

# 8 Great ways...

## Delaying Marriage

Greater career aspirations for women have meant the average age for marriage has risen from early 20s to late 20s. This is due to women prioritising careers over marriage (**Sharpe – Just Like a Girl**)

## Changes in types of families

As women have more financial independence than before this has led to an increase in the number of women petitioning for divorce. 2/3 of divorces are requested by women, which changes family patterns

## More negotiated families

Women delaying marriage and being financial independent means relationships become more symmetrical as they are negotiated between partners

## Greater involvement of males in the home and with children

Working mothers are being increasingly supported by fathers. Males are doing more at home and are more involved with children. This could be argued to be as a process of the 'new man' also which sees fathers put greater status on being a dad than their job.



## Rise of Dual Earner Families

As a consequence of both parents working the family is able to afford to spend their disposable income more readily. This increases the standard of living of working families. However it is estimated that around 60% of working families are close to the poverty line. Moreover, some women end up with a dual burden or triple shift as labour is not equally shared.

## Greater involvement of Grandparents

Grandparents are becoming more involved in providing childcare for working families – partly because we are living longer and partly due to cost of childcare

## Reduction in Birth and Fertility Rates

As women are choosing to have a career or waiting until later in life to have children/relationship the fertility window narrows and we have older parents with fewer children in society

## Children's Experience

Children are more likely to be placed in day-care or care of relatives due to working parents. This impacts on their social development

# Women working has changed family life