

Should the financial compensation that housewives receive in the division of divorce property be increased?

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Abstract:

The aim was to illuminate the core issue of insufficient financial compensation for domestic work performed by housewives post-divorce. The current legal system generally undervalues the “invisible” economic contributions of housewives during marriage, including unpaid housework, childrearing, and supporting their spouse’s career development. This leads to significant economic vulnerability as well as imbalanced rights and interests post-divorce. Reasons for this undervaluation of domestic work were explored by drawing on historical context and the legacy of traditional social values. Current market research was explored through an interview with different housekeeping companies and data collected from a questionnaire regarding the time spent on housework by housewives and the obstacles they faced post-divorce. The paper argued for increased financial compensation for domestic work. Further legal recognition of financial compensation for domestic work not only protects the rights of married women but also prevents them from experiencing divorce poverty. Increasing compensation is a key step toward redressing this legal imbalance and achieving substantive gender equality.

Keywords: housewife; financial compensation; domestic work

1. Introduction

The construction of Feminism is based on external oppression, such as economic repression, commercial exploitation, and legal discrimination (Delmar, 2001). Conceptions of feminism are a manifestation of women’s pursuit of gender equality and their independent personality, affirming the value of women.

However, the fundamental problem is that society and legislation do not provide human rights protection for women. When examining China’s history, there was a continuous patriarchal society until the May Fourth Movement in 1919 (Mu, 2007). The domination of males resulted in females becoming a subordinate and a controlled object. These feudal ideologies inherited from history still have a signifi-

cant effect on the current gender roles and the interests of women in marriage. Article 1088 of the latest Civil Code (Civil Code of the People's Republic of China, 2021) stipulates that "if one spouse bears more obligations such as raising children, caring for the elderly, or assisting the other spouse in work, he or she has the right to request compensation from the other spouse when divorcing, and the other spouse shall provide said compensation." However, the standard of compensation and specific financial support is not made clear, and thus has a limited effect on the protection of housewives' interests. Referencing a dispute in a divorce case from 2024, the appellant (Ms. Zhan) was a stay-at-home mother of two, but the full divorce settlement she received was only 100,000 yuan, which was then divided into 2,000 yuan per month. This is well below the minimum living standard of 4,000 yuan per month in Guangzhou (China Judgement online,2024). This reflects the low economic value of domestic work and the lack of protection for housewives' living standards after divorce and highlights the importance of such an amount being increased to reflect the contribution made by women in a marriage.

The limitations of the current marriage law exacerbate the dilemma faced by housewives. Full-time housewives spend an average of 5.97 hours daily taking care of/ accompanying/ tutoring children, and 2.71 hours a day doing housework such as chores, according to the statistics from "China Women's Development Foundation." Legislation does not attach importance to the economic value of domestic work and childcare, which heightens the financial difficulties for women after divorce. Domestic work, which includes housekeeping and childcare, is not valued as a socially acceptable occupation. It is private labour outside the usual commodity exchange society and does not have economic value in such a society, so the judgement often ignores its economic value. However, it is necessary to recognise the financial value of housework and its contribution to marriage, which can further guarantee the interests of housewives in the instance of divorce (Chen,2007).

Consequently, the economic value of domestic work, the protection of housewives' interests, and the conditions of divorced women are three core subcomponents of this research. The addition of a questionnaire carried out on the target population and analysis of secondary studies is helpful and useful to justify the importance of the legal recognition of the economic value of housewives' work toward the improvement of property division compensation. This essay will focus on the refinement of the concrete financial value of compensation and the rise of the economic value of domestic work.

2. Literature review

2.1 Introduction

The distribution and influence of feminism grew significantly after the founding of China. This growth has played a significant role in improving the protection of women's interests under the marriage law. The slogan "The personal is political" (Christopher, 2022), put forward by the feminist movement, challenges the traditional view that the family sphere is a private space and is excluded from legal regulation.

In recent years, there has been considerable discussion on the limitations of the marriage law in relation to the protection of females. For example, the "Protection of Divorce Women's Rights and Interests in the Family Law of China (Yan, 2007).

Article 40 of the Marriage Law proposes that if spouses agree in writing that the property obtained during the marriage belongs to each of them, and one spouse bears more domestic obligations (raising children, caring for the elderly, and assisting the other spouse in work), he or she shall have the right to request compensation from the other spouse when divorcing, and the other spouse shall provide said compensation (Overseas Chinese Affairs Office Of The State Council, 2001). However, unclear standards of financial compensation for domestic labour and division of property have triggered further discussions on the economic value of domestic labour. Therefore, the introduction of Article 1088 of the Civil Code was necessary to ensure that specific measures are agreed upon by both parties. However, if no agreement is reached, the People's Court should make a judgment (Civil Code of the People's Republic of China, 2021).

When studying Household Production Theory, American legal economist Richard Allen Posner said: "The fact that the family can be maintained as a social institution shows that it must have important economic effectiveness." Therefore, under the conditions of a traditional natural economy, domestic work has essentially become social labour and has economic value (Zhang, 2011).

2.2 Historical background

The impact of long-term social norms limiting women's roles in marriage and exploiting their interests, as well as the lack of consideration for women's protection in current marriage laws, has long been a part of Chinese society. Folbre (2001) suggested that social stereotypes have limited the choices of females and perceived them as naturally more altruistic than males. Consequently, females become less productive as they are encouraged to put others' needs above their own.

Likewise, Yan (2007) interprets how historical factors and Chinese feudal customs influence female interest in marriage. Furthermore, Mu (2007) and Yan (2007) both discuss the entire Marriage law, which provides a fundamental understanding of its promotion and development and highlights its limitations and shortcomings. Mu (2007) mainly analyses the protection of women's marriage and family rights in the new marriage law from three aspects: personal rights, marriage autonomy, and property rights; as well as the limitations that still must be further improved.

Recent studies, as outlined by Ning (2020), assess the effectiveness of introducing Article 1088 of the Civil Code, highlighting its practicality and conclusiveness addressing the limitations of the domestic labour compensation system's scope of application, as stipulated in Article 40 of the Marriage.

However, owing to the continuous improvement of the marriage law in recent years, previous papers and studies cannot provide effective support and application, even if they reference considerable historical documents and theories. It is because they lack the relevant information on the latest content, such as the proposal to cancel the divorce cooling-off period and update the criminal law on domestic violence as discussed at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (2025). Moreover, Guan (2024) highlights the limitation of Article 1088 of the Civil Code with regard to the monetary compensation standard of divorce, such as opportunity cost and time cost. Referencing the report collected from the China Women's Development Foundation (2024), "Research Report on the Status of Full-time Mothers", full-time mothers spend an average of 5.97 hours a day caring for/accompanying their children and 2.71 hours doing housework. However, Chinese legitimacy hasn't introduced the official calculation standard for accounting for the economic value of domestic work.

Nevertheless, comprehensive and knowledgeable explanations provide the basic framework for understanding how the current Marriage law process and the historical factors contribute to the current unbalanced gender equality in marriage. Through the study of social analysis, national background analysis, and actual conditions, areas of improvement in the loopholes of China's current marriage laws were highlighted. Combining the theories and ideas of sociology and economic will better interpret the limitations and necessary considerations of domestic work.

