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Module: The Caring Society

‘Unpaid care work must be recognized, reduced and redistributed and harmonization achieved between work and family life’ (international Labour Organization, 2016, p.19).



What is Care?



‘Care work refers, simply, to the work of caring for others, including unpaid care for family members and friends, as well as paid care for others. Caring work includes taking care of children, the elderly, the sick, and the disabled...’ (Work and Family, 2018)

Paid

- ✓ Within paid care, there are different levels of provision required for example, befriender VS a health care professional. (Long Term Care Insurance, 2012)
- ✓ Clearly, in formal care, there are given a wage. Carers in the UK receive on average £7.36 per hour. (Pay Scale, 2017)
- ✓ Care workers are provide with essential training to aid them in fully supporting the service user and meeting their needs effectively.
- ✓ Many organisations employ and promote facilities for their staff for example, mental health services. (Community Tool Box, 2017)

Unpaid

- ✓ Informal carers can claim benefits to support them however, the government states that in order to be in receipt of 'Carers Allowance' a person must provide care at least 35 hours per week. (Carers Trust, 2015)
- ✓ Carers Allowance is £62.70. (The Money Advice Service, no date).
- ✓ Informal Carers are often over – whelmed in all aspects of their life as a person can struggle to cope. Despite the struggle, Age UK emphasizes that Carers Allowance is severely unclaimed resulting in barriers forming. (Age UK, 2017)

Feminism and the family

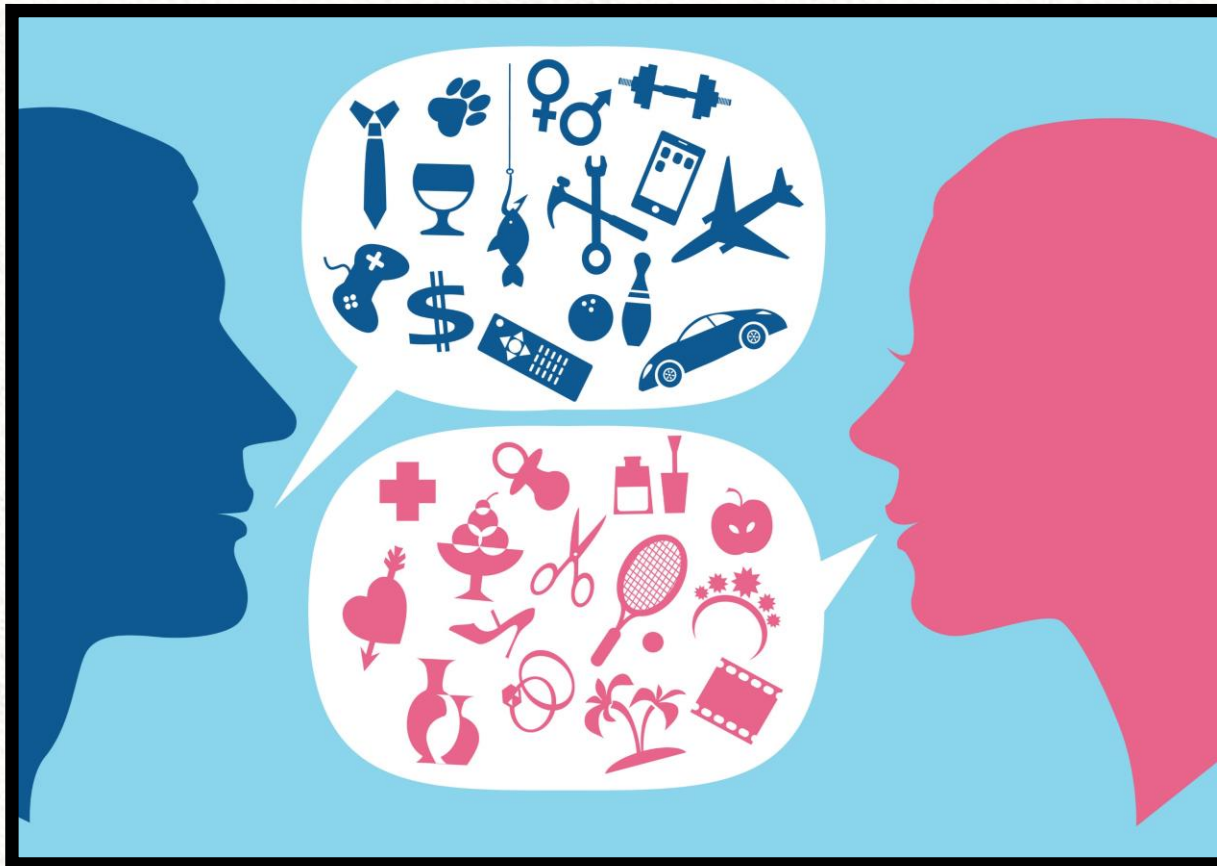
Feminists believe that gender is formed by society, rather than biological. Therefore, creating gender roles between males, and females. The theory focusing on gender roles within the 'nuclear family'. The nuclear family refers to a men, a women and their children. They state that the result of the nuclear family is conformity and oppression. It is often done unknowingly, when children are young, they are copying their care givers behaviour. (Blakemore, (K., and Warwick – Booth, L., 2013, P.21)

