Unpaid Housework, Poverty, and Sexual Violence: A Triple Threat at the Dawn of the 21st Century

The unpaid labor of women and girls is a critical contributor to the global economy, yet it remains largely unrecognized and undervalued. This work encompasses a wide range of tasks, including cooking, cleaning, childcare, and care for the elderly and sick. Despite its essential nature, unpaid housework is often seen as a private matter, and its economic value is frequently overlooked.

As a result, women and girls who perform unpaid housework often face poverty, discrimination, and violence. They are more likely to live in poverty than men, and they are more likely to be victims of sexual violence. This triple threat of unpaid housework, poverty, and sexual violence is a major obstacle to gender equality and economic development.



The Work of Love: Unpaid Housework, Poverty and Sexual Violence at the Dawn of the 21st Century

by Giovanna Franca Dalla Costa

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.2 out of 5 Language : English : 280 KB File size Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 122 pages Lending : Enabled Hardcover : 358 pages

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The Gender Gap in Unpaid Housework

In most societies, women perform significantly more unpaid housework than men. This gender gap is due to a number of factors, including cultural norms, social expectations, and the unequal distribution of power between men and women.

According to the United Nations, women spend an average of 4 hours and 25 minutes per day on unpaid housework, while men spend an average of 1 hour and 23 minutes. This gap is even wider in developing countries, where women may spend up to 10 hours per day on unpaid housework.

The gender gap in unpaid housework has a number of negative consequences for women. It limits their opportunities for education, employment, and political participation. It also increases their risk of poverty and violence.

Unpaid Housework and Poverty

Unpaid housework is a major contributing factor to poverty among women. This is because it reduces their ability to earn an income. Women who spend a lot of time on unpaid housework are less likely to be able to work outside the home. And even when they do work outside the home, they are often paid less than men for the same work.

The link between unpaid housework and poverty is particularly strong in developing countries. In these countries, women are often responsible for

the majority of unpaid housework, and they are also more likely to live in poverty.

For example, a study by the International Labour Organization found that women in India who spend more than 6 hours per day on unpaid housework are 20% more likely to live in poverty than women who spend less than 2 hours per day on unpaid housework.

Unpaid Housework and Sexual Violence

Unpaid housework is also a risk factor for sexual violence. This is because it isolates women from the outside world and makes them more vulnerable to abuse. Women who are isolated from their communities are less likely to be able to access help if they are abused.

For example, a study by the World Health Organization found that women who spend more than 4 hours per day on unpaid housework are twice as likely to be victims of sexual violence than women who spend less than 2 hours per day on unpaid housework.

The triple threat of unpaid housework, poverty, and sexual violence is a major obstacle to gender equality and economic development. This triple threat is compounded by the fact that unpaid housework is often seen as a private matter, and its economic value is frequently overlooked.

As a result, women and girls who perform unpaid housework often face discrimination and violence. They are more likely to live in poverty, and they are more likely to be victims of sexual violence.

To address this triple threat, we need to challenge the gender norms and social expectations that perpetuate unpaid housework. We also need to recognize the economic value of unpaid housework and invest in policies and programs that support women and girls.

By taking these steps, we can create a more just and equitable world for all.



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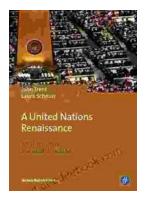
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