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GENDER AND LABOR



photo by Diana Petriashvili, Georgia

STAYING HOME

- Where do you work?
- I am a farmer.
- Do you have kids?
- Thanks God.
- Does your wife work?
- No, she stays home.
- So, how does she spend her day?
- Well, she gets up at four in the morning, brings water and wood, makes fire, prepares breakfast, and cleans the yard. Than she goes to the river to do laundry. Than she takes two younger kids to trade at the roadside together. Than she buys groceries and makes the dinner.
- Do you have dinner at home?
- No, she brings me food to the field, it is some three kilometers away from the house.
- What happens next?
- She stays there with me to weed and water the vegetable garden.
- What do you do meanwhile?
- I go to the village to talk about business and have a drink with my friends.
- And than?
- I go home to have a supper my wife made.
- Does she go to bed after the supper?
- No, I go to bed, she continues working until 9-10 pm.
- But I think you said you wife didn't work?
- Of course she doesn't. I told you, she stays home.

*Article for the Home Labor in Gender Education session,
Received from Nurjan Tulegabylova, Kyrgyzstan*



photo by Umida Akhmedova, Uzbekistan

let's calculate

the section was prepared by Tamara Hovnatanyan, Armenia

Armenia:

WOMEN SPEND FIVE TIMES MORE TIME on housekeeping than men

Until recent, women's housekeeping labor was not evaluated in a quantitative sense and was not reflected in the national statistics. Under the support of the Swedish Development Agency, Armenian National Statistics service researched the structure of time distribution. However, approximate estimations of women's labor are far from real, but the problem seems to be better understood. The research demonstrated detailed time schedule used by women and men for their paid and non-paid (housekeeping) duties.

It turned out that in an average, women daily spend 1 hour 44 minutes, the analogous index for men makes 5 hours 18 minutes. In rural areas, certain time is spent for working at a personal or rented ground area and for cattle-raising. It is noteworthy that in weekdays men spend twice less time for this

kind of work, compared to their paid jobs; women spend approximately the same time for both types of work.

The main difference is in the indexes of non-paid duties: women spend some 6 hours on housekeeping, while men spend only 1 hour 45 minutes. Total time spent for both paid and non-paid jobs makes 6,5 hours for men and 7 hours 51 minutes for women. In total, women spend 5 times more time for housekeeping, than men.

Women are better at combining their paid jobs with housekeeping. Care of the children is viewed by men and women differently: men's priority is paid labor, while women are forced to prefer working at home. Paid activity does not free women from housekeeping duties as much as it frees men, and thus the volume of work implemented by women is bigger than that men do. The researchers do not only demonstrate the problem of women's labor estimation, but also highlight the necessity to undertake special measures at the state management level, in particular, the experts state, it is necessary to consider the difference when planning provision of pensions for women.

Russia:

IF HUSBANDS WOULD PAY THEIR WIVES

Housewives monthly save over 3 thousand dollars for their families

There are two ways to evaluate women's home labor: for housewives and for working women, who undertake their housekeeping duties after work.

Housewives

According to the modern labor market standards, women's work at home is adequately reflected in the list of maid's duties. The duties of the maid who permanently lives with her hosts include cleaning the house, doing laundry, ironing, shopping and cooking. You won't find a maid, who agrees to cook three times a day for \$1000 per month. For example, a girl from province who works living with her employing family is likely to agree to this job for monthly \$1200, if you are lucky," a housekeeping personnel manager at employment agency in Moscow said. Thus, qualified housekeeping services would cost a family \$2000 per month in an average. As for the babysitter's service, its cost makes \$1000-1200, considering irregular working hours and permanent residence. Thus, these two types of services make total \$3200 per month.

WORKING WOMEN

A working woman sees her kids only during the 'breaks' between her main work, and she cleans the house on weekends. In this case, calculation should be based on hourly rate. In this case, maid's services (housecleaning, laundry, ironing) will cost you 750-1200 rubles per visit, depending on the total area of your apartment. If there are kids and animals in the house, the price will go higher. Along with this, professionals generally do not agree at cleaning the house only once a week. Generally they work 2 or 3 times a week in each house. But a single visit, when it is necessary to wash away all the dirt at an old bachelor's neglected apartment, would cost at least \$50.

