

1. Read the text and answer the questions

Today we'll discuss the changes in roles performed by men and women in the family. Changes in family life have made men's and women's roles more alike than ever as the wives are also responsible for the family finances.

Family experts say the old notions of who does what in families may be more and more unclear. Men are not the sole breadwinners for the family like they used to be and they are becoming much more involved in housework and parenting.

Because men's and women's roles in families have become more alike, for couples to balance their work and family life, perhaps, 'equally shared parenting' is the best solution. 'Equally shared parenting' means the 'conscious and purposeful sharing' in four domains of life:

1. Child-raising: Both parents have equal responsibility to nurture and to take care of the children;
2. Breadwinning: Husband's and wife's careers are equally important;
3. Housework: The household chores should be equally divided between the wife and the husband;
4. Recreation: Both partners have an equal chance and time for their own interests, and of course, to be with each other.

Experts have found out that families that can keep to those four principles of 'equally shared parenting' become happier and the divorce rate is the lowest amongst them.

1. How has the role of men in the family changed?

2. How have men's and women's roles become alike?

3. What is the result of 'equally shared parenting'?

2. Write a paragraph about how many people in your family share housework

I live in a family of four: my parents, my younger sister and I. We are all very busy people: both my parents work, my sister and I spend most of our time at school, so we split the household chores equally.

My dad is responsible for mending things around the house. He also cleans the bathroom twice a week. My mum does most of the cooking and grocery shopping.

Being the elder child in the family, I take up a large share of housework. I do the laundry, take out the rubbish, and clean the fridge once a week. My younger sister An's responsibilities include helping Mum to prepare meals and washing the dishes. My sister and I take turns laying the table for meals, sweeping the house, and feeding the cat.

We do our share of housework willingly as we know that if everyone contributes, the burden is less and everyone can have some time to relax.