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PROJECT 10.2
BALANCING MULTIPLE ROLES

Purpose: This exercise is designed to have you consider changing trends in the configuration of family and gender roles.

Instructions: Interview two couples who are willing to describe how they have balanced their work and family lives. One couple should be young adults, the other should be middle-aged or older adults. Both should have children. Two different generations from the same family would be ideal candidates for this project. You may conduct joint or individual interviews; separate worksheets are provided for each participant. Describe each participant at the top of each worksheet. Also include any other relevant factors such as race or ethnicity and social class.

Compare their experiences with reference to the text by responding to the following questions.

1. Compare and contrast the couples' responses. What similarities did you observe between genders or couples? What differences did you observe?

2. How did your participants juggle work and family? Did having children affect women and men similarly? What gender differences, if any, did you find?
3. Did you find evidence of a "mommy track" in employment? Did men work longer hours to meet increased financial obligations?

4. Compare and contrast your participants' descriptions of their experience in juggling work and parenting. Describe any age or gender differences you observed in parenting ideology.
Work and Family Survey
Participant A

Sex __________________________ Age __________________________

Number and Ages of Children______________________________________

Comments/Characteristics__________________________________________

1. Did becoming parents change the way you related to each other? If so, how did your relationship change?

2. How did becoming pregnant and then raising your children affect the family’s finances?

3. Were you employed at the time your first child was born? How did becoming a parent change things? For example, did you work longer hours? Or did you switch to a part-time job after staying home with your children?
4. Did having children affect your education in any way? For example, did you decide to take classes when your children were old enough to enter school? Or, did you have to postpone or interrupt your education?

5. Think for a minute about your experience raising your children.

When was it most satisfying being a parent? How old were your children at the time?

When was it most stressful being a parent? How old were your children at the time?
Work and Family Survey
Participant B

Sex _______________ Age _______________

Number and Ages of Children

Comments/Characteristics

1. Did becoming parents change the way you related to each other? If so, how did your relationship change?

2. How did becoming pregnant and then raising your children affect the family's finances?

3. Were you employed at the time your first child was born? How did becoming a parent change things? For example, did you work longer hours? Or did you switch to a part-time job after staying home with your children?
4. Did having children affect your education in any way? For example, did you decide to take classes when your children were old enough to enter school? Or, did you have to postpone or interrupt your education?

5. Think for a minute about your experience raising your children.

When was it most satisfying being a parent? How old were your children at the time?

When was it most stressful being a parent? How old were your children at the time?
Work and Family Survey

Participant C

Sex ___________________________ Age ___________________________

Number and Ages of Children____________________________________

Comments/Characteristics_________________________________________________________________

1. Did becoming parents change the way you related to each other? If so, how did your relationship change?

2. How did becoming pregnant and then raising your children affect the family's finances?

3. Were you employed at the time your first child was born? How did becoming a parent change things? For example, did you work longer hours? Or did you switch to a part-time job after staying home with your children?
4. Did having children affect your education in any way? For example, did you decide to take classes when your children were old enough to enter school? Or, did you have to postpone or interrupt your education?

5. Think for a minute about your experience raising your children.

When was it most satisfying being a parent? How old were your children at the time?

When was it most stressful being a parent? How old were your children at the time?
Work and Family Survey
Participant D

Sex ______________________  Age ______________________

Number and Ages of Children__________________________________________

Comments/Characteristics_____________________________________________

1. Did becoming parents change the way you related to each other? If so, how did your relationship change?

2. How did becoming pregnant and then raising your children affect the family's finances?

3. Were you employed at the time your first child was born? How did becoming a parent change things? For example, did you work longer hours? Or did you switch to a part-time job after staying home with your children?
4. Did having children affect your education in any way? For example, did you decide to take classes when your children were old enough to enter school? Or, did you have to postpone or interrupt your education?

5. Think for a minute about your experience raising your children.

When was it most satisfying being a parent? How old were your children at the time?

When was it most stressful being a parent? How old were your children at the time?