2.3 The economic value of housework

Li (2022) clarifies that a woman's disadvantage is caused by the gender division of labour in a marriage. Re-

garding the public-private dualism, where the "public" field concerns paid roles and the "private" field is that of family life, the economic value of domestic work is not recognized.

However, Christine Delphy (1977) points out that even though homemaking is not paid work, it holds great value in any society. This notion is supported by Chen (2007), who refers to Coase Theorem II and contract theory, suggesting the household is a production unit. Even though housework doesn't contribute to economic growth directly, it saves family costs.

Next, housework must be considered as an investment, as it is imperative to the development of both the husband and children. This is supported by empirical evidence that states that if family labour were converted into fixed wages, it would equate to 42 billion RMB per year (Chen, 2007).

In summary, domestic labour is an implicit paid job, and the impact of it generates is positive for society and the household; therefore, domestic work has to prove its financial value.

2.4 The impact of women becoming the main labors in the family on the household economy and personal development

Housework is often labelled as the moral duty and responsibility of the female; as such, it remains unpaid and uncompensated labour with no exchange value. Therefore, the party that contributes more to household labour will always lose opportunities and benefits in other areas (Zhang, 2011).

Women's contribution to domestic work has considerable advantages for the household, particularly in maximising household productivity. The same advantages are not afforded to women who sacrifice further investment in themselves, such as study time. Research conducted by Liana C. Sayer (2005) supports this point of view, as she emphasizes that even though the education level of females has continuously increased, the time spent on unpaid work, which is domestic work remains the same. This indicates that females are required to sacrifice their own will and benefits.

Furthermore, there is a conflict between starting a family and pursuing a career for women (Fu et al, 2024). According to the cost-benefit theory, an individual's decision to start a family depends on the trade-off between the benefits and costs, both financially and personally. If a woman chooses to have children, she will face adverse effects such as a forced career break, wage penalty, and potential unemployment (Zhang & Ru, 2016). Yu Jia and Xie Yu (2014) also found that childbearing has a significant nega-

tive impact on the wage rate of Chinese women. For every child a woman gives birth to, her wage rate will drop by about 7% (Fu et al, 2024).

This empirical and scientific evidence highlights the significant side effects that women face when they devote themselves to domestic work. Long-term unemployment will result in a female losing their skills, which will make it increasingly difficult to re-enter the employment market. Considering the indirect investment in the household and the difficulties faced by females in finding employment after divorce, it is necessary to raise the compensation for domestic work to a level equitable to that earned in service occupations. The research emphasizes the neglect of the economic value of family labour and the unrecognition of women's contributions, which are often reduced to so-called women's obligations. This has led to the inability of the existing compensation standards to protect the rights and interests of divorced women.

2.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, historical factors and long-term social norms have contributed to the idea of domestic work being the obligation of women and have restricted the economic value of domestic work, considering it as unpaid work. Through understanding the historical background and the link between domestic work and the economy, the necessity to increase financial compensation for domestic work to reinforce women's interests is highlighted.

In this paper, whether it is significant and necessary to increase the economic value of domestic labour after divorce will be explored through the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data. It will also draw on the research and theories from the economic and sociology fields to explain the reasons for the damage that is done to women's interests in marriage and point out feasible solutions.

3. Methodology

Research conducted examines whether housewives should receive greater economic compensation for domestic work after divorce through an analysis of primary and secondary research. Secondary research provides insight into how economic knowledge interprets insufficient financial compensation, as well as the historical and social factors that contribute to this condition. Moreover, a primary investigation is aimed at collecting the average percentage that a housewife spends on domestic work and examining the variation in the living standard after divorce.

3.1 Secondary research

The secondary research was found on Google Scholar,

books, e-books, and CNKI. The research was classified into three categories: content that emphasizes the limitations and resolutions of marriage law; discussions on economic compensation for unpaid work after divorce, especially for women; and economic knowledge to demonstrate the insufficient financial compensation for domestic work. More than 17 sources of secondary research were consulted and evaluated using the CRAAP test. Currency, authority, and accuracy were three aspects utilized to analyze the reliability, validity, and credibility of the research.

3.2 Primary research

3.2.1 Publication and participants of the questionnaire

Primary research is based on a survey published on Weibo and WenJuanXing¹, conducted across a sample of 127 Chinese housewives who were the target demographic.

3.2.2 Design of the questionnaire

The design of the questionnaire was inspired by an investigation conducted by the China Women's Development Foundation. The questionnaire contained a series of 16 closed questions, which were divided into three parts. The first part requires demographic information, and the second part addresses time distribution on domestic work (open to both married and divorced women to answer). The final section specifically targets divorced women and relates to the living standards post-divorce and the economic compensation of domestic work.

3.2.3 Evaluation

This investigation followed ethical guidelines and ensured the anonymity of all participants to protect their privacy. The questions were not sensitive, thus protecting participants from harm. However, ensuring that the participants were not influenced by social desirability or other biases is beyond the capability of the questionnaire and the research process.

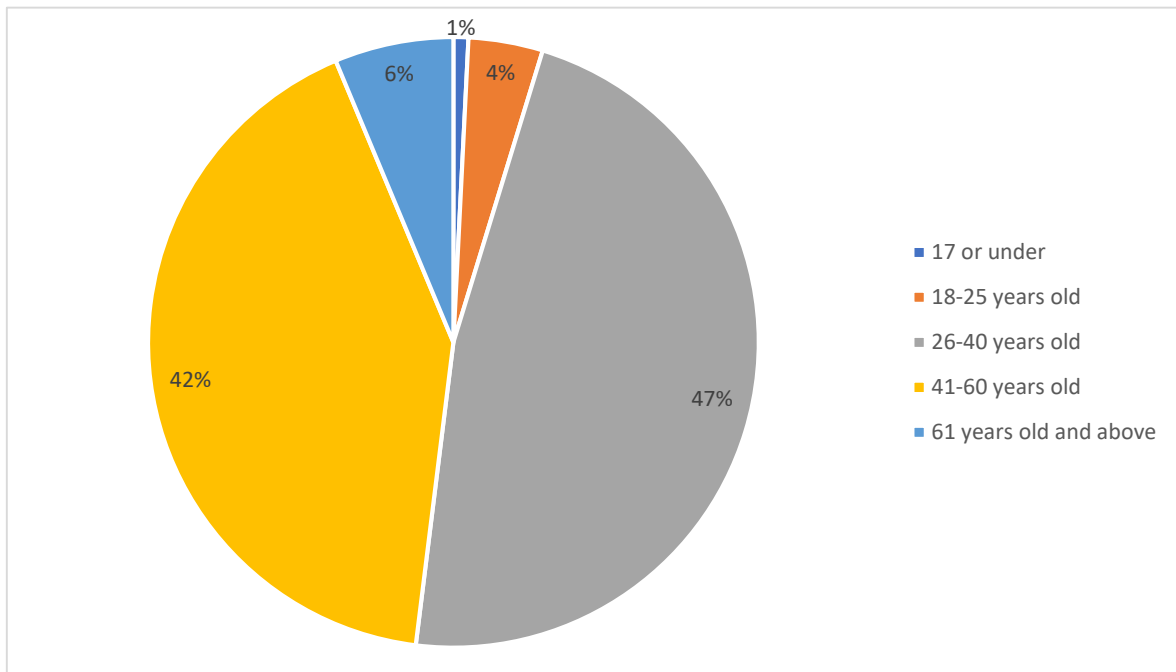
4. Questionnaire data analysis

There were 127 respondents to the survey. The responses are analysed before conclusions are drawn in line with the focus of the investigation.

