

THE VIEWS AND BEHAVIOURS OF WOMEN ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY IN HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES*

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Abstract

The pilot study was planned and carried out to determine views and behaviors of women living in Ankara-Turkey, on distribution of responsibility in household activities. This study was conducted in the region of Eryaman-Ankara, which is thought to represent families in different socio-economic levels in 2005. A total of 600 women were selected by a Systematic Sampling Method which was statistically determined. This research is a descriptive study. Depending on the prepared questionnaire form, the data was collected through face-to-face interviews with women in the families. According to the results, women in the family are responsible for carrying out physical and some social activities. The women think that women and men should take the responsibility together in some social and economic activities. This results show that women think the traditional structure in household activities should change.

Key Words: *Women, Household Activities, Gender Roles, Domestic Chores, Division of Domestic Chores,*

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KADINLARIN EVLE İLGİLİ FAALİYETLERDE SORUMLULUK DAĞILIMI KONUSUNDAKİ DAVRANIŞ VE GÖRÜŞLERİ

Özet

Bu pilot çalışma Ankara'da yaşayan kadınların evle ilgili faaliyetlerde sorumluluk dağılımı konusundaki davranış ve görüşlerini belirlemek amacıyla planlanmış ve yürütülmüştür. Araştırma farklı sosyoekonomik düzeydeki katılımcıları temsil edeceği düşünülen Ankara-Eryaman bölgesinde 2005 yılında yapılmıştır. Evreni temsil edebilecek örneklem sayısı istatistiksel yöntemlerle belirlenmiş ve toplam 600 kadın araştırma kapsamına alınmıştır. Araştırma tanımlayıcı nitelikte bir çalışmadır. Hazırlanan anket formuna bağlı olarak, veriler ailede kadın ile yapılan yüz yüze görüşme sonucu toplanmıştır. Araştırma sonuçlarına göre, evle ilgili fiziksel ve bazı sosyal aktiviteleri yürütmekten ailede kadınlar sorumludur. Kadınlar bazı sosyal ve ekonomik faaliyetlerin yürütülmesinde kadın ve erkeğin birlikte sorumluluk almaları gerektiğini düşünmektedirler. Bu sonuç kadınların evle ilgili faaliyetlerdeki geleneksel yapının değişmesi gerektiği düşüncesinde olduklarını göstermektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Kadın, Evle İlgili Faaliyetler, Cinsiyet Roller, Ev İşleri, Ev İşlerinin Dağılımı

1. INTRODUCTION

The roles of men and women within the family are socially constructed that shows the expectations of society. The tasks within a family unit are distributed among family members as social roles. Role distribution is not only technical phenomenon, but is strongly influenced by sociological and psychological factors (Imamoglu, 1991:832; Murstein, 1970:465).

All members of the family should take part in domestic chores to the extent that their age and skills allow, because equal distribution of responsibilities plays an important role in solving the problems of family life, establishing positive relations between family members, forming a group solidarity and unity, and transmitting experiences about life (Safak, 1985:6). Domestic chores as unpaid work contribute to the well-being of family members and maintenance of their home (Shelton, John, 1996:337).

Most of the research focuses on the domestic chores, which consists of physical activities such as cleaning, laundry, and cooking. Few studies include the other components of domestic chores, like child care (Coltrane, 2000:1208; Lee, Waite, 2005:328).

The increased participation of women in the labor force has served as an impetus for growing interest in the effect of their employment on the division of domestic chores (Lobel et al., 2001:829). Women's participation in the labor force has increased dramatically over the past several decades. Today, the majority of women, including

those with small children, work in paid labor. Yet, women's and men's time in domestic chores remains unequal (Kroska, 2004:900). Indoor domestic chores are still unequally divided between most couples, with wives doing almost twice more work than husbands (Lennon, Rosenfield, 1994: 506; Wilkie et al, 1998:577).

The division of domestic work remains as a source of conflict in contemporary marriages: men and women often hold different views on how domestic work should be allocated, and have a disagreement, over the division of labor causes marital dissatisfaction (Wilkie et al., 1998:577; Himsel, Goldberg, 2003:843). The problem of the unequal division of domestic work extends beyond marital satisfaction and affects individual well-being (Himsel, Goldberg, 2003:843)

There have been changes in the dimension of attitude toward domestic chores, which is currently limited in behavioral dimension. Evidence on the relationship between wife's employment status and husband's domestic chores is also inconsistent. Some observers note that husbands' participation in household activities increases when their wives work outside the home for pay (Weingarten, 1978:43; Coverman, 1985:81), whereas other find husbands' attitudes tend to become unfavorable toward women in the labor market since they are not used to see their wives in the labor market (Ferber, 1982: 457). In Turkey, men are observed to have more traditional gender role attitudes than women. Women's participation in the labor force is seen to lead to improvements in the relationships of couples as well as changing the meanings related to the roles and responsibilities of men and women. Studies, done in Turkey on this issue, reveal that most domestic chores are still performed by women (Atalay, Kontas, Beyazit, and Madenoglu, 1993; Dokmen, 1997:39). This study was planned and carried out to determine the views and behaviors of women who living in Ankara-Turkey, on distribution of responsibility in household activities.

