**Does your gender affect what job you can do?**

In the past, most jobs were done by men while women stayed at home to look after the family. During the 20th century, many of these traditional views were challenged when women, such as the Suffragettes, demanded equality (the same rights as men). Now, in the 21st century, women in the UK can enjoy the same rights to vote and work as men do, however some people believe more needs to be done. So, should all jobs be shared equally by men and women or are certain jobs better suited to a woman while other jobs are better suited to a man?

There is no doubt that males are physically stronger than females. A recent scientific study found that, on average, women have approximately 40% less upper body strength than men as males have more muscle mass. Some people believe this makes males better at jobs involving heavy lifting such as building jobs and being a firefighter. However, others believe that, with enough exercise, women can be strong enough to perform any of these types of jobs. Furthermore, most of these jobs involve teamwork so the workload can be shared between stronger and weaker people.

No one can deny that many women will miss time off work to have a child. An employer puts a lot of time and money into training their staff, so it is not fair that they will then be off work for long periods to look after their child. Critics claim that it should not just be the responsibility of the woman to look after children. There is no reason why men could not look after the children while the woman goes to work, or the childcare could be shared between the mother and father equally. In addition, many people are now able to use the internet to work from home which allows them to care for their child and work at the same time. It could also be argued that women who have been off work to have children will return with more determination to work hard so they can succeed and provide a good income for their children.

It is widely believed that men are more interested in science and technology while women naturally go into more caring professions such as nursing and care working. Supporters argue that males are less emotional than women and consequently have more logical minds, which explains why 66% of science and technology jobs are taken by men. Nevertheless, those in opposition say there is no evidence for this. There have been many examples of women succeeding as scientists, such as Rosalind Franklin who helped discover the structure of DNA. Furthermore, a visit to any hospital will reveal many male nurses who enjoy caring for others.

Considerable debate has taken place as to whether women can be good leaders. Some say that males are naturally more assertive and so get more things done. In addition, they believe that females are too emotional to be strong leaders as people don’t trust them to stay calm under pressure. On the contrary, others feel these arguments are untrue stereotypes. Many people would say that their mothers are strong and assertive leaders. Moreover, there have been many examples of cool-headed women leaders such as Prime-Ministers Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May. Furthermore, to be a great leader you need to be able to work well in a team and organise other people which was done exceptionally well by female suffragettes who were strong enough to succeed in changing the law.

As people become better educated and technology allows everyone’s views to be heard, many old stereotypes are being swept away. Changes to society have meant that women will no longer accept being treated unfairly just because of their gender. Currently only one quarter of the top executive jobs in the UK are held by women, however it is only a matter of time until all jobs will be shared equally between males and females,