

## ***Rather complementary...***

I was talking to my grandmother about 9 years ago when she mentioned that a friend of hers got divorced just because her husband did not find his dinner ready for him when he got back from work. And what is ironic and funny, from contemporary generations perspective, is that my grandmother was against what her friend did "she brought that to herself, why didn't she cook the dinner for the poor exhausted husband "my grandmother said. It was a tendency that women should do all the housework, which recently, aroused a heated debate: woman are being sort of discriminated in terms of the amount of housework load on their shoulders in the vast majority of the societies. Other than talking About whether that is true or false, this essay will reflect why are gender attitudes towards housework differing and somehow seem to be favoring men, by illustrating the instinctive and environmental causes through time for this dilemma.

As far as the human physical abilities are concerned, it is pretty obvious that the two genders are not equal. By that, I don't mean that men are better. According to a study Published in 2004," Male skeletal muscles are generally faster and have higher maximum power output than female muscles. Conversely, during repeated contractions, female muscles are generally more

fatigue resistant and recover faster" (Glenmark, B., Nilsson, M., Gao, H., Gustafsson, J. Å., Dahlman-Wright, K., & Westerblad, H, 2004), Which means that every one of these two genders has its own fields that they excel at. Women are capable of resisting pregnancy pain for nine months, their mammary glands are tremendously important in reinforcing their children's immune system and provide nutrition. On the other hand, men are able to give that relatively high power output in his work to achieve higher income to support his family. What is significant about this is that both are instinctively designed and well prepared to do that. Some people might argue: women can also do hard work and men still can babysit their children and do some housework. That's true, so as football players, they are definitely capable of playing basketball indeed; However, they are never going to do as well as real basketball players do and vice versa. Everyone should be placed in his perfect position, in order to maximize the profit of the family's efforts. As can be seen, men and women are rather complementary than equal. It's worth mentioning that not only genes and instincts that are affecting the current situation, but also the environment which contribute to a far extent to how the housework is looked at nowadays.

As time passes by, most of our surroundings are in constant change, unlike instincts and tendencies, the cultures and environments are

significantly affected by time. Only 200 years ago, these uncountable jobs and those highly sophisticated specialties didn't exist.

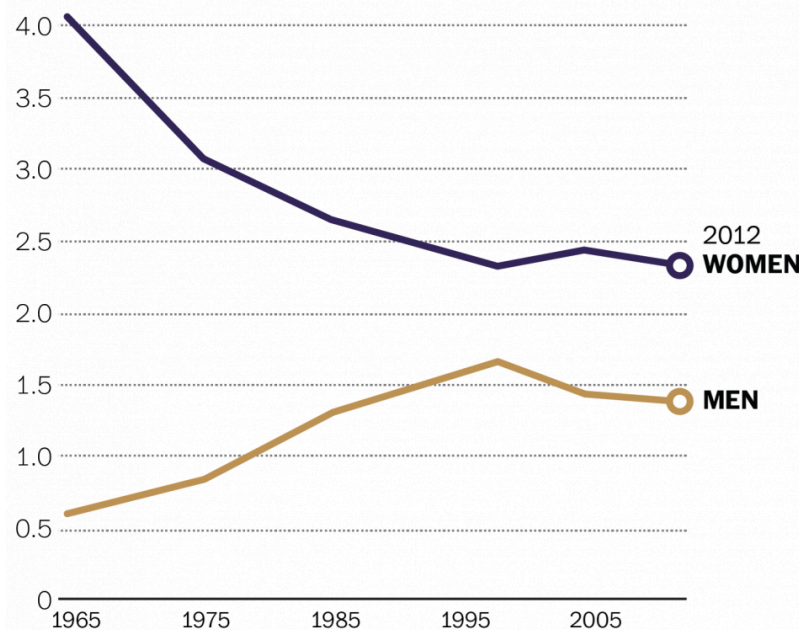
Nurturing sheep, fishing and pearling were the only available jobs in some cultures. In other words, jobs, not very far ago, were shrunken and exclusively depending on muscle power. so instinctively, men and women were automatically distributed to their positions, men were to work

Their gifted muscles and women were to do the housework at home . Let me state the obvious, this is not the case anymore, jobs are developing and the surrounding is changing. Most jobs now are no more muscle demanding. If we are to take education into consideration, unlike before, nowadays more and more women tend to complete their education, which makes them eligible to be more involved in the labor market; consequently, relatively less involved in the housework. A simple example for this is my family. First of all, both my grandmothers did not complete their education, which made them follow the mainstream at that time, of staying at home and doing the housework ;on the other hand, both my grandfathers are well educated and had (more or less) average jobs. Moving on to my parents, both my mother and father are doctors; however, Due to the environment that they grew up in, my mother still tends to do the vast majority of the Housework .To take this one step further, we have to consider my cousin, who is about six years

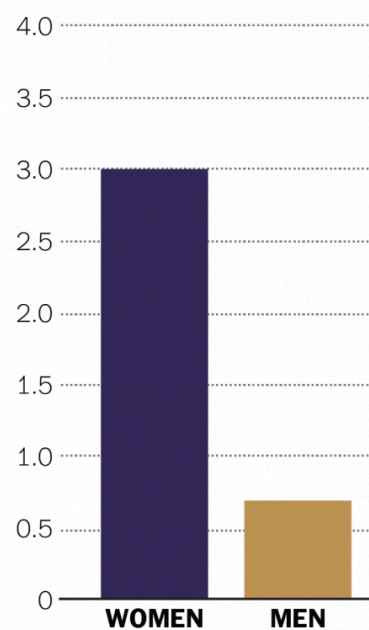
Older than me, he got married not too long ago, both him and his wife have jobs and according to his wife, he helps in almost all the housework she is doing. It's clear that the dynamic environment has a direct and powerful influence on genders' attitudes towards housework through time.

### The housework gap shrinks, but parenthood widens it again

Daily hours spent on housework, men and women, 1965 to 2012



Additional daily time in hours devoted to housework after the birth of a child



Sources: Liana Sayer, University of Maryland; Jill Yavorsky, Claire M. Kamp Dush and Sarah J. Schoppe-Sullivan, University of Ohio

This graph illustrates the effects of the environment and the instincts (denoted by having children) on both genders' housework duty.

All in all, we have seen that some factors such as environmental surroundings and instinctive elements have a huge scale of influence on housework in terms of gender tendencies towards it. I think it is about time,

that men and women would be stated equally in terms of housework; however This raises another intimidating problem in societies, metaphorically in chemistry, when two compounds are not sharing their electrons perfectly, they call it a "good leaving group". In biology, when a one cell starts to double its organelles its time to the cell to split apart. parallely in humans world, splitting the housework should not mean we have to do it independently. For instance, everyone does his own cooking, laundry extra, we might as well do it in a complementary way, so that we don't lose the feeling of needing each other, in order to reinforce the family bonds for the sake of the family survive

## Works cited

1. Glenmark, B., Nilsson, M., Gao, H., Gustafsson, J. Å., Dahlman-Wright, K., & Westerblad, H. (2004). Difference in skeletal muscle function in males vs. females: Role of estrogen receptor- $\beta$ . *American Journal of Physiology - Endocrinology and Metabolism*, 287(6 50-6). [10.1152/ajpendo.00098.2004](https://doi.org/10.1152/ajpendo.00098.2004)