

# UNPAID WORK

A study on the behaviours and attitudes towards household and domestic caring responsibilities in Singapore

PRESS  
RELEASE

A collaborative study by Ipsos and United Women Singapore



6 May 2021

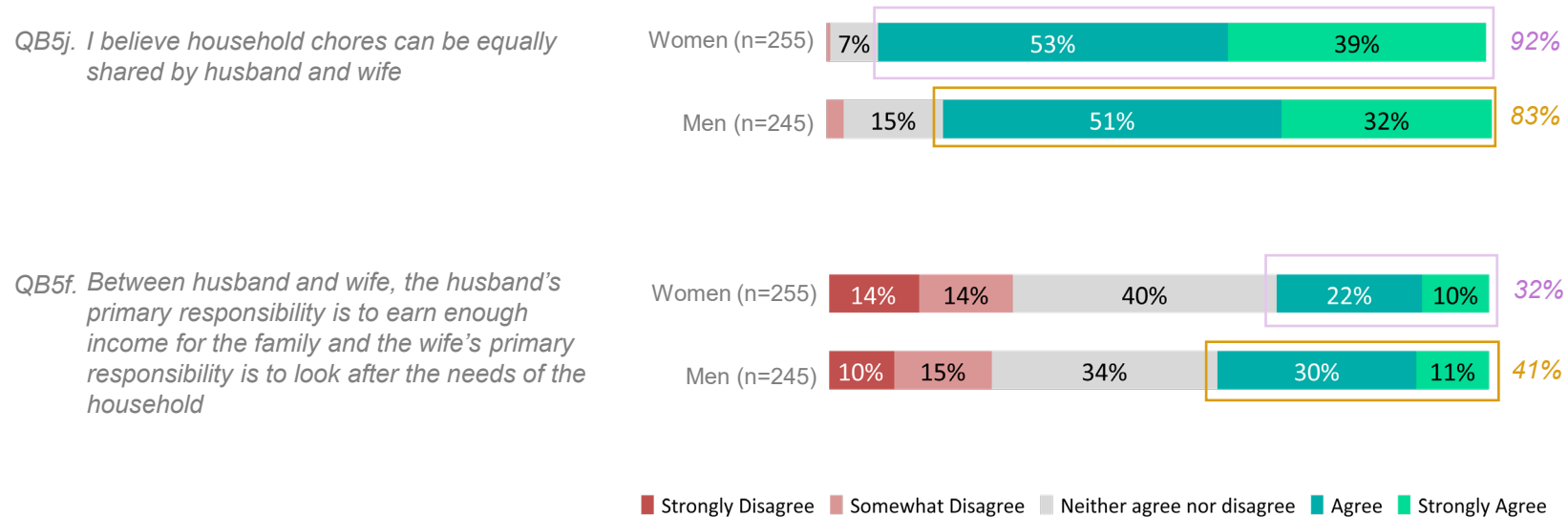
GAME CHANGERS



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## Gender Roles in the Household

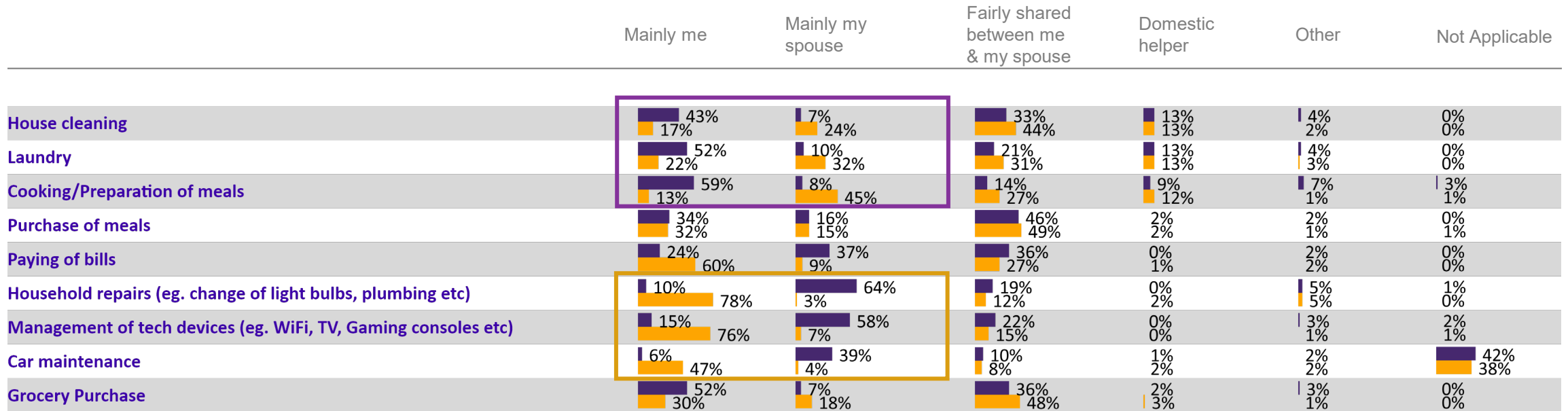
Close to 9 in 10 agree that household chores can be equally shared by husband and wife. But a significant proportion of men and women agree that the husband’s primary responsibility is to earn enough income for the household and the wife’s primary responsibility is to look after the household.