¹ Weibo is a social networking site. WenJuanXing is a survey-based platform

4.1 The age range of the participants

Table 1 The age range of the participants

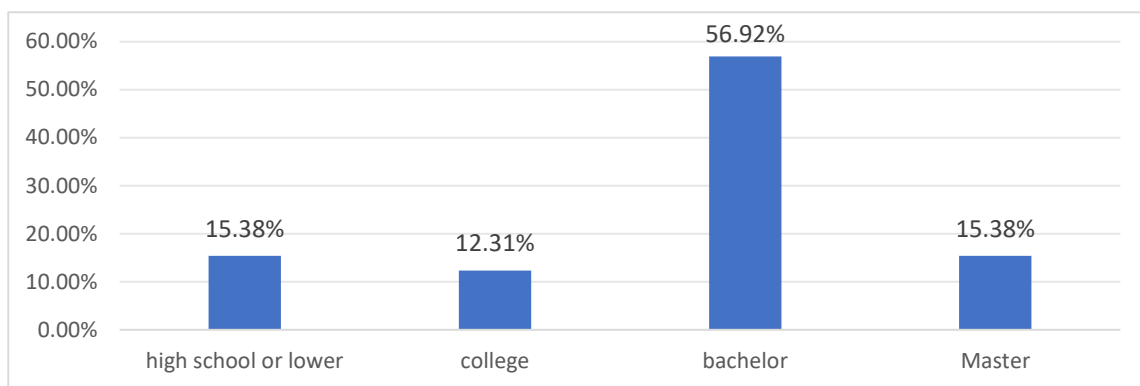


As can be seen from Table 1, the majority of the participants fell into two age groups with 47.24% of respondents being aged 26-40 years old and 41.73% aged 41-60 years old. The remainder of the participants were 61 years and

above (6.3%); 18-25 years old (3.94%) and 17 years or under (0.79%).

4.2 Education level of the participants

Table 2 Education level

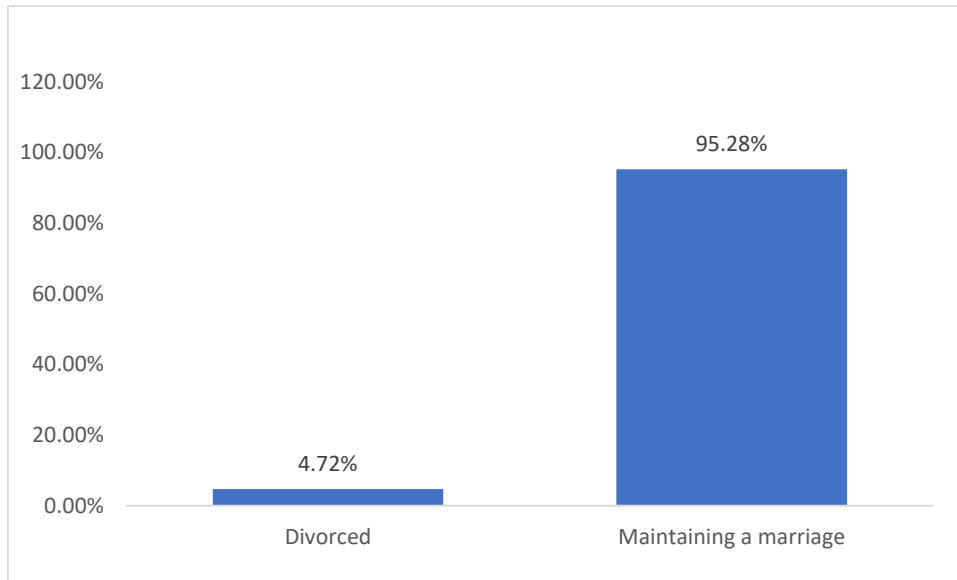


The bar chart in Table 2 shows that 49.61% of respondents hold a bachelor's degree, and they make up the largest group. 25.2% have a college degree, while 13.39% have

completed high school only. The smallest percentage of respondents (11.81%) holds a master's degree or higher.

4.3 Marital status

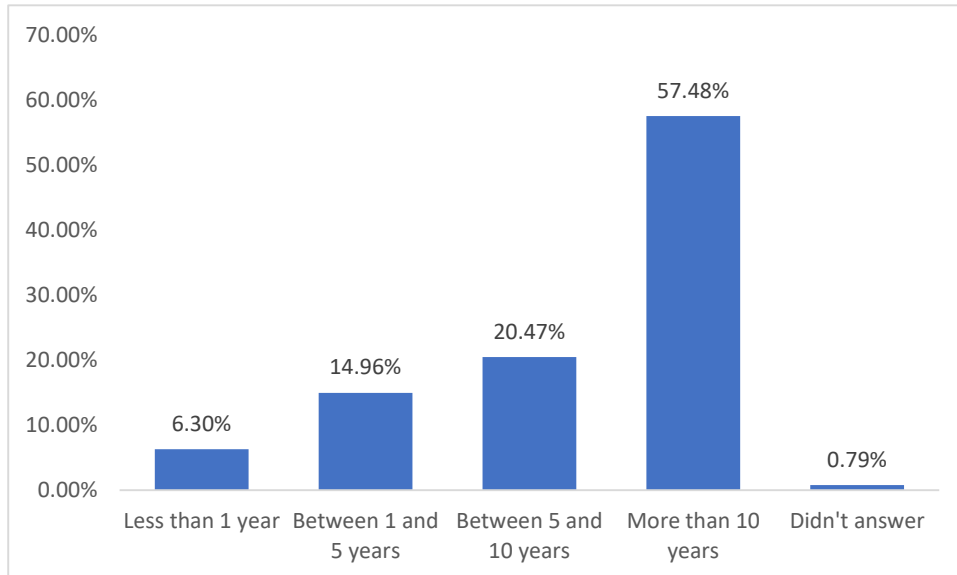
Table 3 Marital status



The bar chart in Table 3 illustrates that 95.28% of participants are currently married, whilst only 4.72% of participants are divorced.