A regular working woman cleans her house only once a week, this service is worth \$200-400 per month. Services of a cook (who also buys groceries), and a visiting maid means additional expense of 500 rubles. For a working woman, who cooks in the morning and in the evening, this amount is equivalent of underpayment of \$1100 per month.

As for the hourly pay for a babysitter, here the difference in prices is huge: between \$3 and \$10 per hour. The pay depends on qualification, the list of duties, number of kids, working hours, ambitions and an agency's commission. For example, a professional pediatricist, who makes special massage to a kid, walks him and feeds him, will charge at least \$7 per hour. Express-babysitter, who comes

urgently, when parents need to leave the house will agree to \$5 per hour. In any way, a standard contract foresees that pay doubles in the case a babysitter works overtime. But working women see their kids in 'overtime' only. This is why their virtual earning should make at least \$10 per hour, which makes some \$2000 a month. If you add cooking and housecleaning, women's home duties should cost \$3300-3500 a month.



a good husband should remember that he holds the hand of the staff of professionals, who includes: home manager, cook, nurse, babysitter, designer, psychologist, and – sometimes – electrician and mechanic

photo by Polina Miloradovich, Georgia

USA:

ACTUALLY, THEY EARN A LOT

If a housekeeping labor would be paid, American housewives would become wealthier than working women, the research published at Salary.com states. When staying home, a woman who has kids simultaneously becomes a full-day teacher, a driver, who takes kids to their schools, a house manager, a cook, an administrator, a nurse, a psychologist, as well as a mechanic, an electrician, a janitor and a carpenter. This is why, the research reads, an average housewife's salary should make \$134 121 per year, which is more than \$11 thousand per month. This estimate includes not only hourly pay of each listed professionals, but also incorporates overtime, as a housewife's working schedule is irregular, and she works at home for 91.6 hours per week in an average. At the same time, a housewife's husband works for 45 hours a week only (9-hour working day). This is why a 'regular' weekly payment for women working at home makes \$45.7 thousand per year, while their 'overtime' pay should mean additional \$88.4 thousand.



as a result of their 50-years-old marriage, these women could become quite wealthy!

photo by Polina Miloradovich, Georgia

Great Britain:

WONDERS OF TRAINING
zombies of glossy magazines

Recently, a new TV show started in Great Britain. The Cleanaholics show foresees participation of 27 women and three men, who clean the house under the close watch of the audience. The reason behind the creation of alike TV program is that the residents of Great Britain are very much fond of cleaning their houses. Discovery Home and Health channel has even ordered a special research of the issue. As the result of this research, it turned out that an average British woman spends 2 hours and 23 minutes daily on cleaning her house. To take care of herself, she uses only 52 minutes. Six out of ten interviewed persons stated that housecleaning helps them to feel "the control" over their lives. Approximately the same number of the interrogated said that housecleaning has "therapeutic effect" on their minds. Some results of the research turned out to be even alarming. Almost the half of the interviewed admitted that they are somewhat addicted to the cleaning process. The same number of people said they'd prefer to spend less time cleaning. Four out of ten women stated they failed to control their cleaning habits. One third of the interviewed stressed they get more pleasure from cleaning rather from sex. According to 76% of respondents, they are addicted to cleaning because of the magazines that demonstrate ideally clean interiors. 80% of British women permanently compare their clean houses with other's. 6 out of 10 women believe that if their house is not clean, they can be considered as "bad mothers."

APROPOS

INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION: WOMEN EARN LESS

In Great Britain, women at executive positions make 33%, in France - 30%, in Sweden - 29%, in USA - 45%

Recently, ILO researched the opportunities of women and men in the field of career and earnings. The results are unfavorable for women. Generally, it deals with childbirth and taking care of kids, this labor is entirely of women's responsibility. Long-term stay at home may destroy a working woman's career completely. Part-time jobs also do not contribute to career growth. In some European countries tax system awards those families where women do not work. But the most important fact is that women's lifestyle does not correspond to the hierarchic culture, dominating at many European enterprises. The majority of European female job-seekers get refusals. Young women are unlikely to feel a new vacancy, because they are likely to go for maternity leave. Middle-age women are not liked by potential employers because they already have kids. And even elder women do not suit employers - exactly because of their age.