## Share of Household Responsibilities

More women take on the daily household responsibilities of cleaning, laundry, cooking and grocery purchase. Whereas men are taking on more responsibility around household repairs, management of tech devices and car maintenance, which tend to be lower in frequency.

24% of women say they are the main person responsible for paying of bills while 9% of men say their wives are. Both genders are aligned on the responsibility of purchasing meals.

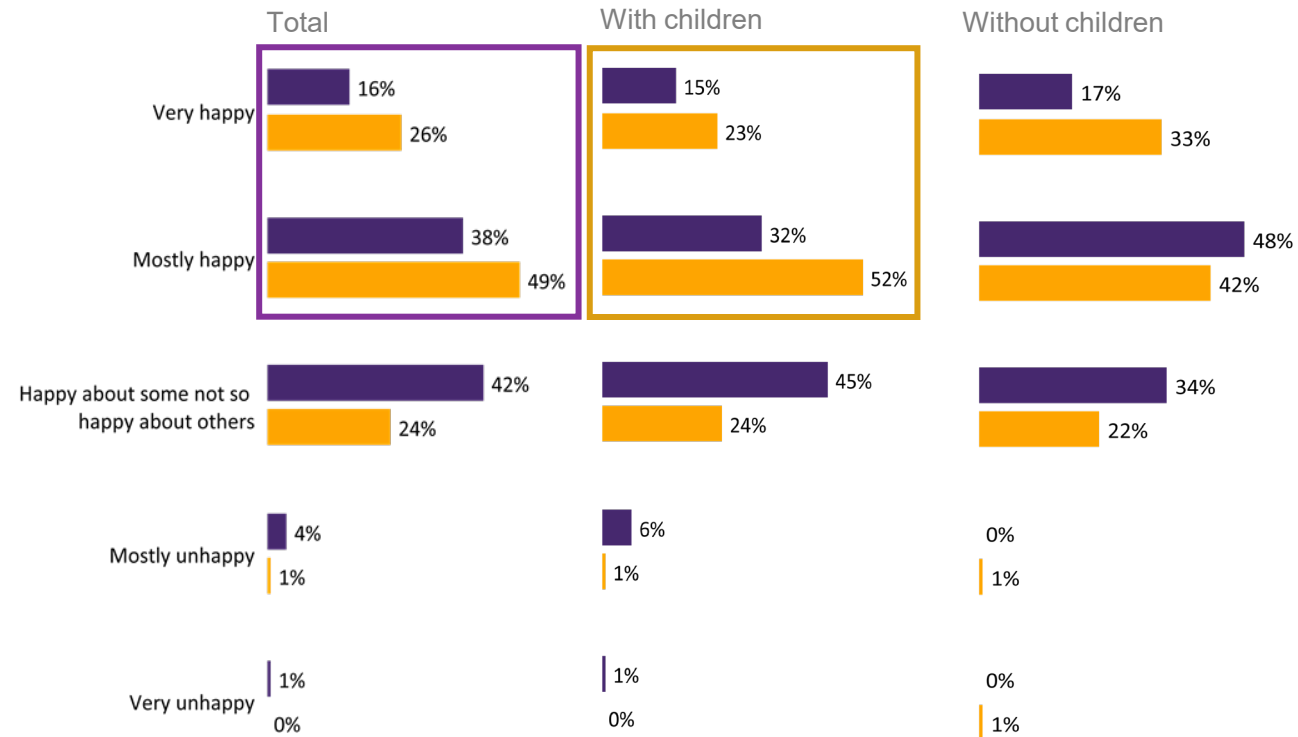


QA1. In your household, who is typically responsible for carrying out these household / caring responsibilities?

Female (n=255) Male (n=245)

## Satisfaction vs Stress of Carrying Out Responsibilities

With more responsibilities sitting on the shoulders of women, fewer women (54%) than men (75%) say they are happy about their household and caring responsibilities. This gap is wider between mothers (47%) and fathers (78%).

