

## The Difficulties of Working Women in Korea Society

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Nowadays, many women get a job with passion and work hard in Korea. In the past, all of the women had to stay at home taking care of children and doing housework. Almost people thought that men have to work outside to support their family, so women were not allowed to get a job outside. The age, however, has been changed. Many people who live in this time think both sexes have right to do what they want. It means that women also have right to participate in social activity like getting a job, voting. Naturally women have started to work, but they have some difficulties even they live in the time of sex equality. They have problem with their children, their pay and discriminative treatment in workplace and wrong conception of housework.

The women have had high education as well as men have done, so they have fully good ability for a task. They sometimes accomplish a great thing more than men do in some field, but they are discriminated with their pay and promotion compared to the men in workplace. Many people - especially the head of companies still think that the women don't work hard and deal with tasks efficiently even though they already know the women have ability to manage a task. This prejudice make them have low pay and no chance of promotion. It's real the women get lower wages than the men do even they work hard same as the men. Also, they can't be promoted no matter how they work hard for company.

Another problem they have is about their children. Many women get marry and have a baby. They want to work continuously after the childbirth but it's difficult in Korea society. First of all, there are not enough childcare facilities. Most family in Korea is a dual-income family, so there is no one at home to take care of their child while they are working outside. They have to commit their child to the care of a facility but it isn't enough. Even though they choose one, they don't be sure of its system because they have an experience of hearing some news like how badly the childcare facilities treat the babies and they don't spend enough money on taking care of the babies even though they get a lot of money from the parents. Another problem about child is that almost women are forced to quit the job after they are pregnant or give a birth. When they are pregnant, they can't work temporarily for the baby. The company where they work for don't like to give them a time off for

childcaring because it takes so much time. It have to hire another people instead them during that time and it cost much time to teach new one about the task they have to do. For these reasons, it is natural for the company to avoid the women.

The women also have a problem with housework. It leads to a "double whammy" for them. The age has been changed to equal one, but they are still forced to do housework even they do outdoor work. Many Korean men don't do housework because they still think it's only women's work. For example, one of the my friends said to me that her mother was always busy to make a breakfast, do the laundry and clean the house everyday. Indeed she always did it alone even though her husband came back home after the work.

If these circumstances around the women are not changed, there will be a demo or the women will leave the Korea in the near future. Now it's the time for all of the people and government to change. First of all, Korean government has not supported the working women well. Therefore it has to support them positively. It can increase the number of the childcare facilities and improve the caring system and education system of them. If so, the women can feel easy to work while their babies are there. It should spend taxes on this acivity not on unnecessary field.

Then the company has to consider the women more than before. If they do well with task, it should pay much money to them and give them a chance to promote. At least, it must not give them lower wages or no chance to promote simply because they're women. The government also makes a law and restricts the sex discrimination of the company. If one company do that, it must punish severely so that other companies will obey the law as well.

The Korean men also will change their mind. They now have to recognize the housework is not only women's work. Any sexes can do work and housework in this equal society. The men and the women should do it together. For example, after the work, mother will take care of their baby from Monday to Wednesday, father will do it from Thursday to Saturday. They also divide the housework like that if both of them work outside. To say another example, my parents have already divided it because both of them have a job. When my mother makes a meal, my father cleans the house. They always do a laundry together. If one of them work outside and another one don't have a job, another one can control the housework like cleaning, laundry and baby no matter the sex. It means a wife gest a job while a man doesn't, he is expected to stay at home and do the housework. If he still has a wrong old prejudice, this situation can't make sense of course.

At last, the Koreans themselves should be concerned about women's circumstances. They can organize an association which supports the working women. It can do many activities like watching the company whether it discriminates against the women or not, observing how the childcare facilities do their duty for the baby. It can also do a presentation with a report about what they watch, what they think to be changed, then give it to the government to consider it.

Some people will say everybody in Korea knows these contents, so you shouldn't have to say it again. How many people, however, practice what they already know? Maybe only a few people have done it. What I want to say is that it's the time we act. We already know what happens to the working women in Korea, now we should have to do something to improve the circumstance around them. It's not late yet for the Korean to act. Even we start from now, we make it better enough.