

Who's Taking Care of the Children? But since the advent of the Industrial Revolution, people have moved away from farms and small towns to find better job opportunities in larger cities. These women are engineers, politicians, doctors, lawyers, and scientists, and a few have begun to occupy executive positions in business, government, and banking, breaking through the so-called glass ceiling. C A backward glance from this side of the new millennium reveals that the role of married women in many countries has changed radically since the 1950s and 1960s, when it was taken for granted that they would stay home and raise the children. Most women are employed in traditional fields for females, such as clerical, sales, education, nursing, and service. Child Care Options E When extended families – children, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles – lived in the same town and sometimes in the same house, a relative of the working parents took care of the children. Answers to this question are varied: o Some parents put children in public day-care facilities, such as day-care centers, nursery schools, and preschools. o Companies and hospitals are realizing that providing day care at the workplace makes for happier and more productive employees. With the cost of living steadily increasing, one income in the household is simply not enough, so both parents must work to support the family. In fact, the traditional combination of the husband as exclusive breadwinner and the wife as a stay-at-home mom caring for one or two children today only accounts for a small proportion of the population. The situation for European mothers is similar: around 71% of women whose youngest child is 3–5 years of age also have other work, and this figure rises as their children get older. B Monetary factors are one of the considerations that influence women to work. o Some parents prefer informal day care in the private homes of relatives, friends, or neighbors. This was the image often portrayed in television series and advertising. Today, most households consist of just the immediate family – mother, father, and children. In the United States, just over 70% of women with children under the age of 18 have another job besides that of mother and homemaker. However, a growing number choose a career that necessitates spending many hours away from home. F So who watches the children while the parents work? o Couples that are wealthy enough may hire a nanny, a woman who comes to care for the children in their own home. A Around the world, more and more women are working outside the home.