Source: NewsInfo.ru
<http://www.newsinfo.ru/news/2006/02/news1249530.php>

The section was prepared by Tamara Hovnatanyan, Armenia

Oksana PROKIPCHUK, Viktor UNIYAT,
Ukraine

grimace of capitalism

SPECIAL DUTY MARKET

regular army units against women entrepreneurs

The majority of women working at local markets have higher education degrees and used to work at prestigious positions. But in early 1990-s they had to find additional income and trading at the market turned out to be the only way out. But even these working places need to be defended from the authorities.

In early 1990s, Ternopil market used to belong to the city municipal property. In 2000, local authorities decided to rent the market to the private structures so that they repaired it in accordance to the 'European standards.' The city authorities did not consider the interests of the vendors, and the new director of the market introduced his new rules. To get a newly repaired trading space, vendors had to pay particular amount of money, which kept growing each year. Finally, the pay raised so high that 230 vendors could not afford it and thus lost their working places.

The women realized that it was necessary to fight for their rights and they created Gromadska Alternativa (Social Alternative) organization. The leaders of the organization, Olga Alexandrova, Oksana Mulyk, Irina Burda, Larisa Belz decided to give a dare to those who are richer and stronger. They did not have other solutions, because they had to defend the only income of their families. When they failed to solve the problem locally, they started picketing state structures based in the capital: cabinet of ministers, President's secretariat, prosecutor general's office, ministry for the interior... Finally, male leaders demonstrated an unprecedented cynics - they called on army to ruin the working places based at the market.

But the women managed to institute legal proceedings under the money misappropriation charges. However, because of the corruption within the lawenforcement agencies, the criminal case was several times stopped. This year the



here they are, the founders of the Social Alternative. They have the truth, and they will win. By the way, Amnesty International has already started studying the case.

photo by Andrey Andrusenko, Ukraine

head of the investigative department of the of Ternopil district V. Kanuka hid seven volumes of the criminal case investigation, thus deceiving the court. The case was stopped again, but the fight continues.

Irina Burda, one of the founders of Gromadska Alternativa, was last year elected as the member of Ternopil Council. Thus, women gained additional resources. They went through many difficulties and they are sure that they will obtain justice.

APROPOS

"DUG-OUT" MONUMENT

APPEARED IN DONETSK

"Dug-out" is a slang Russian word that defines a businessman, who travels abroad to buy goods in order to sell it later in his home country. That type of business was wide spread in post-Soviet countries in early and middle 1990s.

Residents of Donetsk decided to make a monument of wild capitalism of 1990s.

A businessman "dug-out" pulls a hand-cart loaded with bags full of goods. His eyes are sad, and he has a higher education diploma in his pocket.

Today's entrepreneurs look at the monument with the feeling of relief: the time, when they had to carry huge bags from abroad has passed. However, they have not forgotten that time yet. Parliament member Alexandra Kuzhel was invited to the monument presentation. She reproached the monument authors with violation of gender rights, as the majority of "dug-outs" were female.

Source:

<http://utro.ua/news/2006/12/21/32241.shtml>

Received through the OWL.ru listserve

Nurzhan TULEGABYLOVA,
Kyrgyzstan

invisible heroes

BREADWINNER'S ROLE does not free a woman from the role of the HOMEMAKER

Home labor is invisible and thankless. However it makes a significant contribution to the economy. It costs women a lot of time, energy and health; and it is time for the state economy planners to think about it.

Below are several opinions from Bishkek

Medet, 33, college teacher:

- I took paternity leave and it turned out that it is a very difficult job! My wife works for a serious organization and earns quite good money. Only now I realized how difficult is women's work at home and how much strength you need to take care of the children.

I even felt jealous of this situation and I decided to interview Medet's wife. Actually, I regretted, because here is what she told me.

Kyal, 32, bank worker:

- We had to choose: wither I go on maternity leave, or I continue working. Of course I wanted to start maternity leave, but Medet earns very little. And we decided that he should be the one who takes care of the baby. I feel very thankful, but anyway - I do the most part of work. I work at the office and I work at home, I take care of the baby on weekends. Men never do things in a proper way, they do not feel comfortably, especially in the company of friends and relatives. I get tired even more... But there are no options, he is the man, and it is not a man's job to take care of the house.



you can earn even a million, but sweeping the yard will be only your duty anyway

photo by Umida Akhmedova, Uzbekistan

Today, because of women's active work many men have to bear with the new role. The more woman earns, the bigger is the chance for partner distribution of duties in a family. But sometimes it does not happen, Kyal is an example. Despite she plays the role of the breadwinner, she continues working at home as much as a housewife can work. Even with the high salary, she does not want to change the status of her husband and herself.

