

The World of Work

The world can be a confusing place. When your mum and dad left school, they perhaps looked for 'woman's work' or 'man's work'. Lots of people still believe there is only one way to be a 'real man' or a 'real woman'. You have the power to determine who you want to be and how you want to live.

Your mum might have looked for work in one of the 'caring' professions. She might have taken a job she didn't like because she didn't expect work to play an important part in her life. She probably wouldn't have looked for a job on a building site.

Your dad had more choices open to him, but he probably wouldn't have looked for a job in a child care centre.

The statements below are examples of gender bias/stereotyping

'Why would you want to do that? You're not a girl!'

'Looking after kids is women's work!'

'Real men don't cut hair!'

'What do you mean you want to become a dancer, boys don't dance?'

'You should get a real job, you're just dreaming!'



SO What is stereotyping?

A stereotype is an oversimplified generalization about an entire group of people without regard for individual differences.

Do you think that any of the jobs listed below should be done by a specific gender or by both genders?

If you think that a job should be done by men only, mark it 'M'.

If you think it should be done by women only, mark it 'W'.

If you think it could be done by both sexes, mark it 'B'.

Nurse	Primary Teacher	Company Director
Typist	Bricklayer	Prime Minister
Mechanic	Nursery Worker	Electrician
Stock Hand	Army Infantry	DJ
Astronaut	Horticulturist	Sales Assistant
Miner	Doctor	Church Minister
Plumber	Truck Driver	Farmer

Are there any jobs which you think should be done by only one gender? If 'yes', give an example:

How have men and women changed in the way things are done in the home?

Work Roles

Why do you think work roles have changed? ✓	Yes	No
The workplaces now offer equal opportunities for both genders		
Higher participation of women in the workforce		
A greater focus on skilled jobs		
Increase in people completing year 12		
Technology change		
Greater flexibility in working hours		
The media has promoted non traditional pathways for both genders		
More information is given at school		
Students can start a traineeships/apprenticeships whilst still at schools		
Society is more accepting		

Choose one of these factors and say why you think it has had an impact on career patterns.



Today things have changed. Training schemes are offered to both men and women in non-traditional work roles. Women are in motor mechanics, building trades and engineering. Men are looking for training in office skills and the caring professions. Part of being happy and feeling good about yourself is understanding what it takes, to be successful in life. It's not just money and the status of the job. Success has a lot to do with your self-esteem, your satisfaction and your contentment.

In a small group discuss ways to eliminate gender bias and stereotyping.

Using the Job Guide or Internet, investigate a non traditional job role that you find interesting and share what you have learnt with your friends.

Job area: _____