4.4 Length of marriage

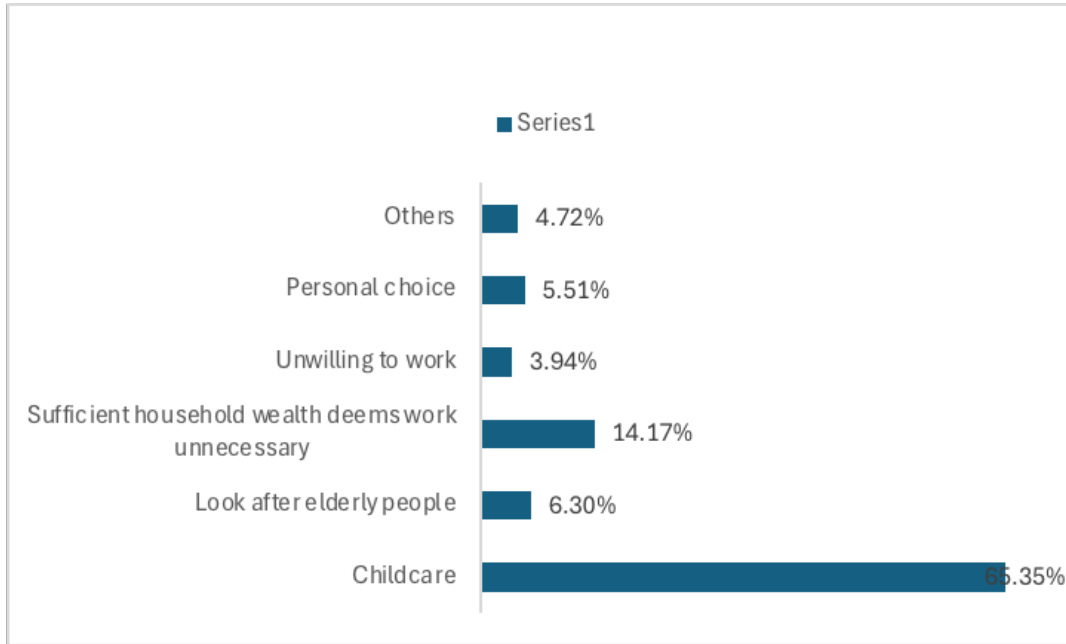
Table 4 Length of marriage



As can be seen in Table 4, the bar chart peaks at 57.48% for those married for 10+ years. The second highest proportion was 20.47% of participants who were married between 5-10 years. The remaining participants had a marriage lasting 1-5 years (14.96%) and less than one year (6.3%).

4.5 Reasons for being a housewife

Table 5 Reasons for being a housewife

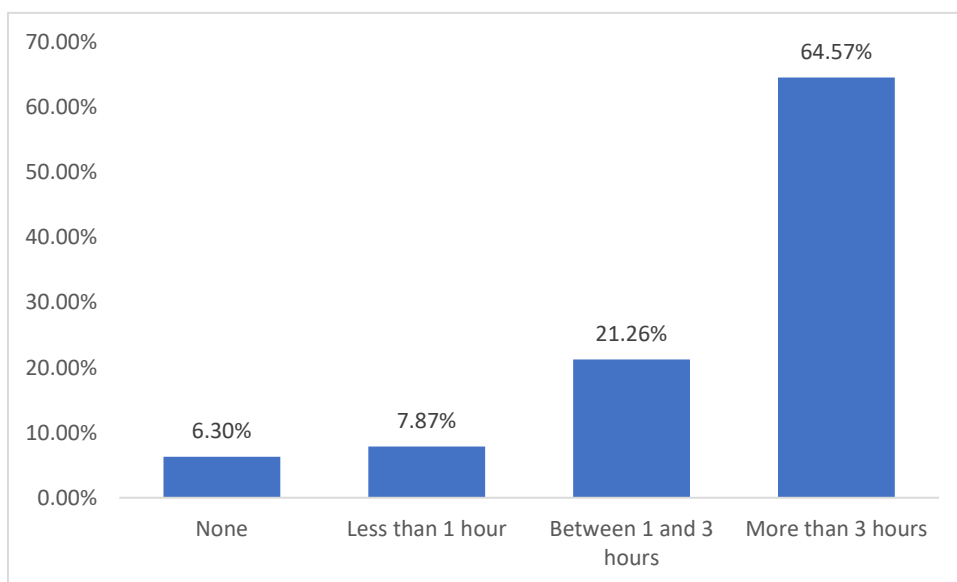


As can be seen in Table 5, the column graph demonstrates childcare (65.35%) as the core factor contributing to participants becoming a housewife. 14.17% of respondents deemed sufficient household wealth made work unnecessary. Other factors dominated smaller proportions, with

6.30% looking after the elderly people; 5.51% are housewives through personal choice; 3.94% are unwilling to work; while 4.72% state other reasons.

4.6 Time spent looking after children per day

Table 6 Time spent on childcare per day



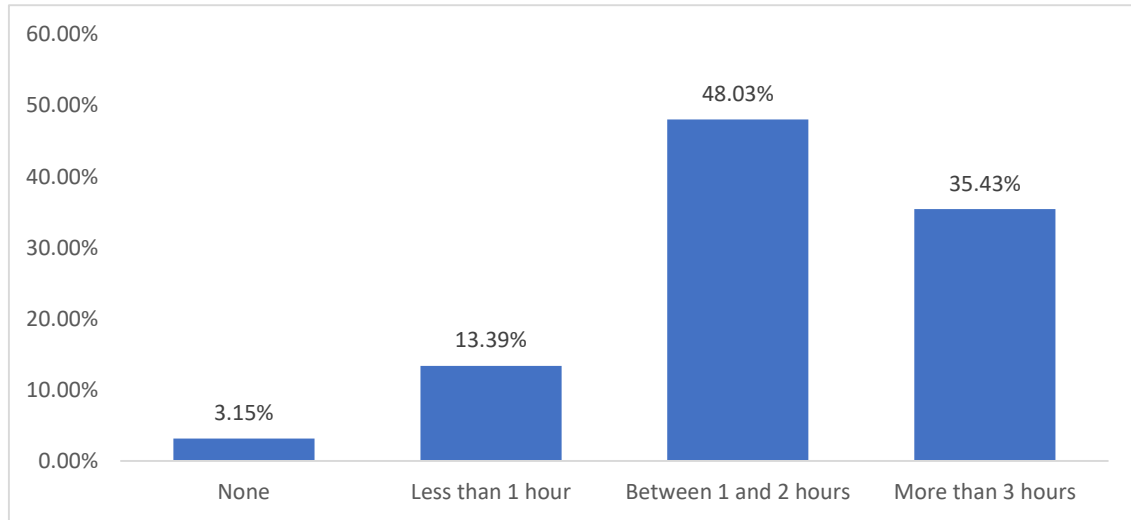
The bar chart shows that 64.57% of participants spend more than 3 hours looking after children per day. 21.26%

of participants spend 1 to 3 hours on childcare. In comparison, those spending less than 1 hour, or no time accounted

for 7.87% and 6.3% respectively.