Other social facts that influence selection of home duties should be noted as well.

Ulan, 34, surgeon:

- For me it is a prejudice that a husband should be "breadwinner" and a wife is obliged to be a homemaker. It is nonsense. Me and my wife supplement each other, and it does not matter who does laundry, who cooks, who walks the baby and who earns money. If we are a family, we must help each other and understand each other.

The experience of foreign and Russian researchers proved that the factors implementing partnership relations within a family may include the level of education, income, social status, number of children and other. The higher education and social status of the family is, the stronger partnership is.

**NOT ONLY HERE
COSTS OF SUCCESS**

Millions of high flying executives are risking divorce as the long hours they work play havoc on their sex lives, a new study has found. Ambitious professionals are sacrificing their personal lives and ignoring their children because of a new phenomenon - "the extreme job". Research, published by the Harvard Business Review, identifies this new type of worker who regards a 10-hour day at work as part-time. It is "wreaking havoc on private lives and taking a toll on health and well-being", the research warns.

The research estimates 45 % of high-earning people working for large global companies have "extreme jobs" despite the ferociously tough qualifications. For starters, an extreme job involves working at least 60 hours a week, although many work 100 hours or more. Holidays are a rarity. Nearly half take 10 or fewer days' holiday every year, and "regularly" cancel time-off if something comes up at work.

In fact, work is so important that people with "extreme jobs" have made sacrifices which would shock anybody who is not a workaholic. The wife of one "extreme worker" said: "The first year we were married, we had to rearrange my grandmother's funeral so that he wouldn't miss a meeting."

One executive admitted he had lost all credibility with his elderly, wheelchair-bound father because he was always cancelling his planned weekend visits.

Another man said he had lived in his flat in London for two years, but had only ever bought a mattress and a sleeping bag.

The biggest losers are the spouses and young families of workers with extreme jobs. Nearly half of men and women who took part in the international research project said their jobs "interfere with having a strong relationship with my spouse/partner." In a shocking admission, it warns: "At the end of a 12-hour or longer day at work, 45 per cent of all respondents in our global companies survey are too tired to say anything at all to their spouses or partners." The same number said that their jobs, which involves regular travel and evening entertainment, make it "impossible" to have a "satisfying sex life."

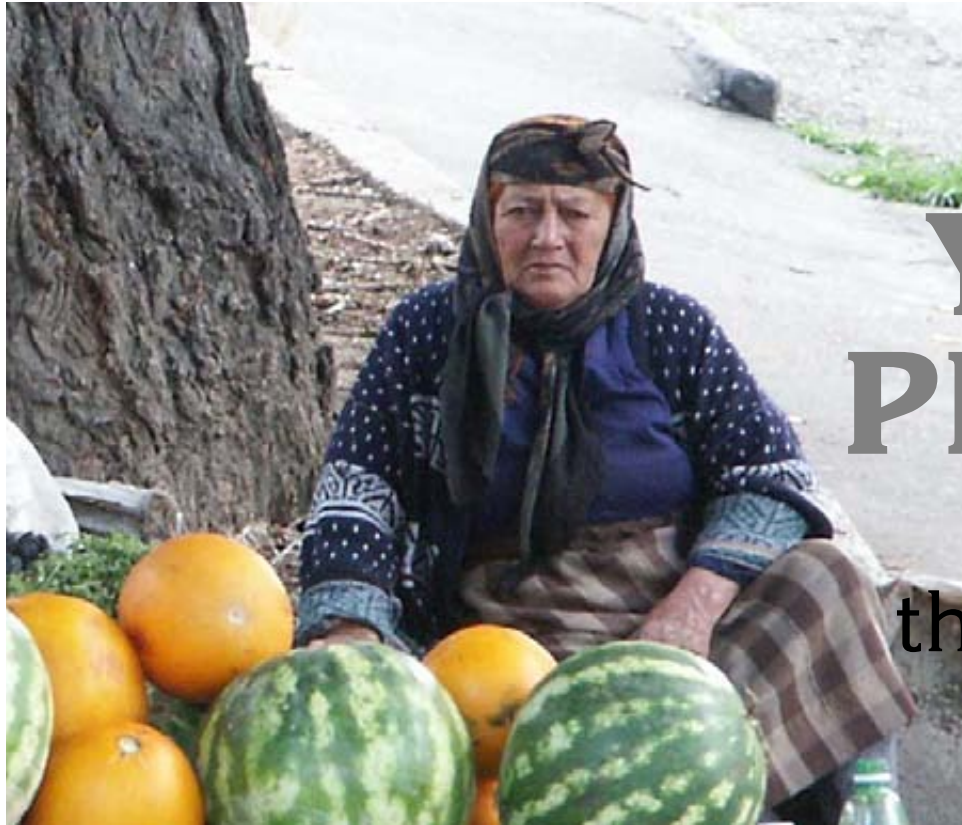
The results were equally worrying when the workers were asked about the impact that their jobs have on their children. They were asked: "Has your child ever experienced any of the following because of the number of house you work?" All parents admitted that their long working house mean their children regularly watch too much television, eat too much junk food and have discipline problems.

