

# Sex Stereotyping



A survey by the Equality Opportunities Commission in the U.K. asked fathers if they would like to stay home to take care of their babies. Many fathers said that they would be happy to be homemakers. In fact, four out of five new fathers said they would be happy to quit work and become homemakers. However, another report found that in only four percent of families the mother was working full-time, while the father was working part-time or was a stay-at-home dad. Estimates suggest that there are over 140,000 stay-at-home dads in the U.S., and over ten million stay-at-home moms.

It seems that sex stereotyping has a big influence on us at all stages in life. It affects our views on home life, the subjects we study in school and the jobs we choose. A separate report found that fewer than 40 percent of girls questioned aged 15 and 16 agreed that boys and girls are treated exactly the same way in families. As for jobs around the home, girls generally help mom with things such as ironing, cleaning and washing the dishes. However, boys help with jobs that dad would normally do, such as household repairs and physical tasks like cutting the grass. In school, fewer girls choose math and science: these are often seen as subjects more for boys. Sex stereotyping also seems to be supported by some schools career counselors. They sometimes advise girls to try traditional careers in nursing and teaching, rather than become scientists or engineers.

1. Do you think boys and girls are treated the same at home?
2. Do you think ladies and men can do the same job?
3. Why are there no female principals in Japan?
4. Why can't Japanese women advance to a position of authority in Japan?