Your Name

Professor's Name

Course Title and Number

Due Date

Combining Motherhood and a Career

It's no surprise that obtaining worthwhile and rewarding goals requires plenty of effort. At times, it may presuppose a kind of sacrifice. The key questions are: “Will the modern woman choose to a career or a family life? What are her priorities?”

Most working women refuse to give up their careers in favor of their families. Can such a tendency be viewed as a positive one? What might this decision lead to? The majority of mothers choose two options simultaneously – being a wife and a mother, and developing their careers gradually. Research findings worldwide strongly indicate that more and more women continue to consider their successful jobs as a top priority even after giving birth. According to the research, only 60% of women try to find some time to devote to their families, supporting the idea of a work-family balance. They fall into a so-called 'adaptive' category. About 20% of women are fully work-centered. The remaining 20% are home-centered, putting their family life first (Hakim, 2009).

After conducting her own research, Dr. Catherine Hakim, a sociology professor at the London School of Economics, came to the following conclusions: “These women, who I call 'adaptive', want the best of both worlds. They want to combine family and paid employment, but they will never give priority to paid employment over family” (Hakim, 2009). A great number of women who accepted part-time jobs after having children fall into the 'adaptive' category, said Dr. Hakim. The rest tend to choose jobs, such as teaching or some kind of part-time job to maintain a working life-family balance. The research of this scientist states that 'adaptive' women are highly motivated to reach top positions in their professions. They can graduate from a university and receive a well-rounded education, which may lead them to obtain a managerial position. Overall, work-focused women tend to get better career advancements than those who are more family-oriented. Women who are 100% work-centered are more likely to take leading positions in the companies' management A commitment to their careers garners them top positions, but many of them remain childless even after they are married.

Family-centered women make up the smallest and the most 'invisible' group, compared to the high-achieving, successful working woman. Women from this group are likely to prioritize their personal interests and family life. Fully dedicating themselves to their family, it is no wonder they have large families! Dr. Hakim's study is based on the opinion of 3,700 women in Spain and Britain in regards to the lifestyle they choose.

Taking into serious consideration these findings from Dr. Hakim’s study, we can come to the conclusion that the modern community offers a great number of possibilities for women in what direction they would like to pursue. It is clear that today there are no limits for women in expressing themselves through work and other creative endeavors outside the family home, but also in the working environment. The main point is that, nowadays, smart and gifted women finally have a chance to have everything they want – a happy family and a successful career!

Works Cited

Hakim, Catherine (December, 2009). The mother of all paradoxes. *Prospect-The leading magazine of ideas*. Retrieved from http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/opinions/the-mother-of-all-paradoxes