

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ACCESS

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Underrepresented Groups

Women's domestic burden

Study after study has shown that even as women have stepped forward in the workforce, in married heterosexual couples, women still shoulder the bulk of household chores. A Gallup poll from January 2020 found women were more than seven times as likely to care for their children on a daily basis as men were in heterosexual married or cohabitating couples. In fact, 80% of single-parent families are headed by single mothers, according to 2019 US Census Bureau data (Graves, 2020). This burden isn't limited to the home. Women "take care of the academic family" more than men by picking up more service duties (Flaherty, 2017).

Group Discussion:

Discuss times when people in the group have witnessed or experienced the women's domestic burden or taking care of the 'academic family.' *We strongly recommend anonymity and confidentiality when sharing stories.*

Group Questions:

Consider heterosexual women who do more than 2.5 times the amount of unpaid domestic work as compared to their male partner (Graves, 2020). What practical steps can you take to advocate for women in your office, classroom, or meeting space to help decompress the women's domestic burden?

Consider how this burden may change or dynamics look differently in a same-sex couple.

References:

Flaherty, C. (April 12, 2017). *Relying on women, not rewarding them*. Inside Higher Education. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/04/12/study-finds-female-professors-outperform-men-service-their-possible-professional>

Graves, L. (March 16, 2020). *Women's domestic burden just got heavier with the coronavirus*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/mar/16/womens-coronavirus-domestic-burden>