1.1 Literature Review

Previous studies show that the responsibilities of men's and women's for the household activities differs, in the way that women do a wider range of household activities, and spend much more time doing domestic work (Miller, Garrison, 1982:237). Berk and Berk (1979) examined the differences between daytime and evening patterns of household activities for wives and husbands. They found that working women did more domestic work and child-care tasks in the morning than did their husbands. Schooler et al. (1984) found that wives are responsible for and actually do a vastly wider range of household activities than husbands. Working women react similarly to similar domestic work and paid-work conditions; this is not the case for men. Ross (1987) examined that 76 percent of the wives who are

employed full-time still do the majority of the domestic work. Mederer (1993) listed three tasks for which men are responsible as care of cars, household repair, and snow/lawn care, whereas wives are overwhelmingly responsible for the household management items, but assigning chores, making money decisions, and arranging the home repairs are less obviously skewed toward the wife. Furthermore Davis and Greenstein (2004) found that respondents in households with a full-time working wife compared with a non-working wife were almost twice as likely to report that the husband performed at least half of the domestic work. 27 % of the respondents with a part-time working wife in the household stated that the husband performed at least half of the domestic work. Cunningham (2007) examined women's employment status at a given point in time also increases men's relative participation in routine domestic work and women's employment status influences in part by increasing women's support for egalitarian roles between spouses. In Turkey, Başaran (1984) reported that both men and women stated that women must take more responsibilities than men related to domestic chores. In this context both men and women exhibit more traditional behavior. Ozgun and Hanig (2005) found that regardless of whether they were rearing typical or atypical children, mothers reported a higher level of involvement than fathers in every domain of childcare. Motherhood is still regarded as central to women's status in Turkey's patriarchal culture. According to Adana and etc.'s (2011) research majority of participants (%75) stated that household activities should be shared between men and women and half of the participants stated that men should decide on the way how money is spent. According to Uslu (2011), apart from the technical knowledge and skill requiring tasks (maintenance, repair), all household activities is mostly (%88-95) done by women.

2. METHOD

This study was conducted in Eryaman neighborhood in Ankara, which is thought to represent families in different socio-economic levels in 2005. Women to be interviewed were chosen via "Systematic Sampling Method" by using house determination forms in the Eryaman Health Care Centre No. 2. Sampling number that would represent the population was statistically determined and a total of 600 women were included in the study.

This research is a descriptive study. While collecting data, various questions were addressed in order to determine women's household activities. Depending on the prepared questionnaire form, the data of the study was collected by face-to-face interviews with the women in families. Since some families were not interested in such activities as garden care; domestic animal care; painting; whitewash; patient and child care; buying a present; buying cinema and theatre tickets; buying books;

arranging indoor leisure activities; taking children to school, helping them study and meeting teachers, the number of respondents were diminished for these topics.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table 1 shows the people who responsible for household activities. It was found that 13 physical activities performed in the house, 10 of those daily house cleaning (90.5 %), preparing food (89.2 %), laundry (88.0 %), ironing (85.2 %), washing-up (83.3 %), occasional cleaning (79.2 %), preparing and clearing the dining table (77.5 %), child care (43.0 %), patient care (26.5 %) and garden care (3.7 %) are performed by women. Maintenance–repair works (48.0 %) and domestic animal care (4.3 %) activities are performed by men. It was also found that painting–whitewash works (57.0 %) are conducted mostly by paid laborers. This result indicates that the traditional culture continues to assign women as the primary responsible for physical domestic chores. Consistent with current study, many studies have shown that most domestic work is done by women (Imamoğlu, 1991: 382; Manke et al., 1994: 657; Schooler et al., 1984:97; Uslu, 2011). In a study conducted by the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry General Directorate of Women’s Status and Problems (1998), it was found that, in terms of sharing the load of domestic work, mostly women performed the tasks.

According to the working status, it was determined that daily house cleaning, food preparation, laundry, ironing, washing up, occasionally cleaning, preparing and cleaning the dining table, among the physical activities in the house are mostly performed by women in all three working status. It was found that men took more part in patient and child care in families with women employed outside the home. For garden care, those employing paid workers come to the forefront in all three working status. There is a high rate of respondents mentioning that domestic animal care is conducted together in the families with working and retired women, and conducted by women in the families with nonworking women. Results revealed that painting–whitewash works were conducted mostly by paid laborers in all three working status. Traditional patterns continue and women do more physical domestic chores. However, men take more responsibility in some matters such as patient care and child care in families with women working outside the home. Consistent with our study, Ross (1987) found that even when a woman works, domestic chores remained her responsibility.

Results show that while paying an installment and bills are men’s responsibility (44.2 %), other activities such as shopping (43.7 %), budgeting (46.5 %) and saving (50.3 %) are administered by both women and men. This result gives the impression that

Table1: The Person Who Performs Household Activities by Working Status of Women.

