

The Changing Roles of Women

From House Wife to Dual-Income Wage Earner

History of the Changing Roles of Women

- ▶ How did “traditional” get to be a tradition?
 - ▶ Before the industrial revolution in the early part of this century, men and women worked side by side. It was not until work was moved to the factories that women's work place became the home and labor was rigidly divided by sex. The division became especially strong after World War II.



The Good Wife . . .

- ▶ An excerpt from *Housekeeping Monthly* on May 13, 1955
 - ▶ Have dinner ready
 - ▶ Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal -- on time. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospects of a good meal are part of the warm welcome needed.
 - ▶ Prepare yourself
 - ▶ Take 15 minutes to rest so you will be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people. Be a little gay and a little more interesting. His boring day may need a lift.



The Good Wife

▶ Clear away clutter

- ▶ Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives, gathering up school books, toys, paper, etc. Then run a dust cloth over the tables. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order, and it will give you a lift too.

▶ Prepare the children

- ▶ Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces if they are small, comb their hair, and if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.



The Good Wife

▶ Minimize the noise

- ▶ At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of washer, dryer, or vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet. Greet him with a warm smile and be glad to see him.

▶ Some DON'TS

- ▶ Don't greet him with problems or complaints. Don't complain if he's late for dinner. Count this as minor compared with what he might have gone through that day.

▶ Listen to him

- ▶ You may have a dozen things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.



The Good Wife

- ▶ **Make him comfortable**

- ▶ Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest he lay down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soft, soothing and pleasant voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.

- ▶ **Make the evening his**

- ▶ Never complain if he does not take you out to dinner or to other places of entertainment; instead try to understand his world of strain and pressure and his need to be home and relax.



The Good Wife

- ▶ **Don't ask him questions**

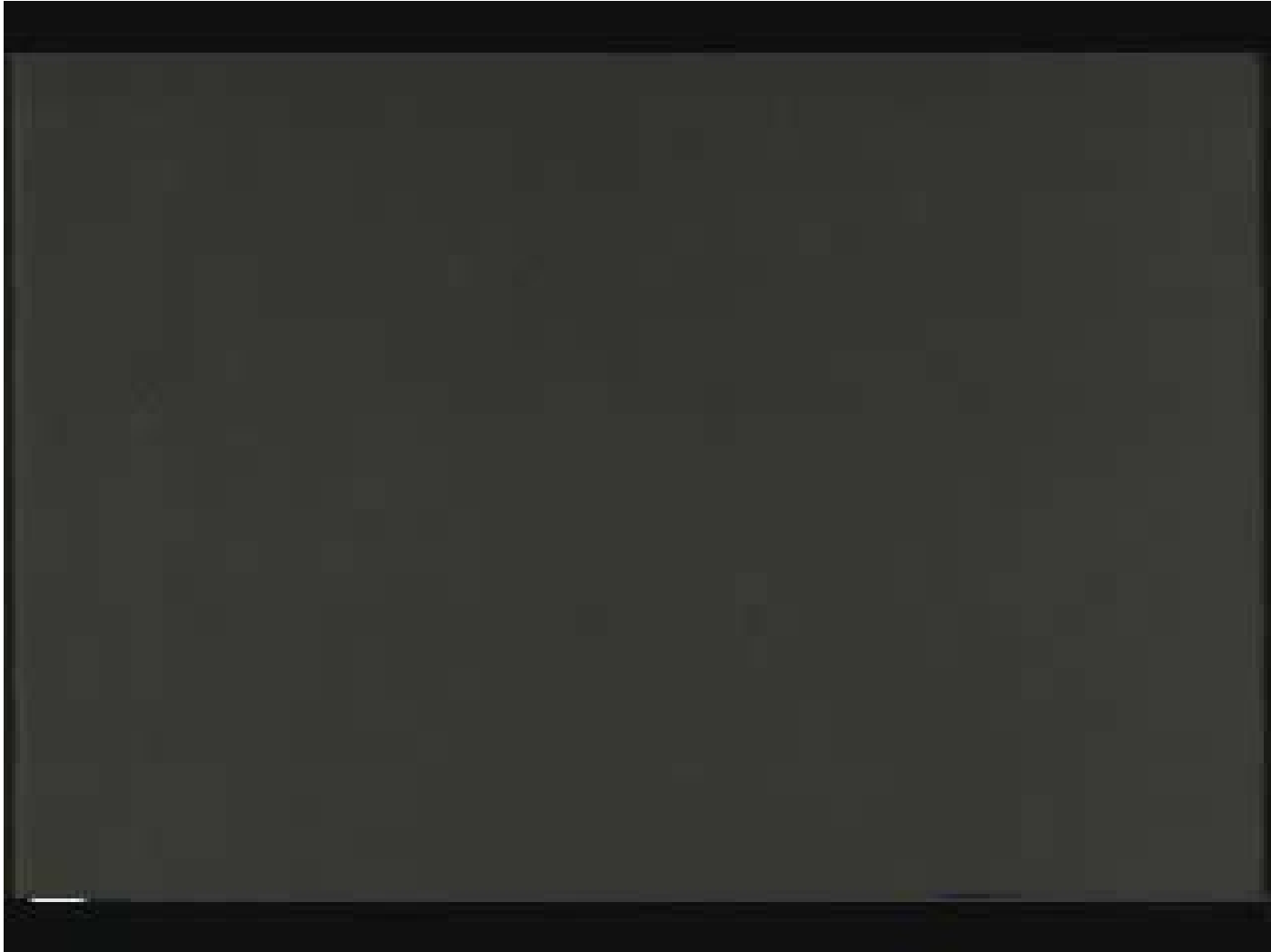
- ▶ About his actions or question his judgment or integrity. Remember, he is the master of the house and as such will always exercise his will with fairness and truthfulness. You have no right to question him.

