

## Only a Housewife

Is it true that a housewife is really? Many women today are independent, successful, educated, professional and self-sufficient. It is indeed unfortunate that these are the standards by which in this age and time we measure "success" and we regard women with these qualities as "intelligent and progressive" as opposed to "uneducated and backward" housewife in the house.

However careful analysis reveals that the woman of the house fulfills the following roles:

1. She is a wife to her husband.
2. She is a mother to her children.
3. She is a teacher, teaching her children between right and wrong.
4. She is a tutor, assisting with homework.
5. She is a psychologist, using her intellect in daily struggles with husband and children.
6. She is a counselor, counseling the children during the time of hardships.
7. She is a financial controller, budgeting the household expenses.
8. She is a chef, preparing the meals.
9. She is a baker, baking on special occasions.
10. She is a tailor, mending clothes.
11. She is a purchaser and store clerk, ensuring that all basic necessities are in the house.
12. She is a switchboard operator, answering the constantly ringing phone.
13. She feeds everyone.

Considering the above multi-faceted roles of our wives/mothers/sisters in society, it is surprising when a woman is asked what job she has and her typical reply is "Oh, I don't work. I just sit at home. I'm a housewife." Housewife indeed! This "housewife" is actually the CEO, the General Manager of your house. She is the senior executive and fully fledged board member of the fraternity that you call home. She ensures that everything (most of the time) runs smoothly with military precision.

On the few occasions when things do not go as expected, men tend to let their wives know in no uncertain terms that they are dissatisfied by verbal abuse, or sometimes even physical abuse. But how often have we informed these same women about the times when things do go well? How often do we give compliments? Do we counsel gently and encourage wisely, or do we assume that "there is no point talking to her." After all she is just a woman!!

May Allah reward our Mothers/Wives/Sisters and all those of the same gender and may he give the men the taufeeq to treat their women as was shown to us by our beloved Prophet Salallahu Alaihi Wasallam.