Activities	Working status	Who Does It													
		Women		Men		Together		Daughter		Son		Paid		Other	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
1. Daily house cleaning	Working	91	81.3	1	0.9	7	6.3	2	1.8	1	0.9	7	6.3	3	2.7
	Nonworking	375	92.8	-	-	11	2.7	17	4.2	-	-	1	0.2	-	-
	Retirement	77	91.7	-	-	4	4.8	3	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	543	90.5	1	0.2	22	3.7	22	3.7	1	0.2	8	1.3	3	0.5
$\chi^2=41.048$ df:12 p=0.000															
2. Occasional cleaning (e.g. cleaning the windows)	Working	65	58.0	2	1.8	8	7.1	3	2.7	-	-	31	27.7	3	2.7
	Nonworking	342	84.7	-	-	16	4.0	24	5.9	-	-	21	5.2	1	0.2
	Retirement	68	81.0	-	-	5	6.0	2	2.4	-	-	8	9.5	1	1.2
	Total	475	79.2	2	0.3	29	4.8	29	4.8	-	-	60	10.0	5	0.8
$\chi^2=60.853$ df:10 p=0.000															
3. Food preparation	Working	90	80.4	3	2.7	13	11.6	1	0.9	-	-	2	1.8	3	2.7
	Nonworking	372	92.1	1	0.2	18	4.5	12	3.0	-	-	-	-	1	0.2
	Retirement	73	86.9	-	-	8	9.5	2	2.4	-	-	-	-	1	1.2
	Total	535	89.2	4	0.7	39	6.5	15	2.5	-	-	2	0.3	5	0.8
$\chi^2=29.279$ df:1 p=0.001															
4. Preparing and clearing the dining table	Working	69	61.6	4	3.6	28	25.0	8	7.1	-	-	1	0.9	2	1.8
	Nonworking	331	81.9	2	0.5	30	7.4	39	9.7	1	0.2	-	-	1	0.2
	Retirement	65	77.4	-	-	9	10.7	10	11.9	-	-	-	-	0	-
	Total	465	77.5	6	1.0	67	11.2	57	9.5	1	0.2	1	0.2	3	0.5
$\chi^2=41.248$ df:12 p=0.000															
5. Washing-up	Working	83	74.1	2	1.8	16	14.3	5	4.5	-	-	1	0.9	5	4.5
	Nonworking	347	85.9	2	0.5	17	4.2	34	8.4	-	-	-	-	4	1.0
	Retirement	70	83.3	-	-	6	7.1	7	8.3	-	-	-	-	1	1.2
	Total	500	83.3	4	0.7	39	6.5	46	7.7	-	-	1	0.2	10	1.7
$\chi^2=30.750$ df:10 p=0.003															
6. Laundry	Working	92	82.1	2	1.8	10	8.9	2	1.8	-	-	1	0.9	5	4.5
	Nonworking	361	89.4	2	0.5	12	3.0	20	5.0	-	-	1	0.2	8	2.0
	Retirement	75	89.3	-	-	5	6.0	2	2.4	-	-	-	-	2	2.4
	Total	528	88.0	4	0.7	27	4.5	24	4.0	-	-	2	0.3	15	2.5
$\chi^2=16.303$ df:10 p=0.091															
7. Ironing	Working	84	75.0	3	2.7	10	8.9	3	2.7	-	-	9	8.0	3	2.7
	Nonworking	352	87.1	2	0.5	15	3.7	31	7.7	-	-	3	0.7	1	0.2
	Retirement	75	89.3	-	-	4	4.8	1	1.2	-	-	2	2.4	2	2.4
	Total	511	85.2	5	0.8	29	4.8	35	5.8	-	-	14	2.3	6	1.0
$\chi^2=42.137$ df:10 p=0.000															
8. Garden Care	Working	3	2.7	4	3.6	6	5.4	-	-	-	-	10	8.9	1	0.9
	Nonworking	15	3.7	11	2.7	8	2.0	2	0.5	-	-	26	6.4	6	1.5
	Retirement	4	4.8	1	1.2	3	3.6	-	-	1	1.2	5	6.0	1	1.2
	Total	22	3.7	16	2.7	17	2.8	2	0.3	1	0.2	41	6.8	8	1.3
$\chi^2=11.924$ df:14 p=0.612															
9. Domestic Animal Care	Working	6	5.4	1	0.9	8	7.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.9
	Nonworking	15	3.7	4	1.0	14	3.5	-	-	1	0.2	3	0.7	4	1.0
	Retirement	3	3.6	1	1.2	4	4.8	-	-	1	1.2	2	2.4	1	1.2
	Total	24	4.0	6	1.0	26	4.3	-	-	2	0.3	5	0.8	6	1.0
$\chi^2=8.883$ df:12 p=0.713															
10. Painting – whitewash	Working	5	4.5	4	3.6	5	4.5	-	-	-	-	75	67.0	-	-
	Nonworking	17	4.2	30	7.4	11	2.7	1	0.2	1	0.2	219	54.2	-	-
	Retirement	1	1.2	4	4.8	5	6.0	-	-	3	3.6	48	57.1	-	-
	Total	23	3.8	38	6.3	21	3.5	1	0.2	4	0.7	342	57.0	-	-
$\chi^2=22.168$ df:12 p=0.026															

