

Girls do 160 million more hours of chores than boys

8th October, 2016



It will come as little surprise to many that girls spend 40 per cent more time performing unpaid household chores than boys. That 40 per cent equates to a whopping 160 million more hours of chores a day undertaken by girls. In some countries, this figure is considerably higher. A new report from the United Nations

children's agency UNICEF highlights this disparity. UNICEF's Anju Malhotra stated. "Girls sacrifice important opportunities to learn, grow and just enjoy their childhood." She added: "This unequal distribution of labour among children also perpetuates gender stereotypes and the double burden on women and girls across generations."

Much of the work done by girls is of a menial and physically demanding nature. Two-thirds of girls cook and clean in the home, while half collect firewood or water. They also spend a long time caring for children and elderly relatives. The country where girls work longest is Somalia. Here, girls aged between 10 and 14 years spend 26 hours a week on household chores. The report is being released to coincide with the UN's International Day of the Girl Child, which is on the 11th of October. UNICEF said: "Quantifying the challenges girls face is the first critical step towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goal on gender equality and breaking down barriers that confront the world's 1.1 billion girls."

Sources: bbc.com / un.org / dayofthegirl.org / unicef.org

Writing

Boys should spend more time than girls doing household chores. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

surprise / unpaid / chores / considerably / agency / opportunities / childhood / burden / menial / demanding / firewood / elderly relatives / coincide / challenges / first step

True / False

- a) The article says the United Nations has a little surprise for everyone. T / F
- b) The figure of 40% is the highest for any country. T / F
- c) The article says girls do not sacrifice enjoying their childhood. T / F
- d) The article says inequality causes long-term stereotypes about women. T / F
- e) Most of the work done by girls doesn't require a lot of effort. T / F
- f) The country where girls do most unpaid household chores is Somalia. T / F
- g) International Day of the Girl Child is on the 11th of October. T / F
- h) There are 1.1 billion girls in the world. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. performing | a. difficulties |
| 2. chores | b. responsibility |
| 3. equates | c. kind |
| 4. considerably | d. tasks |
| 5. burden | e. happen together |
| 6. menial | f. doing |
| 7. nature | g. greatly |
| 8. coincide | h. obstacles |
| 9. challenges | i. corresponds |
| 10. barriers | j. unskilled |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Why do girls do more work than boys?
- c) Who did what chores when you were growing up?
- d) How surprised are you at the figures in the article?
- e) How harmful is doing chores to a girl?
- f) What do boys do while girls are doing chores?
- g) What are the gender stereotypes mentioned in the article?
- h) What is the 'double burden' on women?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. It will come as little surprise | a. relatives |
| 2. more time performing unpaid | b. stereotypes |
| 3. In some countries, this figure is | c. to learn |
| 4. Girls sacrifice important opportunities | d. firewood |
| 5. perpetuates gender | e. considerably higher |
| 6. of a menial and physically | f. step |
| 7. collect | g. to many |
| 8. elderly | h. demanding nature |
| 9. the first critical | i. barriers |
| 10. breaking down | j. household chores |

Discussion – Student B

- Is it better to be a boy or a girl?
- Why do girls do more work if boys are generally stronger?
- Are brothers bad if they sit and watch their sister do chores?
- Will barriers that confront girls ever be broken down?
- What advice do you have for girls who do a lot of chores?
- What advice do you have for boys who don't do a lot of chores?
- What 3 adjectives best describe this story?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Spelling

- a niohpwpg 160 million more hours
- this figure is ribsydnocla higher
- ageuuln distribution of labour
- perpetuates gender eteosesptyr
- the double reubnd
- women and girls across iaensnotger
- mailen and physically demanding
- half collect dfooewri
- children and elderly aervtseli
- the first ailctirc step
- meeting the letasanbuis development goal
- breaking down rribaiesr

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. d | 3. i | 4. g | 5. b |
| 6. j | 7. c | 8. e | 9. a | 10. h |

Role Play

Role A – Collecting firewood

You think collecting firewood is the worst chore. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their chores aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): cooking, washing clothes or ironing.

Role B – Cooking

You think cooking is the worst chore. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their chores aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): collecting firewood, washing clothes or ironing.

Role C – Washing clothes

You think washing clothes is the worst chore. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their chores aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why): cooking, collecting firewood or ironing.

Role D – Ironing

You think ironing is 99999: the worst chore. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their chores aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the best of these (and why), washing clothes or collecting firewood.

Speaking – Chores

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| • collecting firewood | • cleaning |
| • cooking | • sewing |
| • washing clothes | • washing dishes |
| • feeding animals | • ironing |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | F | b | F | c | F | d | T | e | F | f | T | g | T | h | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.