
 - > Mother's work hours (most important factor for father's contributions)
 - > Flexible work schedules help with sharing
 - > Both parents' attitudes toward sex roles are predictors participation
- Do you think that fathers who participate more in childcare will also participate more in housework?

“Parents’ Convergence on Sharing and Marital Satisfaction, Father Involvement, and Parent-Child Relationship at the Transition to Parenthood” Ruth Feldman

- Study of 60 Israeli dual-earner families with firstborn child in infancy to age 3
- Findings:
 - > Strong correlation between marital satisfaction and paternal involvement in child care
 - > Mother-child relationship biologically based; Father-child relationship socially based
 - > Single earner vs. dual earner father participation out of choice vs. necessity

Conclusion

- ◉ Convergence of parental roles influenced by parents' attitudes of roles and on their work flexibility
- ◉ Impact of technology?
- ◉ Do you believe that American society is actually progressing toward a shared responsibility in childcare?

Does Media Affect our Attitudes on Household Chores?

By Stephanie Banta

Traditional Chores

- ◉ Girls traditional Chores:
 - ◉ Cooking, Cleaning, Laundry, Washing & Drying Dishes, and Mend clothing
- ◉ Boys traditional Chores:
 - ◉ Mow the lawn, Carry out the garbage, and Small repairs around the house

TV Commercials & TV Shows

- There are a lot of TV commercials that stereotype women
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DnQypXp54Q>
- There a lot of TV shows that stereo type men and women. (I Love Lucy, Home Improvement, Melissa & Joey, Full House)

“Children, Television, and Conception about Chores: Attitudes and Behavior”

- Study done by Nancy Signorelli and Margaret Lears (in 1992)
- They want to see if television viewing would affect children's views on household chores.
- They studied children in 4th (N=257) and 5th grade (N=273). There were 263 girls and 266 boys in the study.

“Children, Television, and Conception about Chores: Attitudes and Behavior”

- The children were given a survey about how much TV that they watch and when they watch TV.
- Children were asked question on gender roles on who should do which chore (wash and dry dishes, mow lawn. Take out garbage, help with cooking ,etc.), and they also were ask which household chores that they do in their own home.

Findings

The average amount of TV watched was 3.5 hrs usually watched after dinner and before going to bed

- ◉ The found that boys mostly mowed the lawn, took out the garbage, and helped with small repairs around the house.
- ◉ Girls washed dishes, helped with cooking, cleaning the house and making beds.
- ◉ Children gave stereotypic answers to 3 out the seven chores. Boys were significantly more like to give stereotypic responses then girls

“Children, Television, and Conception about Chores: Attitudes and Behavior”

- Boys were like to do boy's chores then girls were to do boys chores and girls were more likely to do girl's chores then boys were.
- Boys did 2 of 3 boy's chores and 2 of 4 of the girl's chores. And girls did 1 of 3 boy's chores and 3 of 4 girl's chores.

“Children, Television, and Conception about Chores: Attitudes and Behavior”

- They found there was no relationship between TV and children saying that they did traditional boy chores or girl chores.
- Children who watch more TV more likely to say they girls should do chores traditional associated with girls and boys do chores traditional associated with boys.
- For boys having less stereotypic ideas about who should perform chores predicted that they would be more likely to say they did girl chore and boys that have more stereotypic ideas who say the would perform boy chores.

“Children, Television, and Conception about Chores: Attitudes and Behavior”

- Girls have more stereotypic ideas more likely to say that they performed boys chores which shows that they have less stereotypic ideas on who should do what chore.

Questions???

- ◉ Do you believe that TV plays a roles on how society views attitudes about household chores?
- ◉ How could TV shows and commercials change to be less stereotypic about household chores??

Work Cited

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Matrilineal Vs. Patrilineal Societies

Jessica Moore

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Words to Know

- ◉ Polygamy

- marriage in which a spouse of either sex may have more than one mate at the same time

- ◉ Patrilineal

- tracing descent through the male line

- ◉ Matrilineal

- tracing descent through the female line

Something to Think About.....

We have seen evidence of patrilineal (or patriarchal) societies in the media through the exploitation of polygamies and shows like “Sister wives”. Do you think America could be a matrilineal society? Yes or no? Why or Why not?

“We are sick of playing the roles of breeding bulls and baby-sitters.”

Who said this?

Man

Matrilineal Society: Khasi Tribe of India

“Men

treat us like donkeys.”

Who said this?

Woman

Patrilineal Society: Maasai Tribe of Tanzania

Patrilineal Society: Maasai Tribe of Tanzania

- ◉ Wealth is in cattle
- ◉ Wives are less important than cattle
 - > Referred to as property
 - > Daughters are not counted when asked how many children one (husband) has
- ◉ When husband is absent wives must ask an elder male before they travel, receive health care, or make “important decisions”
- ◉ Women receive less education than men

Patrilineal Society: Maasai Tribe of Tanzania cont....

