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Can a Homemaker Have a Career?

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Child raising is a full time job for every mother. Her presence in the home is necessary until the child reaches the age of eight

Can a Homemaker Have a Career?

Combining marriage and career is advocated by Dr. Reuben Hill, reports Betsy Nichols

WOMEN today find a world in which they can more nearly reach equality with men than in any previous time. The traditional saying that a woman's place is in the home has become obsolete. This has occurred not only through progressive social ideas but through the invention of household conveniences. Now with her electric ironer, her range and vacuum cleaner, the homemaker's daily job has been cut from nearly 16 hours to 7.

With extra hours women turn their energies to other activities. Pearl Buck deplors the situation that has produced a feverish social life among modern wives. She suggests that no woman should be educated, and that she be trained to be only an obedient house servant.

Would not activities which would employ the homemaker to her full capacities be a better solution, asks Dr. Reuben Hill, of the Department of Economics and Sociology. This could be done by integrating her education and desire for a home and family.

To combine a full-time job with management of a home creates an excess burden on the wife. To eliminate this, an arrangement whereby an adequate amount of time can be given to both should be arranged. This can be done by the husband and wife sharing the

responsibilities of homemaking. The more strenuous tasks around the home are better fitted to a man. He can fulfill them with more skill, while the wife may attend to household duties for which she has more talent.

The 40-hour week divides time adequately for such an arrangement. A halftime job for the wife gives both the feeling of responsibility for the home and the added stimulus of outside work. Economically the plan would tend to increase rather than diminish the total income, and yet more time could be enjoyed around the home.

Plans for children must be made, adds Dr. Hill. Although psychologists say that there are just as many problem children in homes where the wife does not work as in those in which she does, care of children presents almost a full time job. Few modern inventions can cut the time necessary to care for toddlers.

Dr. Hill suggests that a period be set aside to raise children. A mother's presence in the home is necessary until a child reaches the age of eight. Thus, in planning a family of four children, a period of eight years for child bearing and eight years until they are sufficiently old not to require constant attention should be reckoned.

If such a period of time elapses while the wife remains in the home, knowledge of technical training necessary for her career may be forgotten. This can be prevented in two ways: by keeping alive an active interest in her field by reading new material and by taking refresher courses at the end of the 16 year absence.

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