



Breadwinners and Bread Makers: Trends in Gender Ideology Among Religious Working and Stay-at-Home Mothers

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Introduction

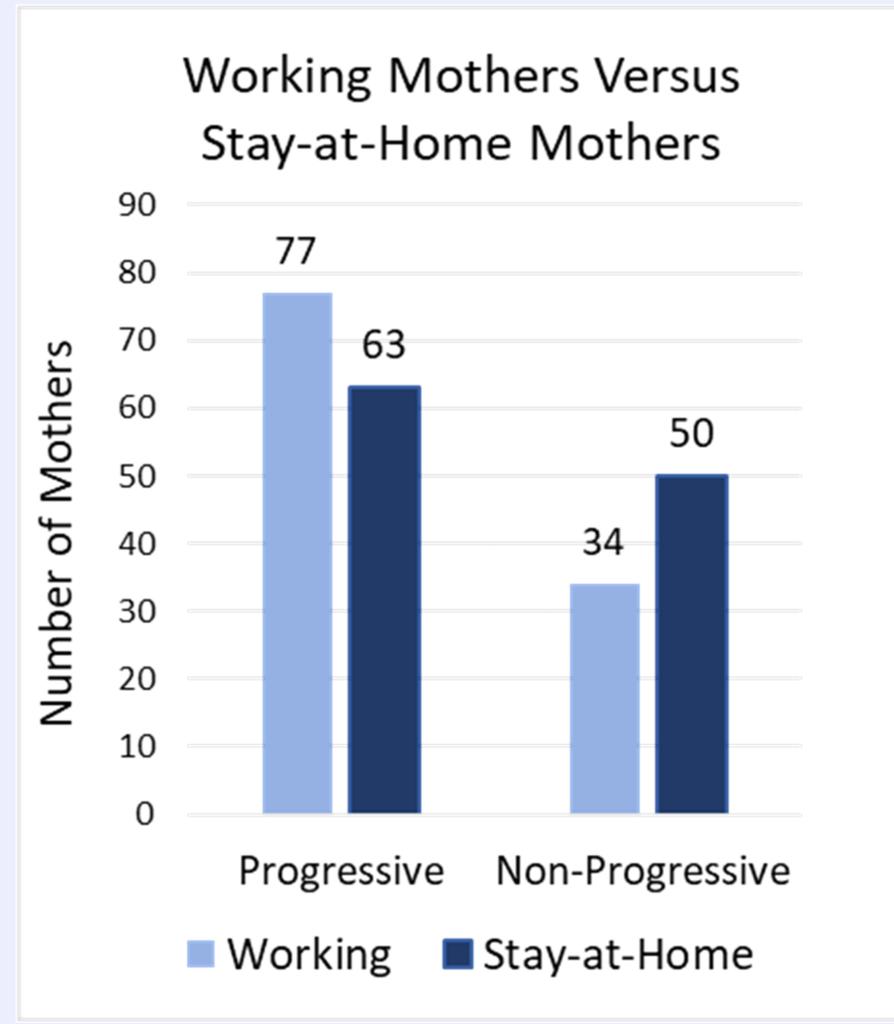
- Progressive gender ideology is defined as favoring egalitarian gender roles and divisions of household labor over traditional gender roles.
- 76% of women with children under 18 participate in the labor force and only 19% of married couples reported that the husband is the sole wage earner (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2015).
- Prior research shows the majority of working mothers endorse progressive gender roles (Liu & Dyer, 2014). However, religiosity may play a role, as religion clearly defines gender roles within the family.
- We examined gender ideology in a highly religious sample of 111 working mothers and 113 stay-at-home mothers.
- We expected that highly religious working mothers would be more likely to endorse progressive ideals than highly religious stay-at-home mothers, despite the impact of religious beliefs.

Methods

- All participants were married for over two years and lived with their spouse and children full-time; working mothers worked over 30 hours/week.
- 80.2% of participants reported attending church at least weekly or more.
- Participants took an adapted 4-item measure of Gender Ideology (GI), composite scores ranging from 4 (least progressive GI) to 16 (most progressive GI).
- GI composite scores of 12-16 fell into the “progressive” category and 4-11 fell into the “non-progressive” category.
- Using SPSS, a binomial logistic regression model determined likelihood of endorsing progressive ideals.

Results

- The logistic regression model was statistically significant ($\chi^2(1) = .586, p = .036$).
- The model explained 2.7% (Nagelkerke R2) of the variance in gender ideology and correctly classified 62.5% of cases.



- Sensitivity was 69.4% and specificity was 44.2%.
- Our results did show that highly religious working mothers were also more likely to endorse progressive ideologies than stay-at-home mothers.
- Surprisingly, both groups exhibited high progressive ideology.

Working mothers were **1.8 times** more likely to express a progressive gender ideology compared to stay-at-home mothers.

Discussion

- It is clear that working mothers are more likely to subscribe to progressive gender roles. While religious women may receive messages of distinct gender roles, our highly religious working mothers still endorsed progressive gender ideology.
- The high instance of progressive gender ideology within the highly religious stay-at-home mothers merits further study.
- Additionally, further research could examine mediating factors including divisions of labor within a marriage, levels of social support within the workplace and within the religious community itself.

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References

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