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Activities	Working status	Who Does It													
		Women		Men		Together		Daughter		Son		Paid		Other	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
11. Maintenance - repair	Working	6	5.4	51	45.5	6	5.4	-	-	-	-	49	43.8	-	-
	Nonworking	24	5.9	203	50.2	12	3.0	-	-	5	1.2	157	38.9	3	0.7
	Retirement	4	4.8	34	40.5	3	3.6	-	-	7	8.3	36	42.9	-	-
	Total	34	5.7	288	48.0	21	3.5	-	-	12	2.0	242	40.3	3	0.5
$\chi^2=21.319$ df:10 p=0.019															
12. Child care	Working	23	20.5	2	1.8	27	24.1	-	-	-	-	7	6.3	2	1.8
	Nonworking	200	49.5	2	0.5	17	4.2	-	-	-	-	1	0.2	1	0.2
	Retirement	35	41.7	2	2.4	8	9.5	-	-	-	-	3	3.6	-	-
	Total	258	43.0	6	1.0	52	8.7	-	-	-	-	11	1.8	3	0.5
$\chi^2=76.266$ df:10 p=0.000															
13. Patient care	Working	25	22.3	-	-	33	29.5	-	-	-	-	3	2.7	1	0.9
	Nonworking	103	25.5	1	0.2	32	7.9	-	-	-	-	2	0.5	-	-
	Retirement	31	36.9	-	-	14	16.7	1	1.2	-	-	1	1.2	-	-
	Total	159	26.5	1	0.2	79	13.2	1	0.2	-	-	6	1.0	1	0.2
$\chi^2=53.609$ df:12 p=0.000															
14. Shopping	Working	25	22.3	11	9.8	74	66.1	1	0.9	-	-	-	-	1	0.9
	Nonworking	127	31.4	101	25.0	158	39.1	11	2.7	3	0.7	1	0.2	3	0.7
	Retirement	41	48.8	6	7.1	30	35.7	-	-	6	7.1	1	1.2	-	-
	Total	193	32.2	118	19.7	262	43.7	12	2.0	9	1.5	2	0.3	4	0.7
$\chi^2=68.389$ df:12 p=0.000															
15. Budgeting	Working	19	17.0	15	13.4	77	68.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.9
	Nonworking	81	20.0	140	34.7	166	41.1	7	1.7	1	0.2	-	-	9	2.2
	Retirement	29	34.5	17	20.2	36	42.9	-	-	1	1.2	1	1.2	-	-
	Total	129	21.5	172	28.7	279	46.5	7	1.2	2	0.3	1	0.2	10	1.7
$\chi^2=54.254$ df:12 p=0.000															
16. Saving	Working	25	22.3	12	10.7	74	66.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.9
	Nonworking	98	24.3	100	24.8	192	47.5	6	1.5	-	-	-	-	8	2.0
	Retirement	31	36.9	14	16.7	36	42.9	-	-	1	1.2	-	-	2	2.4
	Total	154	25.7	126	21.0	302	50.3	6	1.0	1	0.2	-	-	11	1.8
$\chi^2=30.882$ df:10 p=0.001															
17. Paying an installment – bills	Working	21	18.8	37	33.0	52	46.4	1	0.9	-	-	-	-	1	0.9
	Nonworking	85	21.0	210	52.0	79	19.6	10	2.5	13	3.2	1	0.2	6	1.5
	Retirement	27	32.1	18	21.4	27	32.1	3	3.6	8	9.5	-	-	1	1.2
	Total	133	22.2	265	44.2	158	26.3	14	2.3	21	3.5	1	0.2	8	1.3
$\chi^2=64.471$ df:10 p=0.000															
18. Serving the houseguests	Working	50	44.6	3	2.7	55	49.1	1	0.9	-	-	-	-	3	2.7
	Nonworking	298	73.8	8	2.0	74	18.3	20	5.0	-	-	1	0.2	3	0.7
	Retirement	62	73.8	1	1.2	18	21.4	3	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	410	68.3	12	2.0	147	24.5	24	4.0	-	-	1	0.2	6	1.0
$\chi^2=51.493$ df:10 p=0.000															
19. Buying a present	Working	33	29.5	4	3.6	63	56.3	2	1.8	1	0.9	-	-	3	2.7
	Nonworking	131	32.4	14	3.5	126	31.2	43	10.6	1	0.2	-	-	10	2.5
	Retirement	23	27.4	1	1.2	27	32.1	9	10.7	4	4.8	-	-	3	3.6
	Total	187	31.2	19	3.2	216	36.0	54	9.0	6	1.0	-	-	16	2.7
$\chi^2=51.235$ df:12 p=0.000															
20. Buying cinema theatre tickets	Working	26	23.2	13	11.6	52	46.4	4	3.6	1	0.9	-	-	2	1.8
	Nonworking	75	18.6	33	8.2	90	22.3	29	7.2	6	1.5	-	-	4	1.0
	Retirement	14	16.7	4	4.8	24	28.6	7	8.3	4	4.8	-	-	-	-
	Total	115	19.2	50	8.3	166	27.7	40	6.7	11	1.8	-	-	6	1.0
$\chi^2=54.806$ df:12 p=0.000															

