

THE FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY: WHY WOMEN EXPERIENCE POVERTY AFTER DIVORCE

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ABSTRACT

Focused on the patriarchal structure of society and its detrimental effects on women, this research examines why women are left economically disadvantaged by divorce, leading to the feminization of poverty.

THESIS

A society structured around patriarchal dominance allows for women to become economically disadvantaged after separating from her male spouse, who continues to maintain a steady level of income.

METHODOLOGY

An analysis of existing works done by Townson, Veerle and Williams was conducted on the subject to bring forward three prominent reasons for the feminization of poverty. These include inequalities in governmental policies, the existence of a prominent wage gap between males and females and the difficulties of balancing professional development with familial obligations.

FINDINGS

3 KEY REASONS:

1) Government Policies

→The abolishment of the **COURT CHALLENGES PROGRAM**, removed funding for women taking legal action in divorce and child support issues in court

→Lack of national childcare program

→Child support requires an annual income of **\$45,000**, however, women working in precarious, low wage employment only make **\$32,100**.



<http://i.huffpost.com/gen/2481094/images/o-GENDER-INEQUALITY-facebook.jpg>

2) Workplace Barriers

→The **0.74/\$1 WAGE GAP**

→Occupational segregation by stereotypical gender roles .

TOP 3 JOBS HELD BY CANADIAN WOMEN:

- 1) Retail Sales Clerk
- 2) Office Secretary
- 3) Cashier

ALL ARE PRECARIOUS, PART -TIME AND UNDERPAID



<http://thelcbridge.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/money-master1050.jpg>

3) Balancing Professional Development and Family

→Time invested in **UNPAID WORK IN THE HOME** (including childcare and domestic, household labour) results in precarious, low wage employment.

→Competitive job market results in the need for **HIGHER EDUCATION**-with limited time and financial resources, divorced mothers find this difficult to obtain.



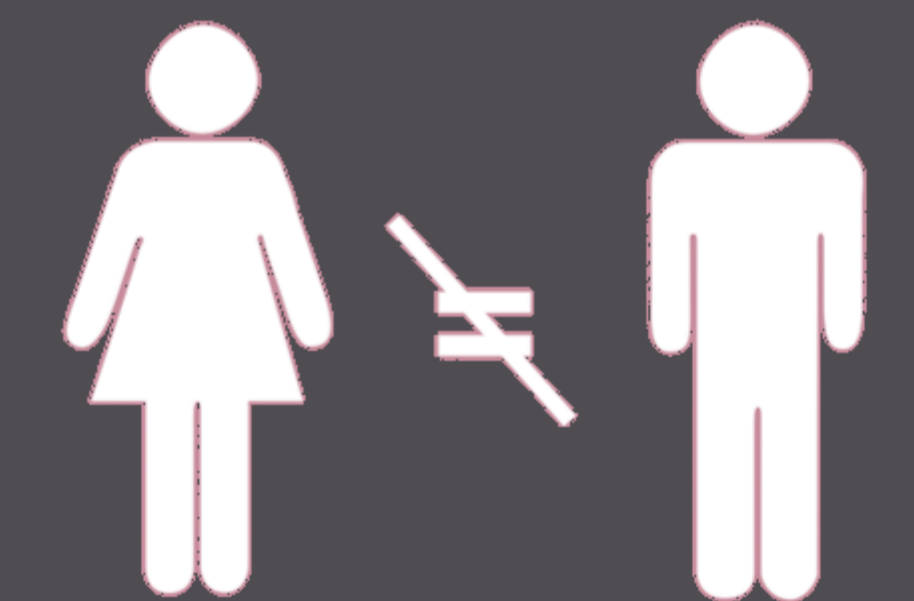
<https://i1.wp.com/whattheflicka.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/You-Know-You%E2%80%99re-A-Working-Mom-When%E2%80%A6.png>

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

These existing economic and social barriers subordinate women's position in society by systemically causing women to depend on men, therefore undermining a woman's ability to create and maintain a good quality of life independently.

CONCLUSION

In order to establish **SUBSTANTIVE EQUALITY**, amendments need to be made both to the general public's perception of the feminization of poverty and governmental policies in order to allow the benefit and protection of the law to divorced mothers.



<https://cdn.gdn.ng/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Gender-equality.png>