

CHECKS AND BALANCES

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In olden times the role of men and women were categorically defined. Men earned and women looked after the kids and household activities, with exceptions apart. Life apparently was simple and smooth and there was a kind of contentment even if the material prosperity was low as one hears such narrations from elderly people. However, in those times, men kept an upper hand as they had the money power. Their upbringing as a superior sex contributed to their not giving an equal status to their wives. Wives on their part also did not assert again due to their own upbringing.

As the society evolved, due to a variety of contributory factors like education, women came out of four walls of their homes and started using their skills and education. This required a new type of equation as far as household work was concerned. Men started helping but primary responsibility remained that of the women only. As working mothers helped the family financially, due to good income level, standard of living improved, children got all the facilities and their desires got fulfilled. They became self-reliant faster and seeing their fathers giving helping hand in household work, they learnt to cooperate in a natural way. Status of women improved tremendously as they became financially सक्षम.

In the current times, it is rare to find a girl who does not prefer to work and chooses to remain at home as a housewife. But for her, life has become too hectic creating pressures from all sides. At home servants, day care, tuition classes, mobiles, TV, and computer etc. have gradually replaced parental care with job becoming a priority for both the partners.

One major fall out in this fast paced era is the marital discord. It has become very common with disharmony stretching up to divorce. This is one scenario in which everyone suffers. It is a very unhappy situation in which the real victim is always the child who pays the price for affluence in terms of lost childhood and confused teens for the ambitions of his parents. Could expensive toys, clothes, mobiles etc. compensate for the lack of personal care of parents? It doesn't seem so given the increased cases of child depression, poor grades, irritable behaviour, and defiance.

What is the way out? The answer lies in time management skills by both husband and wife. Both should learn to balance work and family, both should cooperate with each other, be considerate and give their best to both job as well as family.

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