Activities	Working status	Who Does It															
		Women		Men		Together		Daughter		Son		Paid		Other			
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
21. Buying books	Working	33	29.5	6	5.4	52	46.4	4	3.6	1	0.9	-		3	2.7		
	Nonworking	102	25.2	23	5.7	81	20.0	29	7.2	6	1.5	-		5	1.2		
	Retirement	19	22.6	4	4.8	22	26.2	8	9.5	5	6.0	-		-			
	Total	154	25.7	33	5.5	155	25.8	41	6.8	12	2.0	-		8	1.3		
$\chi^2=58.883$ df:12 p=0.000																	
22. Arranging domestic leisure activities	Working	26	23.2	6	5.4	66	58.9	3	2.7	-		-		2	1.8		
	Nonworking	143	35.4	21	5.2	114	28.2	33	8.2	4	1.0	-		3	0.7		
	Retirement	24	28.6	3	3.6	27	32.1	8	9.5	3	3.6	-		2	2.4		
	Total	193	32.2	30	5.0	207	34.5	44	7.3	7	1.2	-		7	1.2		
$\chi^2=48.843$ df:12 p=0.000																	
23. Taking children to the school	Working	17	15.2	5	4.5	19	17.0	2	1.8	-		1	0.9	9	8.0		
	Nonworking	80	19.8	23	5.7	25	6.2	3	0.7	1	0.2	1	0.2	14	3.5		
	Retirement	12	14.3	-		7	8.3	-		-		-		2	2.4		
	Total	109	18.2	28	4.7	51	8.5	5	0.8	1	0.2	2	0.3	25	4.2		
$\chi^2=33.508$ df:12 p=0.002																	
24. Helping children study	Working	14	12.5	2	1.8	25	22.3	1	0.9	-		1	0.9	6	5.4		
	Nonworking	67	16.6	28	6.9	39	9.7	2	0.5	-		-		14	2.0		
	Retirement	13	15.5	2	2.4	6	7.1	-		-		-		-			
	Total	94	15.7	32	5.3	70	11.7	3	0.5	-		1	0.2	14	2.3		
$\chi^2=34.255$ df:12 p=0.001																	
25. Meeting teachers	Working	21	18.8	6	5.4	25	22.3	-		-		-		2	1.8		
	Nonworking	88	21.8	20	5.0	41	10.1	1	0.2	-		-		4	1.0		
	Retirement	13	15.5	3	3.6	6	7.1	-		-		-		-			
	Total	122	20.3	29	4.8	72	12.0	1	0.2	-		-		6	1.0		
$\chi^2=19.853$ df:10 p=0.031																	

they are more egalitarian in economic activities relating to the home whether the woman works outside or not. A high rate of respondents indicated that couples do the budgeting and saving together. Many respondents also claimed that the women is responsible for shopping among retired couples; men and women shopping together either women are work outside or stay at home as housewives. A high rate of respondents answered that men and women pay installments and bills together when the women are work outside the home; men pay the bills if women are housewives. Results showed that retired women and men manage their financial obligations together.

The study revealed that women are responsible for four social activities: serving houseguests (68.3 %), taking children to school (18.2 %), helping children's study (15.7 %) and meeting with the teachers (20.3 %). Women and men are responsible together for activities such as buying presents (36.0 %), buying cinema-theatre tickets (27.7 %) and buying books (25.8%). Women and men are responsible together for arranging indoor leisure activities (34.5 %). This result reveals women's regulatory role within the family.

In general, retired women and non-working women are responsible for serving guests in home. Women and men entertain together in families with women who are work outside the home. Both sexes buy books and presents together and arrange leisure activities in home with retired women and in those with women working outside the home. Cinema and theatre tickets are purchased together in all of the three groups. Women with no income are solely responsible for taking children to school, helping them with their study, and meeting with teachers. However, women who work outside the home share these responsibilities with others.

Table 2 shows opinions about who should take responsibility for household activities. As seen in Table 2, those who believe women are supposed to carry out any physical activities except for garden care, domestic animal care, painting and whitewash, maintenance-repair and patient care come to the forefront: daily house cleaning 64.5 %, occasional cleaning 41.2 %, food preparation 71.3 %, preparing and cleaning the dining table 52.8 %, washing up 62.0 %, laundry 70.2 %, ironing 66.8 %, child care 29.0 %. Higher numbers of participants think that painting/whitewash (60.5 %) should be conducted by wage labor, patient care (23.8 %) should be conducted by both sexes and maintenance-repair (45.8 %) should be conducted by men. This result reinforces the idea that traditional culture still holds women responsible for most of the physical activities. This belief is widespread among women themselves. In this study, working women appear to have more egalitarian opinions than nonworking women. Our results have similarities with the earlier research (Başaran, 1984; Adana and etc., 2011).

The current study demonstrates that there are significant number of women who think that women should be responsible for daily house cleaning, food preparation, laundry and ironing among the physical activities in all of the three working status. These respondents also believe that paid laborers should be responsible for occasional cleaning and maintenance/repair for families with women who work outside the home and/or retired. In families with housewives reported that women's responsibility to do occasional cleaning and men's responsibility to do maintenance and repair. A higher number of respondents think that preparing and cleaning the dining table, washing up and child care activities should be conducted by all in the families with women employed outside the home. Likewise many think that these chores should be the women's tasks in retired families and those with women who were housewives. A high rate of respondents thinks that child care should be women's responsibility when the women are housewives; it should be a cooperative effort in homes with women retired. It was found that the higher rate of people who think that domestic animal care and patient care should be conducted by both sexes together in all of the three working status. This gives the impression that families are more inclined towards an egalitarian distribution of roles as a result of women's

Table 2: Women's Opinions Regarding Who Should Have the Responsibility for Household Activities by Working Status

