



TERCER EJERCICIO (TURNO LIBRE)

A Domestic Revolution

With the rise in gender equality, and changing work-life balance, we are witnessing the birth of a new breed of man; he's called the househusband.

He's a more sensitive, humble and loving being, whose hunter-gatherer instinct has been quelled or conditioned out. Instead of the traditional male outfit of suit and tie, or boilersuit, this new model sports slippers, jeans, and woolen sweater with baby spew down the neckline.

Left to fend for himself in a new habitat, the stay-at-home dad often struggles to come to terms with his new status.

Until recently it was practically unheard of for a man to entertain such an idea, but now around 20% of stay-at-home parents are men.

Meanwhile, their wives are taking over the role of breadwinner, manning up, and heading out to earn the family's keep. The 21st century woman can come home after a hard day's slog at the office, and find that her hubby has taken care of the supper and tucked in the little one for the night.

While being a househusband may sound like a cushy number, these brave men, who often have to swallow their pride, realize it's far from a walk in the park, plus swapping roles does carry a large dose of social stigma which the man has to cope with.

Whether it's a result of social engineering, or a genetic trait passed down from our tribal ancestors, my, and most men's instinct drives us to bring home the bacon rather than cook it for our loved ones.

The truth is, no matter how many housekeeping duties you've done, how much time you've spent looking after, dressing, feeding, and educating your kids, relying on your other half's wage is hard to swallow.

On the face of it, women respect a man who is prepared to step up and take on all these new chores; it's even hip and kind of adorable. But deep down some find it a hugeturn-off and think less of a man who can't provide for his family economically.

At the end of the day, a woman's natural inclination tends to guide her to an alpha male: the guy with the flashy car and a power-hungry swagger.

So, are guys becoming softer?

Well, to a point, it seems so. However, it's not always a conscious decision; a survey in the US revealed that 80% of them would be working if they could. In many cases it's because there's no choice; either they can't find work or it's simply not worth it since paying an arm and a leg for babysitter would defeat the purpose.

Whatever the reason may be, those who are getting the chance to spend precious time with their nippers are extremely fortunate.

The transformative experience teaches them what really matters in life, and they may not fully grasp it now, but are bound to one day appreciate that they have developed a special bond that working fathers will never enjoy.