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Should Women Have Careers?
College Men Say -- No!

By Josephine Betty

Women should not have careers!

If you don't believe it, ask the opinion of some college men. Though they may make a few exceptions after awhile, they are generally agreed that woman's place is in the home and that she should stay there.

When asked what they think of careers for women, men think of women as potential wives. Without a doubt a married woman has no time for a career if she wants to have any home life. Her home, her children and her husband keep her busy enough without the addition of a career.

Consider what the wife must do around the house. There are always three meals a day to prepare. If one has a maid, you say, the problem of cooking is solved. But there are still meals to plan and groceries to order.

The house itself must be kept clean. Maybe the additional salary the wife earns will pay a woman to do the cleaning. Suppose the woman is a stranger in the house. Who is there to see that the favorite sterling silver spoons are not carried off?

Children are a definite hindrance to a career. When children are very young, they need constant care. Of course, there are nursemaids to take care of the children of busy women. A mother never knows how her child may grow up if left entirely to the care of a governess whom the mother may see for only a few minutes during the day. Private schools are open to children whose parents have little time for them. Summer camps solve the vacation problem. Some children grow up without any home life simply because their mothers were too busy having a career to be with the children.

If there is anyone who needs home life, it is the tired husband who comes home after a hard day of work. Home to him is a place of relaxation. The cares of the day should vanish when he sets his foot over the threshold. Can a man forget his worries if his wife insists on telling him that she sold four houses during the day? Perhaps her day was more successful than his. Does a man like to have his wife earn more than he? Decidedly not. He considers himself the head of the house and, as such, feels that it is his place to support the family. The two spheres that develop from the separate careers of husband and wife cannot be coordinated, except perhaps with great difficulty.

Men studying professions object strenuously to careers for women in their particular field. Medicine and law are the best examples of this. Most schools for law and medicine do not encourage women to enroll. Very few women have become famous doctors and lawyers, probably partially because of the lack of encouragement they received.

Femininity is a desirable trait in women from a man's point of view. Women who become efficient in the business world lose their feminine charm to a certain extent. As a woman becomes more efficient, she loses more of those qualities men demand in the women they marry. Her dealings with men have been on an impersonal basis for so long that she begins to regard herself as their equal. She can no longer convince him that she is the one who needs him to look after her. Man likes to feel superior and nothing satisfies that ego quite as much as the feeling that here is a woman who needs his protecting care.

Employers are becoming more and more dubious about employing women. Some large organizations prefer to employ men as stenographers and secretaries. The principal objection to women is that they get married and leave their jobs. Advantages of employing men are that marriage does not interfere with their work, they can work longer hours, they more thoroughly represent the business and they are on the whole more interested in the business world.

Some lines of work offer attractive salaries to women. These fields, say the men, are all right for the unmarried women. Drama and music are two instances of high-salaried fields where there is little competition with men. Discrimination is made here, too, however; for instance, dance orchestras are generally composed entirely of men.

Fields which are exclusively for women are an exception to the men's objections to careers. Nursing, nursery school work, home economics journalism and other fields are entered by women after they have had the proper training. According to the men these fields should, however, be reserved for the unmarried women.

Many women have had successful careers, but they have opposed men to attain their success. Objection is less now than it was 100 years ago, but it has not yet been overcome.