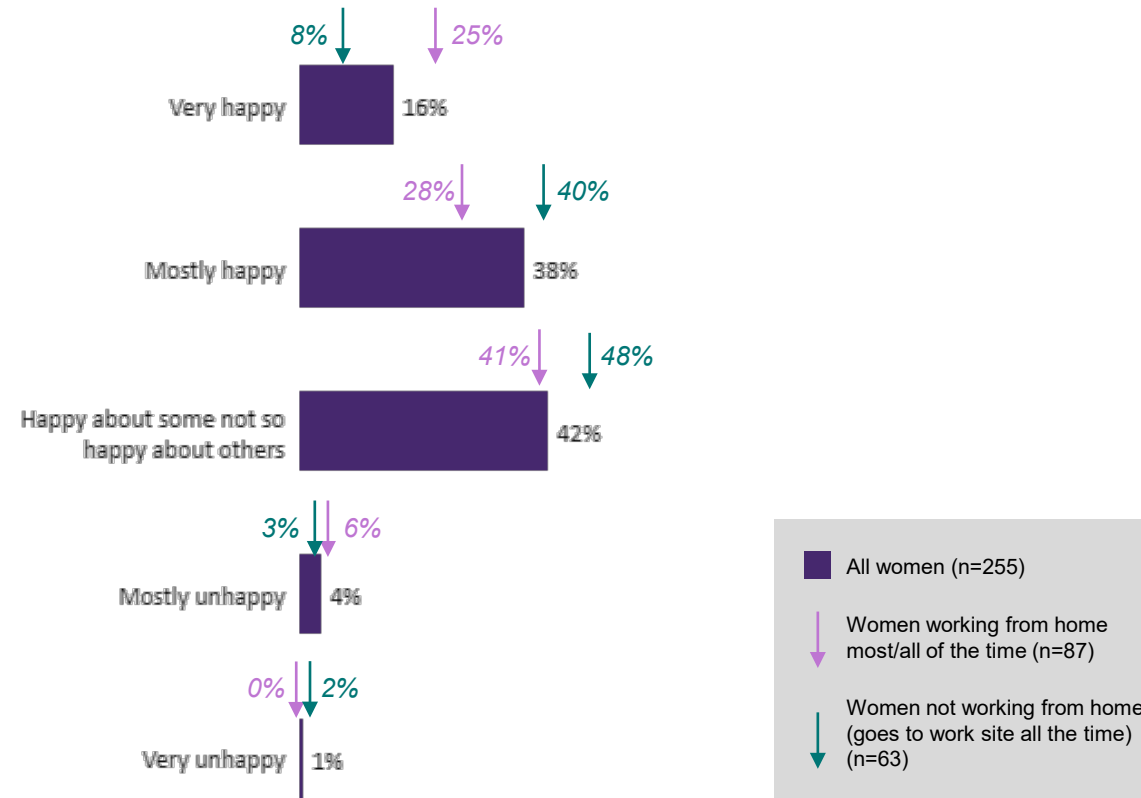


QB2. Thinking about your current household / caring responsibilities, how happy are you to be doing them? (SA)

## Satisfaction vs Stress of Carrying Out Responsibilities

Satisfaction is significantly higher among women who work from home.

25% of women who are working from home say they are very happy to be doing their domestic responsibilities. Only 8% of women not working from home say they are very happy.



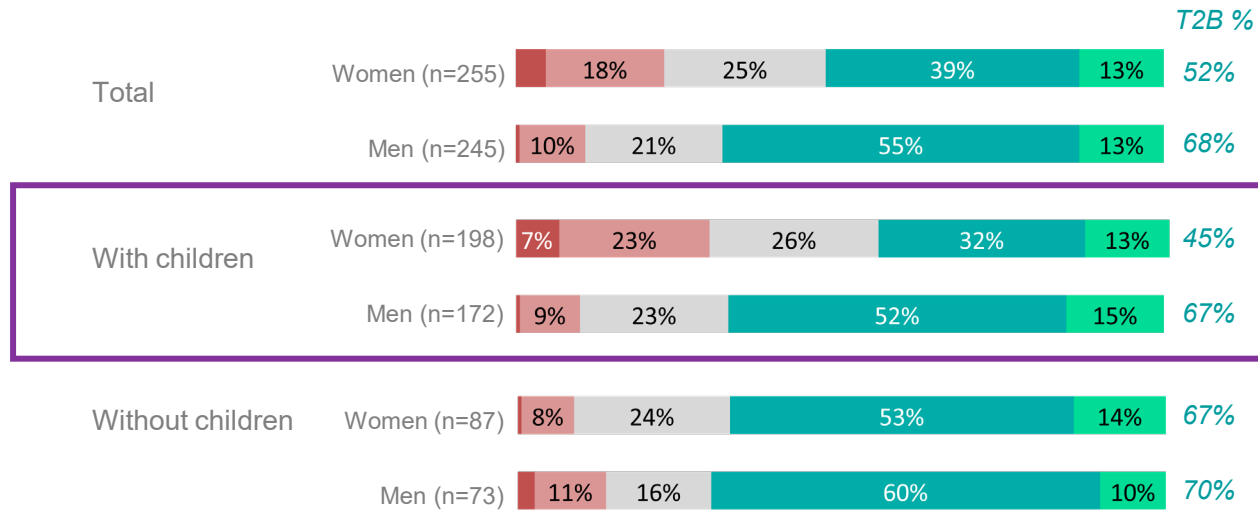
QB2. Thinking about your current household / caring responsibilities, how happy are you to be doing them? (SA)