Source:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html>

Tsitsino JULUKHIDZE,
Georgia

sharp bend



YOUR PLACE

behind the counter

photo by Umida Akhmedova, Uzbekistan

Woman sits behind the counter at the market in a small provincial town. She wears black, her eyes are full of sorrow, her thoughts are far away from this ugly counter with cigarette packs on it. Some people buy cigarettes once in a while. The market is far from the center of the town, and there are few people here. There are more women like this around this place. Some of them are young, some of them are old. The market buzzes all day long, and you can know all the news about who's got married, who has to pay old debt, who sells her cow. Nothing new. The woman does not generally participate in talk of the town, she is older, and she is a refugee. She has her own problems, they are more severe than those her colleagues have, because they have, at least, roofs. She lives at a so-called "compact center," an old half-ruined administrative building...

Once upon a time she used to be a well-known mathematician in her home town. Almost entire city knew her, as Sukhumi is a small town, and she worked at school. She loved the kids, and loved the subject she was teaching them, and she believed that the life would always be like this. But everything was left behind.

Now she works to feed her family, she seats here behind the counter everyday, in any weather. She seats here for 13 years already, and each day is the same, as boring and empty as all other days she spends in this town. But there was one special day she remembers.

It was June, the time for school exams. Teachers opened packages with exam tasks, and realized that one of the tasks was so hard, that nobody could cope with it, even old experienced teachers. Suddenly someone proposed to address to an old street vendor who sells cigarettes at the market. And a miracle happened: an old woman revived, and started writing figures and formulas at the peace of paper. The crowd quietly thanked the woman and left the market.

That was the only happy day during her refugee life.

Lubov SOKOLOVA,
Russia

news at the labor market

SERVICE CALL: CAR LADY AND FIXED TIME HUSBAND

gender paradoxes in advertisement bring success

At the end of the 20th century, the process of cultural traditions of the Russian society began to ruin. Economy was finally "allowed" to live its normal life. That caused break down of the customary gender models and brought redistribution of social roles, called women's and men's destination.

The most modern part of business community managed to use the specialties of the current moment.

ONE MAN'S IDEA

There is certain data, that the first person who decided to use gender paradoxes in positioning his business was a man. There were many people who later used his initial idea, and thus, it is now impossible to find out the name of the inventor.

The person we talk about owned an automobile enterprise, that provided, besides other, taxi services. It was extremely hard to advertise that service in the big city with plenty of taxi companies. But the person selected several female drivers and gave the name to the new service Car Lady

Initial demand was based on the regular curiosity, but later the company owner worked out a special package of services.

The Car Ladies proposed to take children to school and back home. This type of service is very much in demand, but parents tend not to trust regular, male taxi drivers. Car Lady is also needed by adults, both women and men. To be detailed enough, we need to mention that Car Ladies provide transportation services only. We should also note that the Ladies charge their

passengers less than their male colleagues. Despite of all the paradoxes, the tradition of estimating women's labor cheaper than men's, still remains.

