These days there are a lot of women working outside the house, which can affect many people positively or negatively. The Australian feminist Germaine Greer said in one of her interviews, “Most women still need a room of their own, and the only way to find it may be outside their own homes.” The working mother can affect the family in positive way, where her children learn how to be independent, help in raising the income, and she can make her personal identity.

People who are against the mothers to work claim that when both the mother and the father working all day outside the house, they cannot stay with their children enough time, which can affect negatively on their children and they may act with their parents as strangers. On the other hand, the children will learn how to be independent in their life from an early age, also the time that the mother will be at work her children will be at the schools. There are a lot of working mothers taking care of their children and they are very close to them, it depend on how the mother can manage her time. Also what’s important in parenthood is the quality not the quantity, it’s not about how much time you spend with them, but it’s about how you raise them even if you spend just two hours with them.

Those who disagree also say that the Childcare is expensive, so most of the money that the working mother will earn will be spend on the infant schools. Actually, these days most of the women keep their children at their mother’s house, so they don’t spend money on the childcare. Also the nurseries now are everywhere and they became cheap, maximum it will cost 1000 riyal. So if the mother was earning 4000 riyal, 3000 will be left and that can make different. Because the economic today affect a lot of people, and in many situations the family can’t depend...
on the husband salary alone because it is not enough to cover all the expenses of the household, so the women had to work to have an extra income.

Their third excuse is that the working mother will have two jobs instead of one. The first job will be the one she has at the office, and the other job will be when she goes back home, because at her spare time she has to look after the house and her children, which is tiring for her. To a certain extent they are right, but a working mother had a self confidence more then the woman who is working inside the house, also she will had her own personal identity, she will be known by her name unlike the woman who is working in her house; for example the woman who is working in her house will be known as “Mohammad’s wife” or “Abdullah’s mother”.

There are a lot of arguments on this subject, it has nothing to do with cultures, but every family has their own situations and their own mentality, so what may be acceptable and good to some families they are not to other families. At the end I think the last decision should be to the mother, because she is the one who know if she can handle it or not. If it’s come to me I encourage women to work, because in that way they learn their children how to be independent, they help in raising the income, and also they can build thier own identity.