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Women and work

Sarah: Wentworth, with regard to the topic we studied the other day about housewives, I wanted to debate about women and work. For me, nobody would ever think of sending women back to the stove today. I read that they account for over forty percent of the rich world's labour force!

W: I definitely agree with you Sarah, the traditional role of women as wives, mothers and homemakers ran out of steam in the early sixties and carried on that way. Probably also that the Pill allowed women an autonomy previously unknown.

Sarah: Well, having tasted the freedom of the workplace, women are unlikely to turn back, even if it is hard trying to juggle a job with kids and the housework. Working enables women to leave themselves a way out in the increasingly likely event of a divorce.

W: Sure. I heard that working women's biggest complaint is lack of time, but what they lose in time, they gain in spending power.

Sarah: Of course, but not to forget that women now have access to careers that used to be a male preserve, and the woman's earnings in dual-earner families often make the difference between just getting by and living comfortably.

W: I think that the reality is that all too often women don't have the choice: they must work because their husbands simply don't earn enough money. So for better, for worse, women are now wedded to the workplace.



GLOSSARY:

Women and work	Homemakers
To study	The early sixties
To debate	The Pill
To send back	An autonomy
To account	The freedom
To run out of steam	The workplace
To carry on	The housework
To allow	A way out
To taste	the increasingly likely
To be unlikely	event of a divorce
To turn back	Working women
To juggle	Biggest complaint
To enable	Lack of time
To leave oneself	Spending power
To lose	Access
To gain	A male preserve
To get by	Earnings
To live	dual-earner families
To be wedded	The choice
The topic	Enough money
Housewives	For better, for worse
The stove	With regard
The rich world	Previously unknown
Labour force	Comfortably
The traditional role	Simply
Wives : pluriel de wife	



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