Activities	Working status	Who Should Be Responsibility													
		Women		Men		Together		Daughter		Son		Paid		Other	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
1. Daily house cleaning	Working	53	47.3	-	-	35	31.3	1	0.9	1	0.9	19	17.0	3	2.7
	Nonworking	293	72.5	1	0.2	54	13.4	30	7.4	-	-	25	6.2	1	0.2
	Retirement	41	48.8	-	-	19	22.6	10	11.9	-	-	9	10.7	5	6.0
	Total	387	64.5	1	0.2	108	18.0	41	6.8	1	0.2	53	8.8	9	1.5
χ²=68.487 df:12 p=0.000															
2. Occasional cleaning (e.g. cleaning the windows)	Working	19	17.0	1	0.9	31	27.7	2	1.8	-	-	57	50.9	2	1.8
	Nonworking	204	50.5	1	0.2	53	13.1	23	5.7	-	-	121	30.0	2	0.5
	Retirement	24	28.6	-	-	13	15.5	6	7.1	-	-	38	45.2	3	3.6
	Total	247	41.2	2	0.3	97	16.2	31	5.2	-	-	216	36.0	7	1.2
χ²=64.941 df:12 p=0.000															
3. Food preparation	Working	56	50.0	1	0.9	46	41.1	2	1.8	-	-	4	3.6	3	2.7
	Nonworking	318	78.7	-	-	63	15.6	14	3.5	-	-	8	2.0	1	0.2
	Retirement	54	64.3	-	-	18	21.4	6	7.1	-	-	4	4.8	2	2.4
	Total	428	71.3	1	0.2	127	21.2	22	3.7	-	-	16	2.7	6	1.0
χ²=50.210 df:10 p=0.000															
4. Preparing and clearing the dining table	Working	34	30.4	3	2.7	61	54.5	9	8.0	-	-	3	2.7	2	1.8
	Nonworking	242	59.9	-	-	92	22.8	57	14.1	2	0.5	8	2.0	3	0.7
	Retirement	41	48.8	-	-	23	27.4	15	17.9	-	-	4	4.8	1	1.2
	Total	317	52.8	3	0.5	176	29.3	81	13.5	2	0.3	15	2.5	6	1.0
χ²=60.790 df:12 p=0.000															
5. Washing-up	Working	47	42.0	-	-	50	44.6	5	4.5	-	-	4	3.6	6	5.4
	Nonworking	280	69.3	-	-	67	16.6	44	10.9	-	-	8	2.0	5	1.2
	Retirement	45	53.6	-	-	20	23.8	12	14.3	-	-	4	4.8	3	3.6
	Total	372	62.0	-	-	137	22.8	61	10.2	-	-	16	2.7	14	2.3
χ²=52.812 df:8 p=0.000															
6. Laundry	Working	61	54.5	-	-	36	32.1	3	2.7	-	-	5	4.5	7	6.3
	Nonworking	310	76.7	1	0.2	48	11.9	24	5.9	-	-	10	2.5	11	2.7
	Retirement	50	59.5	-	-	18	21.4	9	10.7	-	-	4	4.8	3	3.6
	Total	421	70.2	1	0.2	102	17.0	36	6.0	-	-	19	3.2	21	3.5
χ²=38.307 df:10 p=0.000															
7. Ironing	Working	52	46.4	2	1.8	32	28.6	4	3.6	-	-	18	16.1	4	3.6
	Nonworking	295	73.0	2	0.5	46	11.4	34	8.4	-	-	23	5.7	4	1.0
	Retirement	54	64.3	-	-	14	16.7	7	8.3	-	-	7	8.3	2	2.4
	Total	401	66.8	4	0.7	92	15.3	45	7.5	-	-	48	8.0	10	1.7
χ²=44.452 df:10 p=0.000															
8. Garden Care	Working	1	0.9	2	1.8	6	5.4	-	-	-	-	15	13.4	-	-
	Nonworking	8	2.0	10	2.5	12	3.0	2	0.5	-	-	32	7.9	4	1.0
	Retirement	-	-	3	3.6	6	7.1	-	-	-	-	6	7.1	-	-
	Total	9	1.5	15	2.5	24	4.0	2	0.3	-	-	53	8.8	4	0.7
χ²=15.254 df:12 p=0.228															
9. Domestic Animal Care	Working	1	0.9	3	2.7	12	10.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nonworking	5	1.2	3	0.7	22	5.4	1	0.2	2	0.5	5	1.2	3	0.7
	Retirement	1	1.2	1	1.2	8	9.5	-	-	1	1.2	1	1.2	-	-
	Total	7	1.2	7	1.2	42	7.0	1	0.2	3	0.5	6	1.0	3	0.5
χ²=14.102 df:14 p=0.442															
10. Painting – whitewash	Working	-	-	2	1.8	6	5.4	-	-	-	-	81	72.3	-	-
	Nonworking	7	1.7	22	5.4	15	3.7	2	0.5	1	0.2	232	57.4	-	-
	Retirement	-	-	4	4.8	5	6.0	-	-	2	2.4	50	59.5	-	-
	Total	7	1.2	28	4.7	26	4.3	2	0.3	3	0.5	363	60.5	-	-
χ²=22.861 df:12 p=0.029															

THE VIEWS AND BEHAVIOURS OF WOMEN
ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITY
IN HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

