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WMST 390T

02 March 2020

Battle of the Chores

In the article “Time, money and who does laundry” by the University of Michigan, we learn that Women and young girls are more likely to do household chores than men and boys. The author supports this by providing statistics from a research experiment. For example, the author says that, according to their research, girls are likely to do more household work than boys and boys spend, on average, 30% less time contributing to chores. The author also supports their claim by, not only speaking about children, but discussing how much time married and unmarried women spend doing chores. They conclude that things have not changed that much. In fact, the changes that are being made when it comes to chores are really just the same.

In the article “Women Still Do More Chores At Home Than Men, Study Finds” by Chloe Tejada, we learn that societal ideals regarding who does the housework, normally remain the same from childhood to adulthood. The author supports this by discussing a recent study that was done, consisting of heterosexual women. They distributed them amongst age and different variables, such as whether they were married or not, if they were working, and if they had children. By distinguishing the individuals with these disparities they were able to determine whether women still do most of the household chores.

These two articles particularly reminded me of the film, *Solar Mamas*. Rafea’s story interested me the most. In the film, you can see that she has four children, a husband, and they

live in a desert village. When she was not in India and she was at her home you can see that she does most of the household work. She does the laundry, cooking, and cleaning. In the film, you don't see her husband doing much of anything. He tells her to "go make dinner." In that particular culture, women live through their husbands. So, they do not have a say so in much of anything.

Fortunately, the household that I grew up in was different. I was raised by a single mother and I have two sisters. So, it was all girls in the house. Now, my mother never gave us an allowance. She described it as something that we should do. Interesting enough, she compared chores to school. I remember she used to tell us, "do not expect an allowance just because you get good grades in school, that is your responsibility, chores are just the same." Chores were equally distributed in my mother's household. I am the youngest out of my mother's children but I still had chores, which was not just picking up my toys. My mother made me cut the lawn, she would stand behind me and have her hand on top of mine and help me push the lawnmower across the yard. I was always taught that outside work is not just a man's job, it's everyone's job.

These two articles both include statistics, being as though they include studies that took place. Both articles have a higher percentage of women doing household work. In the study by the University of Michigan, the study shows that women that work do housework about 25 hours per week while men do about 7 hours per week. Also, in "Time, Money And Who Does The Laundry," The author mentions that "the more things change, the more they stay the same," which in the subsequent article Tejada brings up the fact that when it comes to what specific chores men and women do is consistent from youth to adulthood. I correlated those two things because I feel that no matter the job you have, how much money you make, or how many kids

you have it will always be the same when it comes to women doing more household chores than men.

Women carry the household when it comes to housework. With the exception of some couples who understand that housework is a double standard. Why should women take on all of the responsibility of doing housework? The society that we live in today assigns gender roles without even knowing it. Meaning that a man might feel like it is normal for him to only do the outside work and a woman may think it is normal for only her to wash the dishes. Individuals are taught gender roles at a young age. So, in order to see a decrease in the amount of women doing more housework than men we must not assign chores that seem appropriate to a person's gender.

Work Cited

Tejada, Chloe. “ Women Still do More Chores At Home Than Men, No Matter What They Make.” *Huffington Post*, <https://www.huffingtonpost.ca>. Accessed 02 March 2020.