4.7 Time spent on housework per day

Table 7 Time spent on housework per day

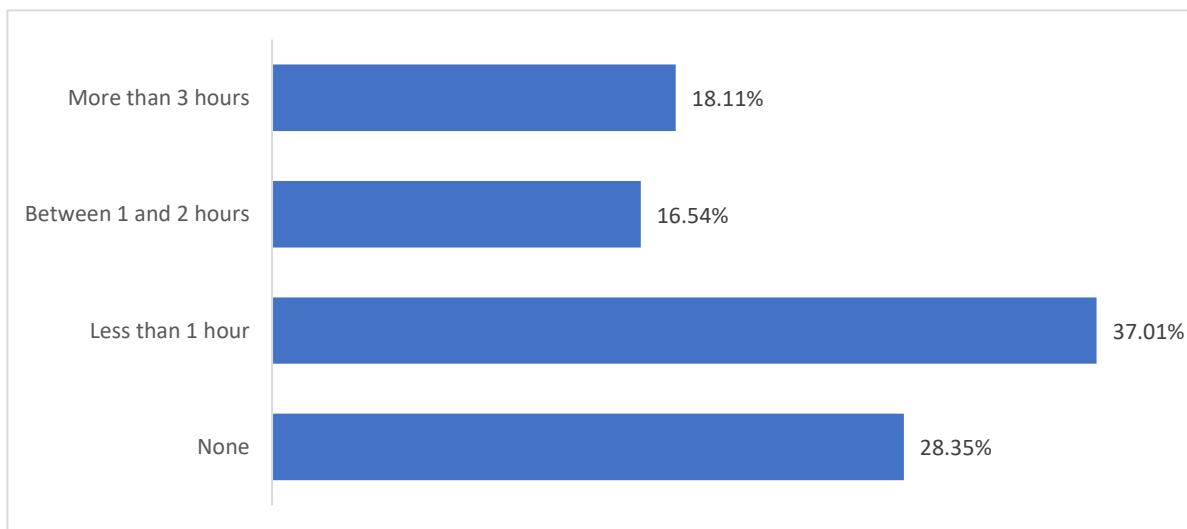


The bar chart illustrates that the majority (48.03%) of the participants spend between 1 and 2 hours on housework per day. 35.43% of respondents spend more than 3 hours

on housework. Only 13.39% of participants spent less than 1 hour, and 3.15% spent no time at all on housework.

4.8 Time spent on unpaid elderly care per day

Table 8 Time spent on unpaid elderly care per day

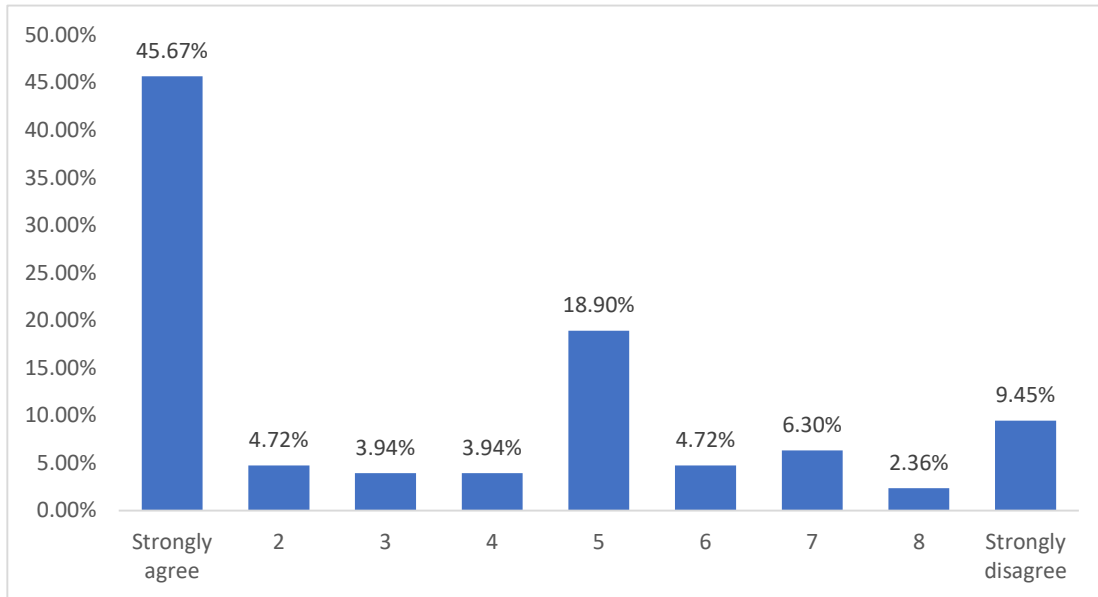


The column graph shows that the majority of participants (37.01%) spend less than 1 hour on unpaid elderly care. 28.35% of respondents spend no time, and 16.54% spend between 1 and 2 hours. At the other end of the scale,

18.11% of participants spend in excess of 3 hours on unpaid elderly care.

4.9 Time spent on housework compared with the husband

Table 9 Time spent on housework compared with the husband



The table shows the percentage of women who agree that they spend more time doing housework compared to their husbands.

The mean and standard deviation scores for table 9.

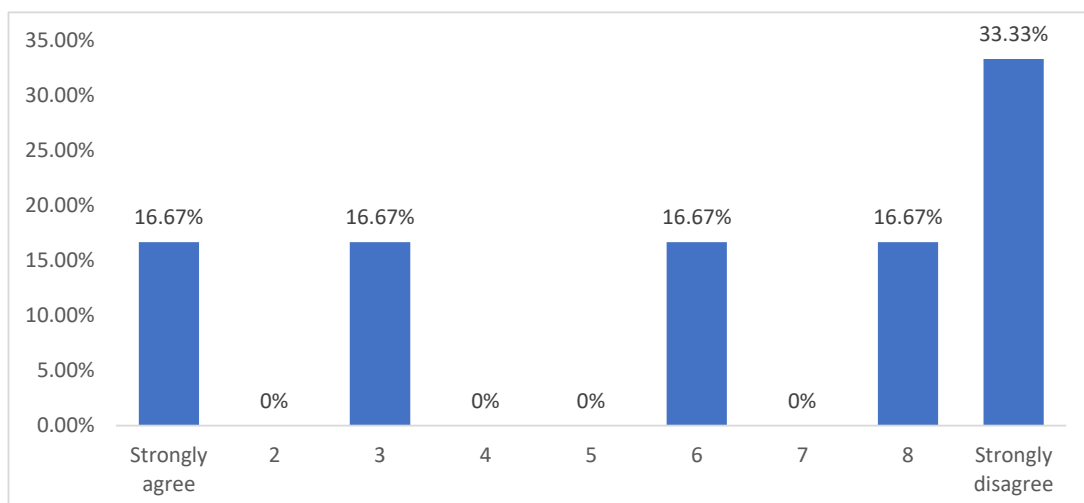
Mean	3.54
Standard deviation	2.794

On a scale of 1-9 the mean score is 3.54, which shows that participants agree that they spend more time on housework than their husbands. The standard deviation of 2.794, which is relatively high, indicates that the values tend to spread out further from the mean. This demonstrates that

the side effects of outliers are extensive and therefore data values become less reliable, reinforcing the low consistency.

4.10 Quality of life after divorce

Table 10 Quality of life after divorce



The table shows the proportion of housewives who felt that the standard of their life decreased following their di-

vorce.