- ▶ **The Goal**

- ▶ Try to make your home a place of peace and order where your husband can relax.



The Honeymooners—Early 1950's



Leave it to Beaver— Late 1950's-Early 1960's



The Brady Bunch—Late 1960's



All in the Family—1970's



Although men have traditionally found their identity through work outside the home while women found their identity through work inside the home, the pattern began to change in the late 1960's with the women's movement.

This clip depicts the views of two women in different generations . . .



Married With Children--Early 1980's



Early in the women's movement women were more likely to seek work once their children were grown. Many women tried to find work that allowed them to still stay in the home.



The Cosby Show—Late 1980's



Home Improvement—1990's



Many women now seek to be involved in the occupational world as an important avenue for personal fulfillment as it has always been for men.



Today . . .

- ▶ Half of all married women and mothers working outside the home.
- ▶ The biggest increase has been women with preschoolers and infants at home
- ▶ Most women use their income on necessary goods and services for their families.



Problems Encountered by Dual Income Families

- ▶ ***Competing Demands of Career and Family Life***
- ▶ ***Working Women suffer from more stress related health problems than women who don't work***
 - ▶ High blood pressure, headaches, tension, depression
 - ▶ However, it is not the question of whether or not they work that determines the amount of stress, but whether they enjoy the work and **what kind of support they get from their husbands.**



Other conflicts may include . . .

- ▶ **Work hours may be opposite each other**, not allowing the couple to see each other very often.
 - ▶ Shift work causes multiple problems with **transportation and arranging for child care**.
 - ▶ If one person has a higher paying or more prestigious job, there may be **jealousy from the other partner**.
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Coping in Dual-Income Households

▶ *DEFINE THE SITUATION*

- ▶ If careers are personally fulfilling and both husband and wife take pride in their accomplishments--improved attitude and feelings of self-worth are an asset to the family.
- ▶ By both husband and wife working, they are also raising their family's standard of living, which is in many cases preferable to the stress of the previous financial strain.
- ▶ Accept that there will be stress involved in two careers, but that it may be better than the stress of the wife not joining the work force.



Coping in the Dual-Income Household

▶ **COMPROMISE CAREERS**

- ▶ A change of position that requires moving the family, a new job that requires a lot of time away from home, or a position that is too time and energy consuming sometimes has to be turned down in order to maintain family quality.
- ▶ It is a little unrealistic to think you can reach your highest career aspirations at the same time you are raising a family. Careers may have to be put on hold for awhile.



Coping in the Dual-Income Household

▶ **REORGANIZE**

- ▶ Many working women have found that delegating home responsibilities to husbands and children have eased the load.
- ▶ The added advantage is that family members become more aware of the effort that goes into keeping house and can feel good about their contribution to it.
- ▶ The shared responsibility gives them more of an ownership in the family.



Coping in the Dual-Income Household

▶ **BUYTIME**

- ▶ Many working women use part of the money they earn to help relieve the overload.
- ▶ Common types of hired help are child care, domestic work such as housecleaning and labor or time-saving devices like microwave ovens and dishwashers.



Coping in the Dual-Income Household

▶ ***NEGOTIATE WORK ARRANGEMENTS***

- ▶ Some employers have found that modifying work schedules increases productivity by increasing the satisfaction and well-being of the employees.
- ▶ Flexible scheduling, part-time jobs, job sharing, and split-location employment (part of the work done in the home) provide employees with the time and means to be with their children when needed and still maintain a successful career.

