



### Marriage remains a patriarchal institution

It is often used to refer to the expectation that men should be the breadwinner for the wife and the community as a whole. Women are becoming more and more equal with husbands in terms of time at the home with domestic work and looking after children, meaning the roles are becoming symmetrical instead of traditional roles.

There are three ways that we can measure how the roles are becoming more and more integrated. These three ways are emotional work, finances, and decision making. Emotional work refers to the love, sympathy, understanding, praise, reassurance and attention involved in maintaining relationships with family members. This is very gendered towards women as men are traditionally distant. They also said that women have to cope with a triple shift of paid work, house work and childcare, and emotional work. This proves the view that marriage remains a patriarchal institution as the man has the official role as the breadwinner.

The second way to measure how the roles are becoming more and more integrated is with finances. This is very gendered towards men as access and control over money is mainly directed by the husband. Jan Platt and Carolyn Vogel interviewed 1200 couples. They found that 58% of the couples equally shared the money, 12% of the couples had the husband control the money and 4% of the couples said that the wife controls the money. These decisions are increasingly getting more equal but there are a higher percentage of men controlling the money than women.

Finally the decision making is the third way to measure how the roles are becoming more integrated. Steven Edge interviewed 38 middle class couples. He found that the women dominated the interior decor, children's clothes and spending money on food. These decisions are not important. Whereas the men have the decisions on moving house and buying a car, which are important decisions that have big impacts on the family. So both the man and the woman have the same say in making the decisions on holidays and the children's education. So overall, the husbands have more power over their wives in decision making.

There are problems with these ways of measuring how the roles are becoming more symmetrical. One is the main problem, as women underestimate the amount of work they do and men tend to overestimate the time they took to do the work. Also the agency of the tasks seems to benefit the male gender more as if, whereas women do the more urgent work such as cooking and cleaning. Also, there is a big difference between being responsible for the things and tasks and women tend to be responsible for them. Finally, male tasks tend to be



they have the job satisfaction. Whereas male  
they have greater job satisfaction.

husbands still have more say in making decisions  
the ability to connect or emotional work and  
the wife to deal with. The roles are still becoming  
a day. Women will still do the vast majority of  
domestic work. Men will do the decision making. I believe as the  
roles become more integrated, men will become more emotionally  
able to handle problems and situations with the family nearly as  
well as the women do. I think they will begin to see the amount of work  
their wives actually do and the house and wife. They by cleaning  
the house very occasionally, but not as much as they should.