The mean and standard deviation scores for Table 10

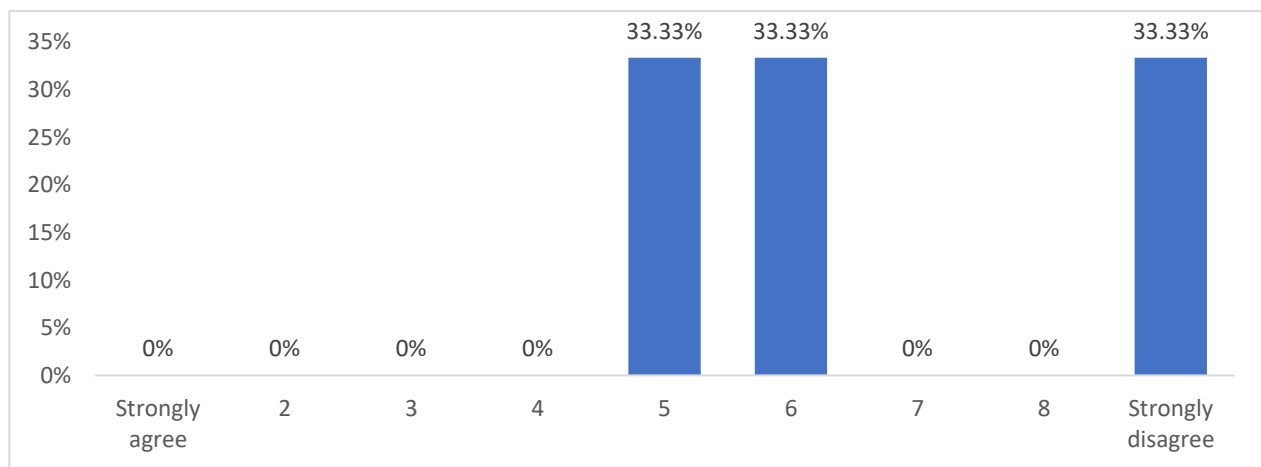
Mean	6
Standard deviation	3.055

On a scale of 1-9 the mean score was 6, which shows that participants mostly disagree that their quality of life declined dramatically after divorce. However, the standard deviation of 3.055 is relatively high, indicating that the

data's dispersion extends further from the mean. Outliers or extreme values suggest data is unreliable.

4.11 Ease of seeking employment after divorce

Table 11 Ease of seeking employment after divorce



The table illustrates the number of divorced housewives who felt it was easy to find employment following di-

vorce.

The mean and standard deviation scores for the Table 11

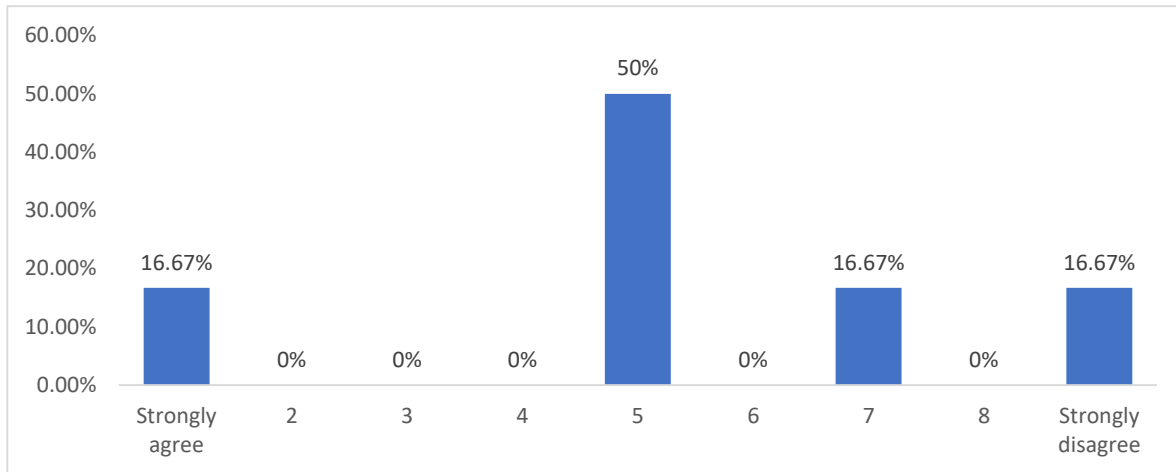
Mean	6.67
Standard deviation	1.70

On a scale of 1-9 the mean score was 6.67, which shows that participants strongly disagree that it is easier to be employed after divorce. The standard deviation of 1.70 is quite low and indicates that the data points are clustered

closely around the mean, showing the data to be more reliable.

4.12 Comparison of job prestige before and following divorce

Table 12 Comparison of job prestige before and following divorce



The table shows how much participants agree that their job post-divorce is equally or more prestigious than pre-divorce.

The mean and standard deviation scores for the Table 12

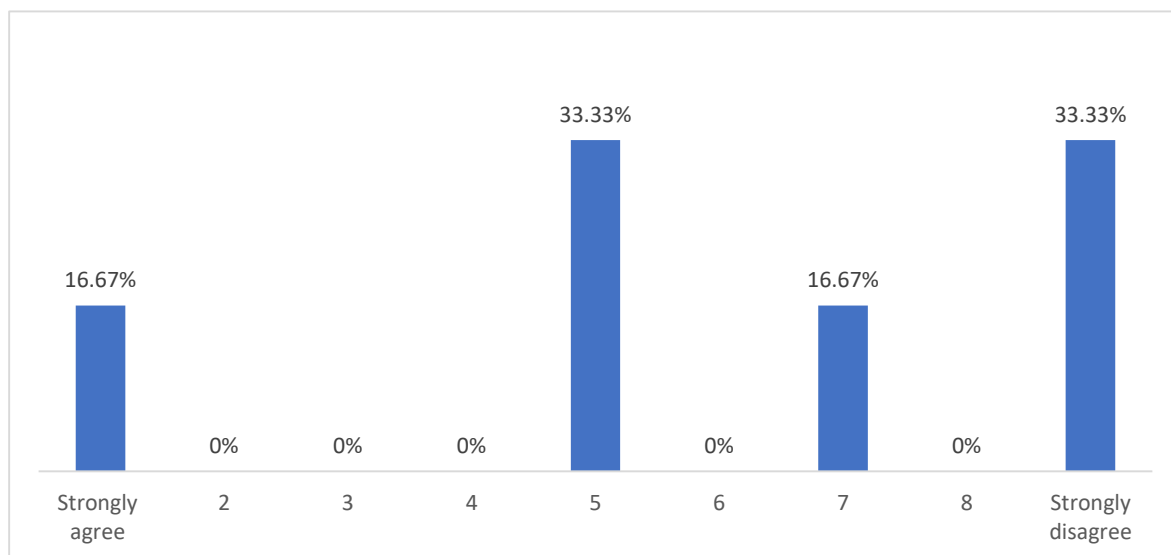
Mean	5.33
Standard deviation	2.427

On a scale of 1-9 the mean score is 5.33, which shows that participants are neutral about whether the prestige of their job stayed the same or increased. Participants choosing extreme values mean that the standard deviation is 2.427,

making it difficult to draw definite conclusions.