- Paul Spencer: “On the whole I found women were quite ignorant of many aspects of the total society and usually unhelpful as informants. Outside the affairs of their own family circle they often showed certain indifference. They were less inquisitive than the males and less quick to grasp situations. They found it harder to comprehend my remarks and questions. I had the impression that they had never been encouraged to show much initiative on their own, and this was a quality which they simply had not developed; any inborn tendencies to this had been baulked by the strictness of their upbringing. Their demeanor was sometimes listless and frequently sour. They often lacked the general hospitality and warmth that typified the adult males and it was only with ameliorating circumstances of middle-age that they tended to acquire it—and many never did.”

Matrilineal Society: Khasi Tribe of India

- ⦿ Economic feature is the human capital of girls
- ⦿ Family life is organized around the mother's household
 - Household is headed by the grandmother who lives with unmarried daughters and youngest daughter and children
 - Unmarried, divorced, or widowed sons also live in the home
 - Older daughters form their households adjacent to their mother's home
- ⦿ Women never join the households of their husband's family

Matrilineal Society: Khasi Tribe of India cont...

- ⦿ A man usually leaves his mother's household to join his wife's
- ⦿ Although women do not become hunters or warriors, they have complete authority over household decisions
- ⦿ Husbands have no property, no authority, no social role believed to be important, and is expected to work for the gain of his wife's family
 - Husbands roles are viewed as so subservient that this status has lead to a men's right's group

Similarities

- ◎ The important similarities between the two tribes seem to only benefit the women.
 - > Khasi (Matrilineal Tribe) men are more important in their sisters' households than in their wives' households,
 - > Maasai (Patrilineal Tribe) women can enjoy prestige and power in their roles as widows (only if they have sons)

Experiment

- ◎ Authors: Uri Gneezy, Kenneth Leonard, and John List used a controlled experiment to explore whether there are gender differences in selecting into competitive environments across the two societies
- ◎ Participants were asked to meet in a central location to their respective villages
- ◎ The experimental task was to toss a tennis ball into a bucket that was placed 3 meters away. Participants were informed that they had 10 chances.

Results

- Khasi women chose to compete more than Khasi men, 54% to 46%
- 50% of Massasi men chose to compete compared to 26% of Massasi women

Overall

- Massasi Women are 25-32% less likely to compete than their male counterparts
- Khasi women are 15% more likely to compete than their male counterparts

Resources

- Gneezy, U., Leonard, K., & List, J (2009). Gender Differences in Competition: Evidence from a Matrilineal and a Patriarchal Society. *Econometrica*, 77:5, 1637-1664
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If not, how do we fix it?

Is the traditional way the right way?

Tradition

- ◉ Women are inside
 - > Ex: cleaning and cooking
- ◉ Men are outside
 - > Ex: mowing the lawn

The catch: Outside chores are usually done less often than inside chores.

Career vs. House

- ◉ Men as “breadwinners”, women took household chores.
- ◉ Women work outside home now but still do the same amount of work they used to.
- ◉ Women get paid less in the job market too. So, they do the majority of the unpaid work and get paid less for paid work.

Housework: Cross-National Perspective

- Showing latest available data.

- Rank

- = 1 [United States](#): 2.26

- = 1 [Norway](#): 2.26

- = 3 [Sweden](#): 2.25

- = 3 [Canada](#): 2.25

- # 5 [New Zealand](#): 2.13

- # 6 [United Kingdom](#): 2.11

- # 7 [Germany](#): 2.1

- # 8 [Netherlands](#): 2.04

- # 9 [Australia](#): 2.03

- # 10 [Austria](#): 1.89

- # 11 [Ireland](#): 1.83

- # 12 [Italy](#): 1.74

- # 13 [Japan](#): 1.5

- Weighted average: 2.0**

DEFINITION: Gender [Division](#) of [Labour](#) Index, 1994 Range = 1.00 (female does all) through 2.50 (equality) to 5.00 (male does all).

- SOURCE:** Jeanne A. Batalova and Philip N. Cohen, 'Premarital Cohabitation and Housework: Couples in Cross-National Perspective', Journal of Marriage and Family 64, August 2002, p.748

Importance of Unpaid Work

- ◉ Unpaid work is arguably more important to an individual.
- ◉ “work performed in households is more essential to basic survival and quality of life than much of the work done in offices, factories and stores, and is a fundamental precondition for a healthy market sector”
 - (GPIAtlantic)

So...

- Men still do the outside chores though, so should women do these instead and have a 180 switch?
- ◉ What should be done to equal out paid and unpaid work?
- ◉ Should it stay the same?

Conclusion

- I think that it depends on each situation but household chores should be split up as even as possible. If one person cooks, the other should clean up afterwards. Or both cook and clean together, if able. If one person is planting in the front yard the other should mow the lawn.
- If one person works and the other stays at home, the person staying at home should do the majority of housekeeping, man or woman.