(Imperial War Museums, 2018)



Gender

(Odyssey, 2016)



Gender stereotypes are apparent as they were in the ninetieth century, a on – going survey entitled *‘should mothers stay at home and look after their children?’* the study sparked a debate among both men and women. For instance;

1. “A mother works a all day long and comes home in the night and she will be tired, so doesn't even gets time to look upon the kid! The bond between the mother and child wont exist” (Debate.org, 2018)

GOV.UK (2014) noted that the number of women in employment hit the highest figures recorded ever, reaching impressive 67.2% (GOV.UK, 2014)

A Brief Timeline of Legislation for Carers

1. (1963) : Founder of 'Carer's UK' a reverend named, Mary Webster caught the government's attention by writing a letter to social media, (Newspapers) about the struggle of being employed and caring for her elderly parents.
2. (1967) : was the year that carers were recognised, and had their first legal rights, they were entitled to 'Dependant Relative Tax Allowance'.
3. (1976) : The first benefit for carers was introduced; it was called 'Invalid Care Allowance' However, it was limited to people who were unmarried people.
4. (1986) : 10 years later, the act was amended and made available for married men, and women.
5. (1996) : Surprisingly, the needs of carers were recognised and acknowledged by the authorities.
6. (2004) : Introduced the 'Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004'
7. (2010): The Equality Act was announced
8. (2014): The Social Services and Well Being Act (Wales)

(Carers UK, 2018)

What do Carer's Need?



(AFEA, 2018)

Johnson, J., and Corinne D, S. express the need for all providers of essential services to come together as one, to meet the needs of an 'carer' they follow as; Social workers, NHS workers, and carers to effectively fulfil their needs.

They say that carers need support in the following areas;

1. Financial support
2. Maintenance of their physical and mental health
3. Access to information
4. Opportunities to merge caring and paid work

(Johnson, J., and Corinne D, S., 2008, p.46-47).

Financial

Additional living expenses;

1. Water,
2. Electricity
3. Heating
4. Food
5. Specialist Equipment
(in some cases)



The Carer may have had to give up a paid job. Affecting the individuals future finances.
(Pensions)

Mental and Physical Health



+



=



healthy
body

healthy
mind

happy
human!

The maintenance of mental and physical health is so important, even more so for a Carer. As a Carer, it is found that they often disregards their well – being in order to better the individual being cared for. This can make the Carer feel isolated within society. Johnson, J., and Souze, C.D. E., 2008. p.49).

Social Services and Well – Being Act (Wales) 2014

- The act was officially implemented on the 6th of April
- The act replaced four prior community care legislation;
 1. The Carers (Recognition & Services) Act 1995.
 2. The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000
 3. The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004
 4. The Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure 2010
- A new definition of ‘Carer’
- Under the act, in the code of practice, paragraph 53 they state that;
‘That the role played by unpaid carers, parents, partners and other family members in an individual’s care and support is recognized, and these are appropriately supported and recorded’

The present – day social services act is taking the health and social sector in a whole new direction. (Welsh Government, 2015, p.13)

Conclusion



Conclusion

(Head4Space, 2012)

I have been in the position of being an informal carer for the majority of my childhood, along side my older sister and twin brother. My mother is disabled. However, I was not aware of the barriers that I faced as a carer. Caring for family is a natural thing, it did not cross my mind that I had a choice, because I could do things my mother physically could not do. Additionally, my brother expressed the same level of compassion and support, regardless of gender. After comparing the views, actions and values of care in the nineteenth century, I feel we live in a caring society.

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