Because of the initial success of the new service, part of the drivers separated from the bigger company and started its own business. It is possible that Car Ladies will soon flood the market of Perm and other cities, in the case if the business overcomes growth costs. The new business has several weaknesses: the ladies use their personal cars without considering wear and tear problems. There is no corporate service center organized for the new company. The Ladies' husbands are those who are in charge for fixing cars, which means that unaccounted, honorary, and non-qualified labor is being used. Because of this type of labor the ladies have higher wages. But it is known that the economy does not like imperfections like that. That's why it is time for the ladies to transform their company into a professional business.



this sexist joke is maybe caused by the competitors' jealousy! A sticker on the car window reads: "I mix up accelerator and break"

photo by Polina Miloradovich



*this is how fixed-time husbands' labor exchange could look like
photo by Diana Petriashvili, Georgia*

URGENT VACANCY: MAN

A belief that an average husband must know how to fix sewerage system and furniture is one of the obvious gender remnants. This is why the Fixed-time Husband offer is not viewed by women as a possible sexual service.

A fixed-time husband is more attractive than a metalworker or an electrician employed by a local service company. This type of "husband" should be universal and regularly visiting a family. Although his title limits his market, as the "husband" addresses primarily to incomplete families consisting of a mother and kids, or of only one independent woman; this segment tends to expand, as the "incomplete family" concept has a tendency to be considered as a traditional.

At the same time, the service can be offered to regular families as well, and this small business will possibly develop into a big and serious one.

APROPOS in Paris

SHOPPING BOYS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE more news at the labor market

This picture is weird to those who do not shop in Paris. Men, wearing only pants offer their service to the cloth stores' customers. These alive mannequins where invented especially for women, as they are the biggest part of men's clothes stores customers. Romen is one of the authors of the Shopping Boys idea. "I decided to introduce this new idea after my girlfriend bought a tight shirt for me. I had to go to the store to exchange it," he says.

After Romen told the story his friends, it turned out that the majority of them generally get 'wrong sizes.' This is how Romen and his friends decided to bring together enthusiasts of all ages and bodily constitutions, who would help ladies to choose proper sizes.

The service is free of charge for customers. Shopping boys are altruists and they do not charge you for services. But at the end of each working day they get a certificate, that can be exchanged to cloth.

Diana PETRIASHVILI,
Georgia

something new

LIFE AND LOTTERY

salary for nothing - it is little but you do nothing indeed

We get infected with the lottery virus - new companies offering all kinds of wins appear in Georgia. You can win not only a car or, let's say, a toaster, but also a 'salary.' The 'salary' makes \$300 each months, January through December. I don't quite understand why this prize is titled "salary," and I think that it is a very harmful word. It may make someone believe that salary can be paid for nothing.

Some time ago I watched a new lottery TV show; presenter was calling the audience on the phone offering to win something. All the participants were asked about their preference, and all of them answered that they preferred "the salary." Among the prizes there was a car parked directly in the TV studio, but no one seemed to want it.

The wish to become rich quickly and without making any efforts can not be considered a national feature of Georgians, I guess. It is equally wide spread among all the nations. But why should I write about English or Turks? Let me say a couple words about Georgians.

Georgians, at least today's Georgians, really like the idea of becoming richer and more successful without any particular efforts.

All of us like to mention unemployment that is wide spread in the country, but unemployment lasts for 15 years already, and we have already got used to it. Unemployment reminds me Tbilisi television tower: once upon a time it did not exist, people say, but it is hard to believe to it, because the tower has ideally blended with the customary city landscape. Local public transport is chock-full in rush hours, our relatives have jobs, but we still say there is severe unemployment in the country.

Let's take an example of an average person of my generation. He is now aged between 25-30. He has a higher education degree. When you ask him what's new with the job, he sighs - unemployment. And goes to the store to buy a lottery ticket.

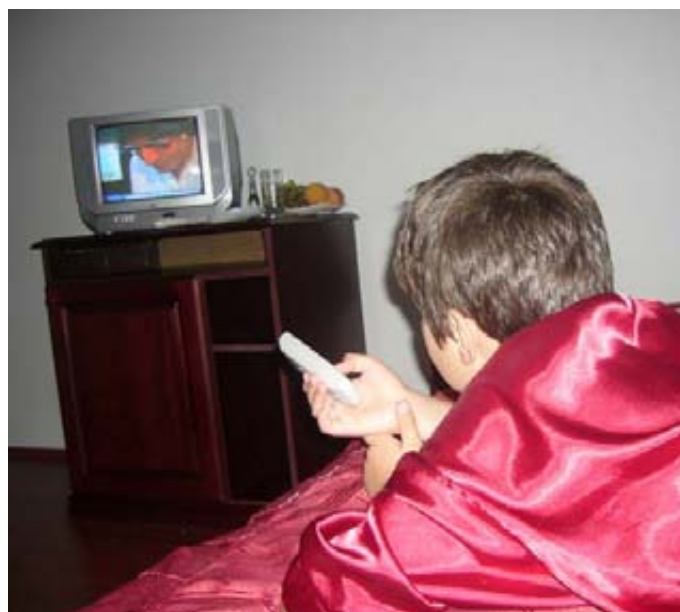
Meantime, even the authorities admit severe lack of qualified staff within the governmental agencies. There is unemployment and there are no people to fill the vacancies. Doesn't it look like people simply don't feel like working?!

