

Gender roles in Estonia

Kadi talks about how women's lives have changed in Estonia.



1

Todd: So, Kadi, you are from Estonia. Can you talk about gender roles for the new generation compared to the older generation?

Kadi: Yes, in Estonia, I think it's really like, we have this kind of Western type of family, and under Western type, I mean like that it doesn't matter if like ... the woman doesn't have to be a housewife. She can work. She can do whatever she likes. Like, even maybe the tendency right now is that women are more ... becoming more like masculine. Often it happens that women make more money than men do and they're the ones who bring the bread in the house. Yeah, compared to Eastern society where usually women are considered as housewives. They just have to clean and cook and raise the kids, and in my country ... no ... there's not such a thing and I think it always has

been like that. I'm not quite sure but...

3 **Todd:** Who does the chores like cooking and cleaning?

Kadi: Yeah, I think we all do it. We don't have that kind of rule that women only have to clean and cook. Of course in some families, it is like that because women are better cleaning, especially, rather than men are, but yeah, men are quite good cooks.

4 **Todd:** What do people do for childcare? Like who takes care of the children?

Kadi: Nannies. Yeah. We have nannies for working mothers, they usually like to hire people to watch over the children and just they play with them and also like kindergarten, like

children start going to kindergarten in Estonia when they're really young, maybe from three months. I think even, yeah, you can go to work when your child is like half-a-year old. Just go to work. Take a child there, and people are going to care about her.

5 **Todd:** Is the nanny expected to cook and clean as well?

Kadi: It depends on the contract. It depends on the contract. Yeah, if you hire a person who that you say you're gonna pay him or her, usually her, like for cleaning, cooking, taking care of the children, whatever, it depends on the contract.

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Summarize

Take notes as you listen or read the interview on the left side of the paper. Then write complete sentences to summarize the story in your own words. The first one is done.

<p>Part 1: Estonia, Western</p> <p>work, housewife, whatever, make more than men</p>	<p><u>Kadi say that in Estonia women follow Western culture more than Eastern culture. By that she means that women can choose to do whatever they want. Often, women go out and work and make more money than men.</u></p>
<p>Part 2:</p> <p>Eastern society, housewives</p> <p>clean, cook, raise kids</p> <p>has always been like that</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Part 3:</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Part 4:</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Part 5:</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Start a Conversation: ANSWERS



Match the following questions with the responses.

1. Would you rather work or be a housewife?	_____ We have a maid that takes care of the kids and also cooks.
2. In your country, what percentage of married women are housewives?	_____ It depends on the job. If I had to work in an office, then I'd prefer to be a housewife.
3. Do you think a man should have to do housework even if his wife doesn't work?	_____ I may change jobs after a few years but I'll probably keep working until I'm 55.
4. At what age do children normally start school in your country?	_____ It's about 50%. Half work and half stay at home with the kids.
5. Who takes care of your kids while you work?	_____ I don't care about the money. I just need something to do with my time.
6. Your husband makes so much money, why don't you just stay home?	_____ We both do.
7. What kind of outfits do you wear to work?	_____ If he gives his wife a good massage every day, then no housework is ok.
8. How did you manage to raise a child while studying at the university?	_____ It's ok if we dress casual but I love wearing business suits with heels.
9. Who cooks?	_____ Preschool is free here, so most parents send their kids at age 3.
10. Do you think you'll keep working until retirement?	_____ My husband did a lot of the childcare while I was at classes.

Keep the Conversation Going

Keep the conversations going and then ask a follow up questions.

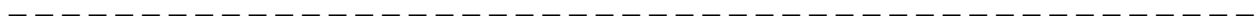


A: I would much rather stay home with the kids than work.

B: Are you sure? I think it's a harder than you expect.

A: Well, there are definitely good points and bad points. _____

(Write a question here) _____ ?



A: In general, who do you think is happier, women or men?

B: Good question. What do *you* think?

A: Well in some cases, men are happier. For example, _____

(Write a question here) _____ ?

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