Prof. Dr. Sibel Erkal / Prof. Dr. Zeynep Çopur

Activities	Working status	Who Should Be Responsibility													
		Women		Men		Together		Daughter		Son		Paid		Other	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
11. Maintenance - repair	Working	2	1.8	49	43.8	8	7.1	-	-	-	-	52	46.4	1	0.9
	Nonworking	9	2.2	192	47.5	24	5.9	1	0.2	5	1.2	171	42.3	2	0.5
	Retirement	3	3.6	34	40.5	5	6.0	-	-	5	6.0	37	44.0	-	-
	Total	14	2.3	275	45.8	37	6.2	1	0.2	10	1.7	260	43.3	3	0.5
$\chi^2=13.771$ df:12 p=0.316															
12. Child care	Working	14	12.5	1	0.9	37	33.0	-	-	-	-	6	5.4	3	2.7
	Nonworking	138	34.2	1	0.2	79	19.6	1	0.2	-	-	1	0.2	1	0.2
	Retirement	22	26.2	1	1.2	24	28.6	-	-	-	-	1	1.2	-	-
	Total	174	29.0	3	0.5	140	23.3	1	0.2	-	-	8	1.3	4	0.7
$\chi^2=46.512$ df:12 p=0.000															
13. Patient care	Working	12	10.7	-	-	42	37.5	-	-	-	-	7	6.3	1	0.9
	Nonworking	50	12.4	-	-	76	18.8	-	-	-	-	12	3.0	-	-
	Retirement	16	19.0	-	-	25	29.8	1	1.2	-	-	5	6.0	-	-
	Total	78	13.0	-	-	143	23.8	1	0.2	-	-	24	4.0	1	0.2
$\chi^2=37.106$ df:10 p=0.000															
14. Shopping	Working	13	11.6	13	11.6	83	74.1	1	0.9	-	-	-	-	2	1.8
	Nonworking	59	14.6	88	21.8	238	58.9	10	2.5	2	0.5	1	0.2	6	1.5
	Retirement	20	23.8	8	9.5	47	56.0	1	1.2	7	8.3	1	1.2	-	-
	Total	92	15.3	109	18.2	368	61.3	12	2.0	9	1.5	2	0.3	8	1.3
$\chi^2=43.769$ df:12 p=0.000															
15. Budgeting	Working	10	8.9	11	9.8	90	80.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.9
	Nonworking	39	9.7	101	25.0	248	61.4	7	1.7	1	0.2	-	-	8	2.0
	Retirement	20	23.8	10	11.9	50	59.5	-	-	3	3.6	1	1.2	-	-
	Total	69	11.5	122	20.3	388	64.7	7	1.2	4	0.7	1	0.2	9	1.5
$\chi^2=51.373$ df:12 p=0.000															
16. Saving	Working	14	12.5	9	8.0	88	78.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.9
	Nonworking	57	14.1	73	18.1	256	63.4	6	1.5	-	-	-	-	12	3.0
	Retirement	19	22.6	9	10.7	49	58.3	-	-	3	3.6	-	-	4	4.8
	Total	90	15.0	91	15.2	393	65.5	6	1.0	3	0.5	-	-	17	2.8
$\chi^2=34.632$ df:10 p=0.000															
17. Paying an installment – bills	Working	11	9.8	35	31.3	64	57.1	1	0.9	-	-	-	-	1	0.9
	Nonworking	39	9.7	205	50.7	129	31.9	8	2.0	15	3.7	1	0.2	7	1.7
	Retirement	16	19.0	19	22.6	35	41.7	4	4.8	9	10.7	-	-	1	1.2
	Total	66	11.0	259	43.2	228	38.0	13	2.2	24	4.0	1	0.2	9	1.5
$\chi^2=57.683$ df:12 p=0.000															
18. Serving the houseguests	Working	29	25.9	3	2.7	76	67.9	1	0.9	-	-	-	-	3	2.7
	Nonworking	197	48.8	4	1.0	168	41.6	30	7.4	-	-	2	0.5	3	0.7
	Retirement	44	52.4	-	-	31	36.9	7	8.3	-	-	-	-	2	2.4
	Total	270	45.0	7	1.2	275	45.8	38	6.3	-	-	2	0.3	8	1.3
$\chi^2=44.186$ df:10 p=0.000															
19. Buying a present	Working	17	15.2	6	5.4	75	67.0	2	1.8	1	0.9	-	-	5	4.5
	Nonworking	70	17.3	16	4.0	188	46.5	34	8.4	1	0.2	1	0.2	15	3.7
	Retirement	13	15.5	1	1.2	37	44.0	8	9.5	4	4.8	-	-	4	4.8
	Total	100	16.7	23	3.8	300	50.0	44	7.3	6	1.0	1	0.2	24	4.0
$\chi^2=43.085$ df:14 p=0.000															
20. Buying cinema theatre tickets	Working	12	10.7	13	11.6	63	56.3	4	3.6	1	0.9	-	-	5	4.5
	Nonworking	33	8.2	29	7.2	139	34.4	21	5.2	5	1.2	-	-	9	2.2
	Retirement	9	10.7	3	3.6	31	36.9	5	6.0	4	4.8	-	-	2	2.4
	Total	54	9.0	45	7.5	233	38.8	30	5.0	10	1.7	-	-	16	2.7
$\chi^2=47.759$ df:12 p=0.000															