Ministries and state departments announce their vacancies once in a while. Prosecutor's Office, let's say, is now in process of selecting interested individuals. I shared this idea with one of my friends, but he laughed in response: "Yeah, exactly. They won't accept me." I could not reply anything, because I never worked for the prosecutor general's.

But indeed I know some of the potential of the non-governmental sector. I even suggest it to some of my unemployed of my age. "There is this and that NGO, they'd need you there." But they skeptically smirk and say the salary is too low. Even if it is higher than \$300 that one can simply win.

it may make someone believe that salary can be paid for nothing...

photo by Polina Miloradovich, Georgia





...and finally I said: "You can have this microphone back!"

photo by Polina Miloradovich, Georgia

Olga SIMONENKO,
Ukraine

between us, the reporters

DIVORCE WITH TV

NOT A GOOD JOB!
no matter what you do

When I first entered TV studio, the job of the presenter seemed so charming to me! That was why I did not understand properly the words of my boss: "If you start working here, you must marry TV." I failed to become a presenter, but was quite successful at being news reporter.

It was cool from the beginning - hundreds of faces, kilometers of tape, microphones and floodlights. Those people I used to see on TV screen only, had suddenly become my co-workers. But the problem was that when all those people were ready to go home, you were supposed to start your working day. You had to negotiate with the grumbling driver, you had to lie to the administrator that an event was just starting, so that he'd give you a cameraman. And after you made news, you had to listen to the boss's lecture about how you should save air time. To make the long story short, you are not doing a good job, no matter how much you work.

It was necessary to get used to the idea that work at TV was a thankless job. You have plenty things to do without having time, and your working day never ends. This situation may help

you to develop strength of character, or it may make you to struggle for justice. Cameramen are the only people who are even in a worth situation than reporters, and we sort of hate each other.

There are certain types of topics that are generally covered by women reporters. These are police, prosecutor's office and defense, because these fields' officials do like to talk with the women.

But the bigger problem is when there is no news. There are situations when hungry reporters dream about an earthquake or at least about a minor political scandal.

Finally, I felt that it was enough for me. I recalled my boss's words about "the marriage" and I realized that my 'marriage' was lacking reciprocity. I quit TV. Now I work for a human rights organization.

Marina MAKSIMOVA,
Estonia

economy and psychology

HIS MONEY or FREEDOM ?

End of 1990s. Bookstore. As I look through the stand with psychology books, I see a young pretty girl, who grabs a book and goes straight to the cash desk. The title of the book was: "How to Marry a New Russian" Wow, I thought. There are not even enough these rich men, the new Russians, but there is already a proper book. As the time passed, there appeared more rich men. They were gaining money and losing it; they were getting married and divorced; they were establishing new companies and closing old ones; they were traveling, buying real estate, gambling in casinos... While their first, second and third wives, their lovers and fiances were getting appointment at psychologists. If I'd get an offer to write a book about them, I would title it "How to survive if married to a rich."

There are plenty of families where husband is the only person who earns money, while a wife is busy taking care of the house and children. Outwardly, this type of family looks quite respectable, and it seems that the wife should be satisfied with her life, as she was lucky enough to live without the necessity to work and earn money for her family. But only the woman knows the level of her dependence on the husband. She can use cars and money, but generally it is considered that it is the property of that person who earned money for it. A woman's work at home is estimated extremely low. It is significant that even women themselves sometimes tend to consider themselves as a sponger who lives at the expense of the 'breadwinner.'