4.13 Comparison of whether the housewives' salary post-divorce is equal to that earned pre-divorce

Table 13 Comparison of whether the housewives' salary post-divorce is equal to that earned pre-divorce



The chart shows to what degree participants agree that their salary post-divorce is equal to that earned pre-divorce.

The mean and standard deviation scores for the Table 13

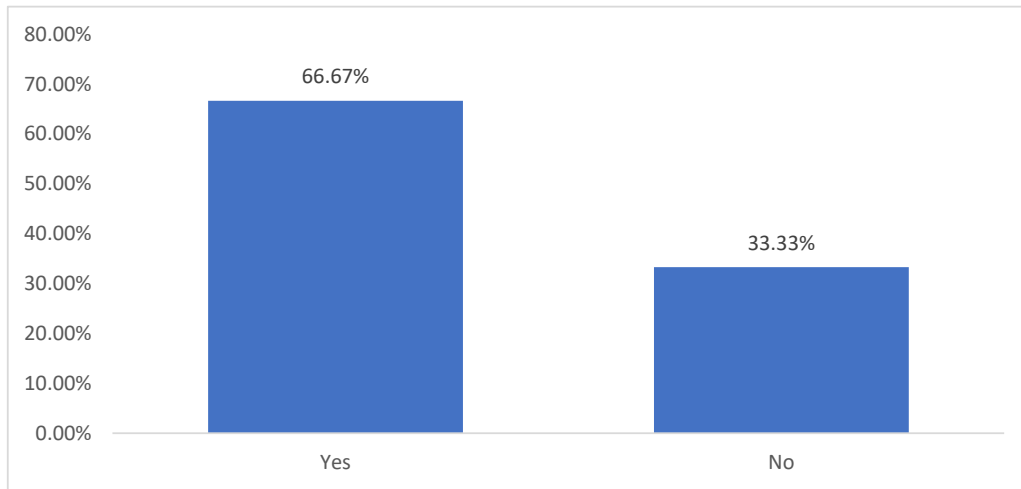
Mean	6
Standard deviation	2.769

On a scale of 1-9 the mean score was 6 which shows that in general participants disagree that they receive an identical salary post-divorce when compared to pre-divorce. However, a standard deviation of 2.769 makes the data

less reliable as values are spread around the mean.

4.14 Percentage of women who receive financial compensation for domestic work post-divorce

Table 14 Percentage of women who receive financial compensation for domestic work post divorce



The bar chart in Table 14 illustrates that the majority (66.67%) of participants receive financial compensation post-divorce. A minority of 33.33% didn't receive any financial compensation for housework.

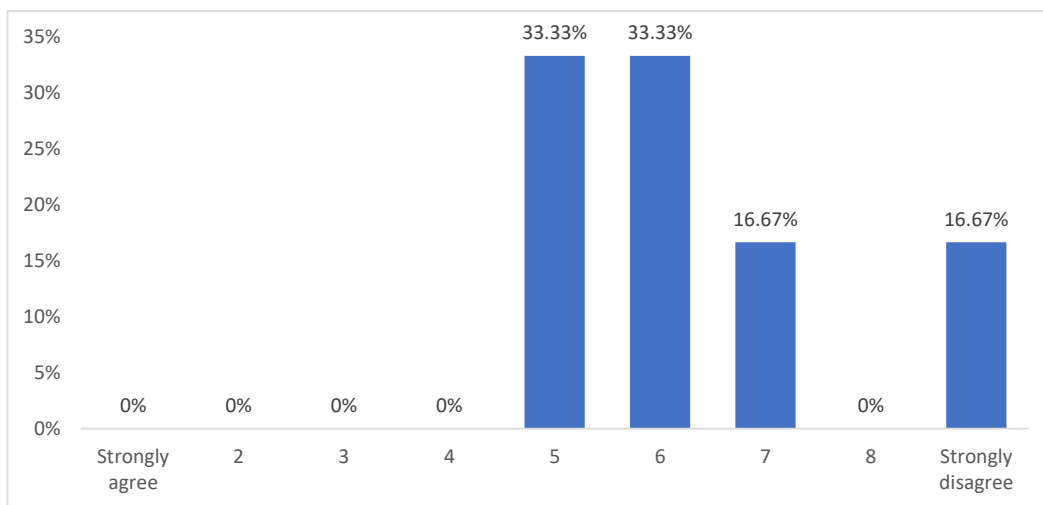
tion for domestic work per month

Only two divorced housewives responded to this question. Therefore, the quantitative data is not representative.

4.15 The specific amount of financial compensa-

4.16 Satisfaction with financial compensation currently received

Table 15 Contentment with current financial compensation



The chart indicates the women's satisfaction with their current financial compensation.

The mean and standard deviation scores for the Table 15

Mean	6.33
Standard deviation	1.374

On a scale of 1-9 the mean score is 6.33, which shows that in general participants are not content with the current financial compensation they receive for domestic work. Most participant responses are closely clustered around the mean, indicating more reliable data and a low standard deviation of 1.374.

5. Result discussion and analysis

5.1 The housewife's care and investment in the family greatly reduces her earnings.

Domestic work can be divided into two distinct categories: one is housework, which focuses on the household chores, elderly care, and childcare. The other category is productive work that centres around the wife's investment into the husband's development (Chen, 2007). The greater time and attention devoted to domestic work should be justly compensated based on the economic value and opportunity cost of bilateral housework and productive work.

Referring to the data collected from primary research, it demonstrates that housewives spend a great deal of time on domestic work. The bar chart labelled Table 6 shows that 64.57% of housewives look after children for more than 3 hours per day. The bar chart Table 7 illustrates that the majority (48.03%) of housewives spend between 1 and 2 hours on housework per day, and 35.43% of housewives spend more than 3 hours on housework daily. In addition, 37.01% of housewives take care of elderly people for less than 1 hour per day (Table 8). When the sum of the time spent on domestic work by the majority of housewives is taken, it shows that over 6 hours is given to housework per day. This means that these housewives leave little time for their own personal development and opportunity to gain knowledge. Li's (2022) third survey on the social status of Chinese women provides empirical evidence that married women are responsible for more than 60% of housework, which is 1.8 times that of men. This highlights the large proportion of time women dedicate to housework.

The bar chart in Table 9 shows that housewives strongly agree that the time spent on domestic work is unequal between husband and wife, with a mean score of 3.54. This indicates that the husband has significantly more time to pursue their own interests. Referring to the ideas of Chen (2007), this data implicitly shows that women and their husbands are in a production assistance relationship,

which reduces family pressure on men.

In current society, domestic work has a relatively heightened economic value. According to an investigation into the hourly cost of housework (childcare, chores, elderly care) charged by different companies, one hour of domestic work is worth between 25-50 RMB according to the time of the day (Afternoon work costs are higher according to WuBaTongCheng) and the length of time taken to complete the task (discounts are given for each additional hour required accounting to Swan Housekeeping). This exhibits the financial value of housework in relation to social occupation and highlights the time investment of housewives and their significant impact on reducing household expenses.