### Effect on Well-being and Career Prospects

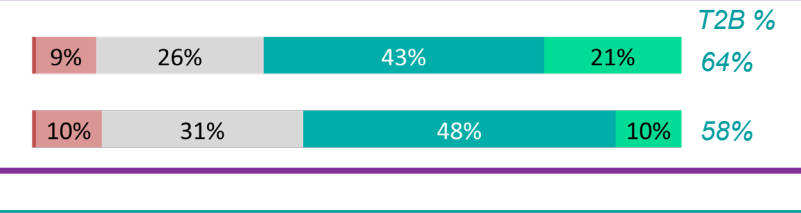
Only 52% of women report having enough personal time to look after their physical, mental and emotional well-being, compared to 68% of men. This difference is greater among those with children where even fewer mothers (45%) say they have enough personal time.

Among parents, close to 2 in 3 agree that they are limited in the career that they can build or the jobs they can take because of child caring responsibilities. More so for mothers than fathers.

QB5c. I get enough personal time to look after my well-being (physical, mental and emotional)



QB5e. As a working mother/father, I am limited in the career that I can build or the jobs that I can take because of child caring responsibilities

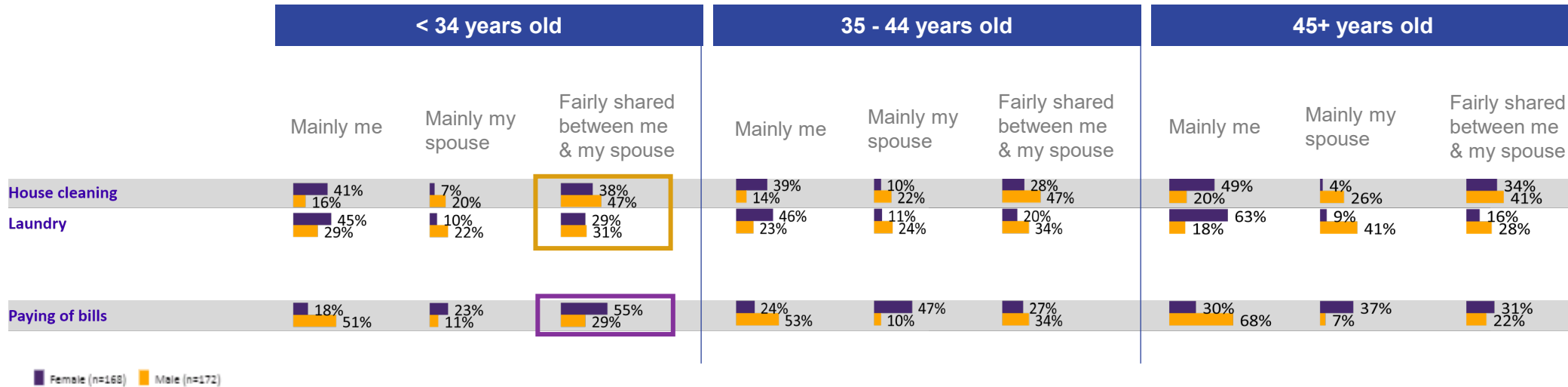


Strongly Disagree Somewhat Disagree Neither agree nor disagree Agree Strongly Agree

## A Gradual Shift Between Generations

Shared responsibilities is highest for those below 34 years old, showing a gradual shift between generations. More young women say their spouses are sharing tasks like household cleaning and laundry.

There is still some difference in opinion between young men and women as can be seen on a task like paying of bills. There are nearly twice the number of young women than men who claim that they are sharing this task with their spouses.



QA1. In your household, who is typically responsible for carrying out these household / caring responsibilities?

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# ABOUT UWS

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United Women Singapore (UWS) is a local non-profit organisation that advances women's empowerment and gender equality, and builds a pipeline of women leaders and influencers in Singapore. The organisation works towards narrowing the gender equality gap through education and raising awareness and advocacy on issues such as anti-violence and women's empowerment, with the support of key stakeholders including corporate partners, government agencies, academia, the diplomatic community, non-profits and community groups and the wider community.

United Women Singapore has an Institution of Public Character (IPC) status and all donors are able to claim tax relief from their assessable income based on the amount donated, at prevailing deduction rate.

