

**Topic:** Mexican women's struggle to succeed in life and the work force.

**Abstract:** Mexican women struggle to succeed in life while their husbands try to put the down and even their own families, try to put them down. It is difficult for women to succeed in the work force because males are constantly putting them down and not giving them the chance to prove to them that they too can work and succeed in the job. I believe that this affects me even more because I am a Mexican female and my family actually the males do not agree that I will be attending college and on top of that go to work. They think that a women's job is to stay at home and prepare herself for when she is going to marry.

**Keywords:** Women trying to succeed in life, in the work force, how hard life is for Mexican females

### Women in Mexican Families

In the world it is a hard place to live as it is, now to top it off, it is even harder to be a female never the less a Mexican female. We go day to day with the constant struggle's of trying to be at the same level as men but it is hard when they do not believe you should be at their level. The struggle of Mexican females is unbelievable but they do it from day to day. I think it affects me more since I am a Mexican female and the males in my family do not respect the fact that I am trying to succeed on my own. I have seen how many of my friends that are girls get rejected from a job just because they are females. On top of that, they say that the job is a man's work and a female would not be able to do the job. Many men do not see that even though we are woman, we can still do everything they can. They see us as vulnerable little lamb's that can get eaten by the big bad wolves out there in the world.

Now it is difficult to live from day to day due to the unstable economy, but it is even harder when you are a Mexican. We constantly have to deal with discrimination, lack of jobs because people do not want to hire us, and to top that off we have to deal with racism from many other ethnicities. Now, if that is hard it is twice as hard to be a Mexican female because teachers,

family members, and other people are constantly putting us down. People are always trying to keep their self-esteem low because they fear that Mexicans can be better in some areas than they can. Men already have competition with other men within the work area and cannot stand having more competition, especially coming from a female. Most men see us as the life givers but do not appreciate us for more than that.

In my case, people are always saying that I will not be able to graduate from college. Many say it is too difficult and my family dose not help in contradicting this, for no one in my family has been able to graduate from college. I have confidence in myself that I will be able to graduate and get my college degree. I think that men try to put us down because they themselves have a hard time going to college and would not like females doing better than they. The same idea is seen within my very own family. The men in my family are used to arriving at home with food prepared for them and served warm at the time they walk in. They never think that we would like the same thing for once in our lives. The men are so used to how things used to be back in the day. They are old school and have a difficult time understanding that time has changed and we, females, have the same right to do what men do. We women not only deserve to be in the work force and education system but we can do the work. Men are the ones that have been keeping us away from doing the same work as they have been doing. There is no excuse for men to keep us away. Saying that they are doing it to protect us is immoral. We are humans as well and will never be perfect as much as we want to be. We should have the opportunity to try things on our own and fail. We will rise from our falls every time on our own.

I am a Mexican Female and from my point of view we as women have it more difficult than Caucasian women and other women as well because we constantly have to deal with people

putting us down and have even our own family members trying to make us fail. I believe that most Mexican Men have a sense of pride that does not let them see beyond what used to be the duties of the females. They are stuck to the way they were raised and only think about that kind of life. The same relationship they had with their parents is seen with them as well. Their excuse is that if their parents were that way with them then why should they treat their own family any different. They do not want to experience the feeling of giving in and let their wives or daughter's go out to work or go to school. They have some kind of fear that their authority will have a decrease and their manhood and pride will vanish. Many men do not want to treat the females in their family this way but feel that they must in order to have other men see them as real men.

The women in my family, at least the older ones, are used to the male's telling them what to do and they cannot do anything about it because of the constant fear that they will get hurt physically and emotionally. They are used to the male's bringing in the money and them staying at home to take care of the children. They think that is how things are supposed to be because that is how they were raised. Things are slowly changing because today, we the younger females do not like men providing all the money for us. We do like staying at home to take care of the children but we also want to provide food and money for the household as well. This makes us feel like we are worth more to the family than just care and support. There is a lot of *machismo* having to deal with this. There *machismo* has men wanting to be the only providers of the money because that is their manhood, their sense of pride, but things need to change for the better. Things are slowly changing but not fast enough. We need to get rid of that fear us Mexican women have of our own men.

For example, my grandmother thinks that it is a women's obligation to have the food ready for her husband and have the house clean before her husband gets home from work. This is how she used to be and I say used to be because right now she has a broken arm and cannot do her tasks like she says. She believes that in order for a female to marry and or have a boyfriend she has to know how to cook, clean, and even make tortillas. She always gets mad at me because I am always doing homework and cannot help out around the house. She tells me I should just stay home and learn how to cook for when I get married my husband does not disgrace me because I do not know how to cook. She does not understand that the United States ways are different from México's. All Women are not slaves by law and we all have the right to pursue a career if we wish so. It is so hard to try to explain to the elders in my family that sometimes as women we too want to provide for the expenses on the household and that we are also are fully capable of doing so and taking care of the family as well. It is not only men that are creating the problem but the older Mexican woman as well. With this combination it is difficult to get rid of the old ways and in with the new ways.

Women in México are usually at home taking care of the kids, cleaning or making food. There are hardly any females that actually go out in to the work force. Their husbands and even fathers do not let them because they think that they just go to work to flirt with other men. They have the feeling that they will be cheated on or have their daughters be treated as entertainment. What they do not understand is that this is not the case in every single family. Of course this is going to happen with some families but it is a part of nature. Just like woman can do these things, men can do it as well. We do not know if the men actually go to work or know what time they really get off of work. They need understand that women want to be able to feel that they to

can provide for themselves and that they can help their husbands out. The work force in Mexico needs to diversify. The small portion of woman that re in the work force still do not feel part of the working group since they do cleaning or cooking jobs. The women still do the same things. I would like to know how did all this start in the first place of labeling certain things as a woman's job and a man's job.

Here in the United States things are changing for the better. We are starting to see females more and more in the work force and women are stepping up and taking action. They are taking part in helping their husbands because they need the help and it is also part of a relationship. A relationship is being more of the partnering of two people rather than one person doing all the work and the other staying at home. Men seem to understand that women can be capable of helping them and also able to help them with the kids at home. They need to get off of their macho horses and let themselves be helped by their fellow women. The economy is not so stable to have just the males provide the money. Many think about what would happen if they would get fired or laid off. Couples are now basing there relationships on income from both parties and also split the work to do at home. We also are seeing that more people are accepting the idea that you need an education to be successful and happy in life. The United States is on the right track and we now have to work on México.

It is difficult for women to succeed in the work force with the constant pushing that the males give them and even more for Mexican females because even their husbands, uncles, brothers, and friends put them down. They are so accustomed that the females do all the work around the household and stay at home all day unless it is a trip to the supermarket. I will show my family and everyone else that has put females down that we can succeed and we can do the

same things as men if we are determined. With no determination there are no actions being made. I will show them that I can have a successful life and that I can make things work out even with my own relationship. I will prove to females in my family and others that we as women are worth more than what we are taken for. We are always taken for granted and now it is time to show our families, friends, and the world that we are capable of doing more than what we are taken for.