

Gerson's "Dilemmas of Involved Fatherhood" & Lisa Belkin's "When Mom and Dad Share It All"

Belkin's article looks at three families (Vachons, Pannabeckers, Taussigs) who participated in ThirdPath, a program to help couples share housework and childcare equally.

Gerson's article was based on a study of involved fathers.

The articles pointed out a number of obstacles for couples attempting to break standard housework and childcare patterns (where the woman does most of the work):

- Employers may fail to understand and support fathers' attempts to be involved parents

- Male homemaking is culturally unacceptable (as is female breadwinning to a lesser extent)

- Often previous choices by the couple (women marrying men with more education or work experience) lead to financial disincentives for the man to work less (as may gendered wage gap)

- Men and women may have differing standards for housework and childcare

- Women feel they are held responsible for housework and childcare by those outside the family

- Men can get credit for doing less than their wives (since they are compared to other men)

According to Belkin, research on same-sex couples (mostly lesbians) suggests that unequal housework and childcare is a gendered phenomenon since same-sex couples don't have the disparity that heterosexual couples do.