Haoqiang zhang

draft paper 4

Brie Ashley

Section DE

Family is More Important Than Work

With social development, the stereotyped mind of traditional gender concept that men played the main role in the society while women were confined to the family has became unacceptable for the public. Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn express their opinion that how the girl effect influences the society and how women are capable of contributing to the world in their article “The Girl Effect”. Women want the chances to get into marketplaces as men. Plus that brain work is dominant nowadays, women indeed have more opportunities to show their extraordinary talents, and they truly have done a lot of work that greatly contributed to the society and economic development. However, while women are rising sharply in marketplaces and striving for their dream life, they have been somehow abandoning and ignoring another important identity-- mother. Arlie Russell Hochschild, the author of “From the Frying Pan into the Fire”, delivers the idea that women in current society have been paying too much attention on work and relatively neglect the importance of family, people are all chasing after a better live as a end, however spend less and less time with family which is the center of life. Women have been unconsciously and excessively turning their focus of life from home to workplaces. They have been trying to squeezing out as more as possible time to reach efficiency for working better instead of communicating with family, which is definitely sort of distortion. Because for women, compared with work and money, family is unquestionable the more important side to take. It is all right for women to chase after their goads and fight for their dreams, but if it takes family as the cost, the work becomes meaningless in terms of a certain degree.

Capitalism has positive impact on families’ harmony. In the past, it was very common that for most families, men was the one who bring home the bacon, yet women stayed at home doing domestic work. In this situation, if a man gets setbacks and difficulties during work, it is very easy for him to have friction with his wife after they get home. Because in his mind, he thinks that he is the one that fights out there all day long to earn money for the family, nevertheless, the woman stays at home, it is very reasonable to let his wife obey himself in every way. However, capitalism changes such kind of unequal idea from men. Hochschild delivers that: “This encapsulation of our family ideal allows us to accommodate to what is both a pragmatic necessity and a competing source of meaning--the religion of capitalism. I say pragmatic necessity because most Americans, men and women alike, have to work for food and rent”(186). Capitalism’s very eventual goad is about living better or having a better life, and the pursuit of better pushes people to go to work. It indicates people to use their practical movements to show how they emphasize the family and each other. In this way that both sides of a family are working hard for future, neither of sides would feel imbalance about who’s contributing more and deserve more. As a consequence,the friction and quarrel go less and less. What’s more, Kristof and WuDunn states: “Rath’s eventual triumph is a reminder that if girls get a chance, in the form of an education or a microloan,they can be more than baubles or slaves”(209). To coordinate with, because both of the man and the woman are contributing to the family, in other words, the woman’s status is raising up as well, woman in this case would no longer be just humbled that can only submit the humiliation. Once a family get to the balance point, it is very believable to say the times of quarrel would go way down compared to the past.

Capitalism changes the social pattern that brings women chances to get into workplaces. In the past days, different roles and divisions of labor have evolved into different social status of men and women in the society. Men were responsible for supporting the family, relatively, women were responsible for bringing up children. Because on the surface, children and work are obviously two conflicted parts. In people’s deep heart, it is sort of impossible to have children and work balanced. However, when capitalism spreads all around, the big social marketing environment apparently changed. On the one hand, capitalism verifies that women are indeed capable of doing children things and work things simultaneously. Kristof and WuDunn states that: “She saved and invested in new merchandise, her business thrived, and she was able to support her parents and two younger sisters. She married and had a son, and she began saving for his education”(209). Because capitalism advocates a very important concepts that people get how much they paid. It has nothing to do with people’s status, identity, as long as the person is working hard enough, the person can get the corresponding payback. Women have been oppressed for not letting go to work for years, they must be much more struggled to work, to show they are competent to harmonize children and work, and do both well. On the other hand, Hochschild expresses that: “This efficiency-seeking is transferred from man to woman, from workplace to home, from adult to child”(184). capitalism encourages women who never been to work before to be diligent, efficient. One of the biggest reasons women were fettered in the past is because of children things. Nevertheless, women nowadays try to be efficient and save time for work in every little aspect of lives, just like what the cereal ad mentioned in Hochschild article indicates, women can be justified to stay focus on work because they have already taken good care of their children.

Once capitalism is being pursued far too much, children’s education and growth will be neglected. For every family, the balance point between children and work is always a tough thing to handle with. Kristof and WuDunn states that: “The formula was to ease repression, educate girls as well as boys, gives the girls the freedom to move to the cities and take factory jobs, and then benefit from a demographic dividend as they delayed marriage and reduced childbearing”(210). Even though capitalism leads to a better life, but once capitalism is over-pursued, children, in most cases, would be the victims. The quote here implies a concept that women, to get a better life, would rather put children things behind the work, it is sort of a abnormality. They have not realized the importance of children. People work hard for making their families live better, and children are basically the center of every family. In other words, people spend all their time on work thing nowadays, when they are old and about to die, what stand by their side are not these work things but children. When people are ill and lying on bed, they would regret that they did not spend too much on children not work. So no matter what happens, parents should always put children on the top of the list. On the other hand, Hochschild states that: “ ‘put it this way, I’m pleased with how they turned out.’ This father loved his daughters, but he loved them as results”(191). How children would turned out is definitely not just about putting them into schools and letting them get educated and influenced by teachers and surroundings on their own. Family is the most important class that children should never be absent. To let children grow up happily and healthily, parental accompany is always indispensable, which means parents need to take a lot of time to educate their children as their children are going through every little things along the way growing up.