Activities	Working status	Who Should Be Responsibility													
		Women		Men		Together		Daughter		Son		Paid		Other	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
21. Buying books	Working	22	19.6	6	5.4	62	55.4	3	2.7	1	0.9	-	-	5	4.5
	Nonworking	57	14.1	19	4.7	126	31.2	24	5.9	5	1.2	-	-	15	3.7
	Retirement	10	11.9	3	3.6	28	33.3	8	9.5	5	6.0	-	-	4	4.8
	Total	89	14.8	28	4.7	216	36.0	35	5.8	11	1.8	-	-	24	4.0
$\chi^2=51.366$ df:12 p=0.000															
22. Arranging domestic leisure activities	Working	13	11.6	6	5.4	77	68.8	2	1.8	-	-	-	-	5	4.5
	Nonworking	80	19.8	14	3.5	181	44.8	30	7.4	3	0.7	-	-	10	2.5
	Retirement	15	17.9	2	2.4	37	44.0	6	7.1	3	3.6	-	-	4	4.8
	Total	108	18.0	22	3.7	295	49.2	38	6.3	6	1.0	-	-	19	3.2
$\chi^2=38.424$ df:12 p=0.000															
23. Taking children to the school	Working	7	6.3	7	6.3	30	26.8	2	1.8	-	-	1	0.9	6	5.4
	Nonworking	40	9.9	26	6.4	64	15.8	3	0.7	1	0.2	1	0.2	12	3.0
	Retirement	5	6.0	1	1.2	12	14.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3.6
	Total	52	8.7	34	5.7	106	17.7	5	0.8	1	0.2	2	0.3	21	3.5
$\chi^2=22.753$ df:14 p=0.064															
24. Helping children study	Working	4	3.6	3	2.7	38	33.9	1	0.9	-	-	1	0.9	2	1.8
	Nonworking	32	7.9	26	6.4	79	19.6	2	0.5	-	-	-	-	5	1.2
	Retirement	6	7.1	2	2.4	13	15.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	42	7.0	31	5.2	130	21.7	3	0.5	-	-	1	0.2	7	1.2
$\chi^2=25.646$ df:12 p=0.012															
25. Meeting teachers	Working	13	11.6	7	6.3	34	30.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nonworking	46	11.4	21	5.2	84	20.8	1	0.2	-	-	-	-	2	0.5
	Retirement	6	7.1	2	2.4	14	16.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	65	10.8	30	5.0	132	22.0	1	0.2	-	-	-	-	2	0.3
$\chi^2=13.937$ df:10 p=0.176															

participation in the workforce. Cunningham (2007) found that women's employment status at a given point in time increases men's relative participation in routine housework, and the influence of women's employment status operates in part by increasing women's support for egalitarian roles between spouses.

We also confirmed that higher rate of people noted women and men should be responsible for shopping (61.3 %), budgeting (64.7 %), and saving (65.5 %) together. These respondents also believe that men should be responsible for paying installments/bills (43.2%).

A high rate of respondents point out that budgeting, saving and shopping should be conducted together in all of the three working status. These respondents also believe that paying installments and bills should be shared among families with women who work outside the home or with retired women. Husbands and wives increased their financial cooperation as a result of wives' participation in the workforce.

It was found that all social activities (serving the houseguests 45.8%, buying presents 50.0 %, buying cinema and theatre tickets 38.8 %, buying books 36.0 %, arranging

domestic leisure activities 49.2 %, taking children to school 17.7 %, helping children to study 21.7 %, meeting teachers 22.0 %) are thought to be conducted by both sexes.

Many respondents reported that all social activities, except for serving houseguests, should be conducted by men and women together. Many respondents reported that hospitality should be a joint responsibility in households with women work outside. These respondents also think that women should serving houseguests who visit families with retired women or families with housewives.

4. CONCLUSION

This study shows that most of the responsibility for physical, economic and social activities belongs to parents and especially to mothers. Most men still do much less domestic chores than women do. Women still perform most routine cooking and cleaning tasks, although fewer men confine their efforts to the occasional outside chore, husbands rarely take full responsibility for a wide range of domestic chores. Our results also show that even though women take more responsibility for household activities, their opinions were more inclined towards women and men having a balanced division of domestic chores related to some social and economic activities.

In conclusion, gender differences were found to be persistent in distribution of husband and wife responsibilities for domestic chores. Women remained primarily responsible for household activities. However, the ideal is participation of all family members in household activities in accordance with their ages and skills. Egalitarian distribution of household responsibilities can be ensured by raising awareness of this goal through formal and non-formal education. Families can be informed with the support of visual and written media, research companies, universities, non-governmental organizations etc. Also similar researches should conduct in order to lead the family in an accurate way.

Limitations of the current study must be considered when interpreting results. The respondents were not a representative sample of the society, so the observations cannot be generalized to the population in general. Participants were relatively married women, who were middle and upper-middle class. Further research is warranted using broader and more representative samples, especially including a wider range of socioeconomic backgrounds and aspirations. A second limitation is the absence of specific information on particular kinds of satisfaction with division. The survey does not identify measure of the satisfaction of performance in domestic chores and measure of conflict for both genders. Further research of distribution of responsibility in household activities is needed to determine these measures.

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