Overall, housewives invest appreciable time and energy into household labour, which reduces the financial pressure on the household. According to the market investigation conducted, if a housewife spends 6 hours a day on housework, the family saves about 120 RMB. In terms of productive work, the high proportion of women carrying out the majority of the housework has an undeniable positive impact on men's ability to pursue their personal interests. Accordingly, the time and energy that women invest in self-realization and development are greatly compressed or even completely lost, and their human capital value is seriously depreciated. In addition, tedious family affairs will also affect the integrity and continuity of a woman's career development, thereby making them lose market competitiveness (Li, 2022).

5.2 Women's lack of choice in fulfilling the position of housewife

It is compulsory for the majority of women to take on the role of housewife. Social norms and gender role distribution deem housework to be a woman's obligation and responsibility, which forces women to "naturally" become a housewife.

Most housewives surveyed have completed their bachelor's degree or above, suggesting that in different circumstances, they could have made valuable contributions to working life. As can be seen in Table 2, the bar chart shows that 56.92% of housewives have achieved a bachelor's degree, and 15.38% have postgraduate qualifications. This implies that 72.3% of housewives had the ability to hold professional positions prior to becoming a housewife. The meta-analysis by Zhang (2024) displays that the monthly income for women who have completed a

bachelor's degree was 6660.89RMB in 2020, and the employment rate was 91.9%. Strongly illustrating that housewives have competitiveness in the job market, and women have more choices available to them in the labor market.

The main factors contributing to women becoming housewives are childcare and maintaining the household. Referring to Table 4, the bar chart demonstrates that childcare (63.35%) is the most significant factor for women becoming housewives. Human capital theory holds that women may interrupt their careers or opt for flexible employment after childbirth due to the heavy burden of childcare and family affairs. Childbirth will lead to the depreciation of women's human capital (Zhang 2024). The term Motherhood penalty refers to the reduction of work time and efficiency, so based on conventional household gender role distribution, women are forced to give up work and devote themselves to family life.

Under these stated circumstances, it may be assumed that women would have been able to hold a worthwhile position in their chosen occupation had they not become a housewife. Traditional social concepts presume that women are unable to balance their energy and time to continue in the workplace and take care of the household and children, which makes them victims of the family because a woman's income often decreases after marriage or childbirth (Zhang, 2024).

5.3 Housewives lose their market advantages after divorce and their living standards decline

Housewives lose their competitiveness in the market post-divorce, leading to a decline in their living standards. Long-term social detachment for the housewife leads to a deterioration of social skills, expertise, and understanding of the present society. Asymmetric information between the market and the divorced housewife makes their life harsher and exacerbates their difficulties in being employed.

Table 11 represents the average score for seeking employment post-divorce is 6.67, which strongly indicating that housewives find it difficult to rejoin the job market. This is mainly due to their skills or profession not matching the current market needs. It is also supported by the meta-analysis conducted by Zhang (2024), which suggests that the employment penalty effect of having one child on women with higher education is 16.3% to 33.8%, while the employment penalty effect on women with lower education was between 35.5% and 49.5% between 2018 and 2020. In addition, the table labelled Table 13, illustrates that the average score is 6, which means divorced housewives disagree that they have the same revenue before and after marriage.

Henceforth, imperfect information and long-term isolation from society result in divorced housewives lacking competitiveness in the job market and an inability to maintain the same living standard as before.

5.4 Conclusion

Consequently, housewives should acquire greater economic compensation for domestic work post-divorce. As victims of the household, women sacrifice their own opportunity costs in work and their higher education degrees, for the sake of the family and children. During this period, the invisible investment in housework can reduce the family's living expenses and have a positive impact on the husband's future development of productive work. Nevertheless, the large amount of time invested in the household diminishes the market competitiveness of the housewife. Therefore, increasing economic compensation is to affirm the value of housework and to protect those who are economically disadvantaged in marriage.

6. Evaluation

6.1 Strengths of the research

The primary research was captured with authoritative reliability, and utilized a questionnaire as the research method, ensuring all the participants received identical questions and had a homogenous experience. Standardized procedures made this study easy to replicate on other population groups with various cultural backgrounds.

The questionnaire is a simple research method that is less time-consuming and cost consuming. Moreover, closed questions dominated a large proportion of this questionnaire, and avoided subjective interpretation from participants; instead, data conveniently fell into statistical analysis and specific proportions through such things as bar charts.

This study has a high application for current society and reflects the women's plight. It reveals the lack of protection towards women's rights in marriage and the extreme decline in their personal rights and lives post-divorce. This provides information to support the current improvement of the marriage law.

This primary research reduces any ethical concern by protecting the privacy of the participants. Participants can answer questions anonymously, which might lead to more honest responses, particularly on sensitive topics, such as the specific amount of economic compensation they receive post-divorce.

6.2 Limitations of the results

The primary research lacks generalizability due to its limited cultural bias. Even though it has a considerable sample size of 127 participants and covers a wide age range from below 17 years old to 61 years old or above, it only comprises Chinese housewives. Therefore, the results are not representative of other cultures.

The validity of the questionnaire is debatable because it contains demand characteristics and social desirability. Participants might answer in the way they believe is a more positive impression and socially acceptable to the researcher, rather than providing their true feelings or thoughts.

The questionnaire lacks depth, as it is dominated by closed questions, and only collects quantitative data. Not all options satisfy the ideas of the participants. Moreover, closed question do not allow for in-depth exploration of complex nuances of the participants' experience.

6.3 How the limitations could be improved

Introducing a greater number of open questions in the questionnaire could have allowed participants to express their ideas more freely and enabled them to provide subjective explanations for some of the questions. This would have contributed to more in-depth data collection, enabling researchers to establish a more comprehensive and thoughtful understanding towards the responses.

7. Conclusion

Consequently, this finding underscores the critical need to increase the financial compensation that housewives receive. Regarding the gender division of labor in marriage, it forces women to become dependents within the marriage, further perpetuating the perception of domestic work as "private" labour and obscuring its economic value. Further research has examined the impact of domestic work on personal development and household balance for housewives, as well as methods for assessing the value of domestic work through interviews regarding the current economic markets. Result analysis supports the view that while domestic work may not directly create economic value, it can indirectly increase family wealth by saving on overall household expenses (Chen, 2007). However, the significant time consumption of housework results in a loss of human capital and competitiveness for housewives. The proposed housework compensation system aims to address this situation. From legally correcting the gender division of labor, to recognizing the economic value of domestic work, and finally promoting gender equality in both the private sphere of the family and the

public sphere of politics and society. This system actively addresses the plight of women within the family (Li, 2022). The selective attrition is a limitation of the former investigation, and a longitudinal study targeting a specific group of housewives, observed over a longer period but using the same variables, is recommended. Using a standardized procedure enhances the validity of the study and enables identification of the variation in living standards for divorced housewives over time, including any long-term trends and short-term fluctuations. This study will also help to expand the understanding of the dilemma faced by housewives, which is compounded by the effects of domestic work penalties and gender discrimination. It will also assist in improving the legal system to protect women's interests more effectively within the existing legal policy framework.

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