There are husbands who like when their wives address to them each time they need money. That means a lot of possibilities to manipulate the woman. From the one hand, he lets the woman know that she would be nothing without her husband. From the other hand, when a woman shares her plans about getting a job, husband protests against it - the house won't be this comfortable, and children will suffer from the lack of attention. An attempt to continue studying is also disliked: both education and daily traveling



photo by Polina Miloradovich, Georgia

to the city will mean additional expenses, in the case if the family lives in the outskirts.

Thus, the situation is quite contradictory: facing financial problems a woman feels desperate because she cannot develop her potential and feels no self-actualization. Finally, she addresses to a psychologist, and after a long consultation only she realizes that is the reason behind her depression.

An established family relations are hard to be reshaped, this is why a young wife should think about her husband's wish to free her from working or studying from the very beginning.

Luckily, certain changes appear in men's mentality as well. Some of them feel satisfied with depending women by their side, but it is impossible to build a happy family with a woman like this. The number of those men who realize this increases.

Tiniko MZHAVANADZE,
Georgia

just a little bit

WOMEN HAVE

THOUSAND SKILLS



...making cakes, drawing pictures, and beating the drums — several simultaneously!

photo by Polina Miloradovich, Georgia

Initially her service was free of charge, but later her thankful pupils compelled her to take a monthly pay.

The entire family regarded that business skeptically, nobody thought that she needed their support and encouragement. But my friend continues her business and she has already recorded CD with her choir - it is a real music, full of crystal harmony.

And I really believe that she will achieve her goals.

But what is there necessary to have respect for yourself? How to tell everybody around you that it is very difficult to women to keep their self-estimate?

Those women I know can cook dinner for twenty persons, they can make a wedding cake, they can fix washing machines, hammer in nails and cleanse wounds. They know how to spend a tiny salary during a month, and how to have a fresh manicure in these circumstances. They know how to resolve conflicts with their neighbors, they demonstrate unbelievable diplomacy when interacting with their mothers-in-law, and they seem to be professional supporters of their husbands, when the latter are in trouble.

There is only one thing they can't cope with: they do not believe in themselves.

This is not entirely their fault. From the time of their birth, there were plenty of people around them who convinced them that they should be devoted to create comfort to certain elite - the men.

A friend of mine graduated from conservatory, she loves music and can not live without it. She has four small kids, a traditional husband and conservative parents-in-law. And everyone convinces her that family is the only possible vocation for her.

My obedient friend began repetition of her amateur choir at home.

Another friend of mine is a real business lady. She is very smart, her career is successful, and she is demanded by employers and business partners.

She found time to get married and to give birth to two babies. She earns enough money to pay to a twenty-four-hour babysitter, and the life seems to be fine. But don't you feel that there must be some slip in this situation?

You are right - her husband finally dropped her.

We will not start talking about the problem of weak men, that's not what the story is about. It is about how powerless is this business lady about the verdict of her relatives.

- Are you a woman after this? - her mother says.

- You can not build family relations because you parents are divorced, - her mother-in-law adds.

Women tend to be perfectionists. It is vitally important for them to be up to the mark - after so many centuries of being neglected. We do not ask you to cook for us and to swaddle our babies. We will drill the wall ourselves to put the picture on it. Which we drew ourselves as well.

But there is only one small request: FORGIVE US OUR SUCCESS, PLEASE.

The edition was prepared by:

Galina PETRIASHVILI (editor) - Georgia;
Tamara HOVNATANYAN - Armenia;
Nurjan Tulegabilova - Kyrgyzstan;
Oksana PROKIPCHUK, Viktor UNİYAT - Ukraine;
Tsitsino JLUUKHIDZE - Georgia;
Lubov SOKOLOVA - Russia;
Diana PETRIASHVILI - Georgia;
Oksana SIMONENKO - Ukraine;
Harda ROOSNA - Estonia;
Tinatin MZHAVANADZE - Georgia

Photo:

Diana PETRIASHVILI - Georgia;
Umida AKHMEDOVA - Uzbekistan;
Polina MILORADOVICH - Georgia;
Andrey ANDRUSENKO - Ukraine

Design:

GMC design-group, Georgia

Translation:

Diana PETRIASHVILI - Georgia (**GMC**)

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<http://spaces.msn.com/GMC-Georgia>

17 Ioris Str. TBILISI, 0103, Republic of Georgia

Tel./fax (995 32) 77 60 18; mob. (995 99) 90 11 24

e-mail galapet@ip.osgf.ge