

DOWNLOAD PDF WORK, GENDER, AND FAMILY IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND

Chapter 1 : Victorian Era Gender Roles by Bailey Knotts on Prezi

Work, Gender, and Family in Victorian England. Karl Ittmann. NYU Press, Feb 1, - History - pages. 0 Reviews At a time when historians are reaching for new.

Women inhabited a separate, private sphere, one suitable for the so-called inherent qualities of femininity: Inequality Victorian Era was not characterized by equality between man and woman, but by the apparent difference between them. The late 19th century from is famous as the Victorian era in England. The gender roles of this period can be understood from the varied roles ascribed to the two genders, the male, and the female. Gender Roles of Victorian Era were n favour of men The patriarchic system was the norm and women usually led a more secluded, private life. Men, on the other hand, possessed all kinds of freedom. The man was naturally the head of the family and the guardian of family members. He was the protector and the lord. He was strong, brave and hard-working. Women were shy, weak and emotional compared to men. She was supposed to be pure and quiet. Feelings such as anger or impatience were never expected out of them. She was never aggressive. The concept of ideal women was extremely important. She was pure and clean. Women were not assigned responsible jobs in general. She was to give birth to children and look after the house. They could neither vote nor sue. The Women could not also own property. Women had no legal say. The property of a married woman went to her husband even if the marriage ended up in a divorce. It was the responsibility of the women to secure happiness at home whereas the men were to protect and guard the household and its members. Organizing and instructing the servants was another job for the females. Both men and women were discouraged from using cosmetics or undergarments. However, restrictions on women were severe because their bodies were held to be pure. Being a prostitute meant being unclean in the Victorian era. This was an excuse for the husband to end the marriage with his wife. Women could not have sex with any other men except their husband. However, this rule did not apply to men. Men were held superior in all spheres of life. Many women were treated as a necessity for men. Women were discouraged from remaining unmarried. This was because she needed protection as she was weak and pure. A married woman was completely under the guidance and supervision of her husband. Motherhood was an achievement in the life of women, but only formally. Mothers had to be submissive and meek. The highest job that women could hold was that of a teacher while men were given freedom to choose what they wanted to do. Not only processes such as industrialization, but also feministic movements of those times helped women to come out to the scene. Later, as time passed, women occupied the equal status as that of men.

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Chapter 2 : History of Working Class Mothers in Victorian England

Get this from a library! Work, gender, and family in Victorian England. [Karl Ittmann] -- The industrial revolution radically altered traditional ways of life in many towns and villages.

When thinking of Victorian England, most people picture corseted women and Gothic architecture; however, the real defining characteristic of the era was found in the extreme religious leanings of the people, which resulted in sexual repression and a profound distancing between the wealthy and the working classes. The middle and working classes of mid- to late-nineteenth century England were often overlooked in favor of the aristocracy of the time. However, the lower classes, particularly mothers, found themselves in acutely oppressive and challenging situations. While the women of the upper class busied themselves with following the proper protocol in selecting a suitor, the working-class mother found herself scrounging to make ends meet. Oftentimes, a working class mother would not be able to keep her family afloat, which would subsequently result in the issuing of several new laws prohibiting violence towards children. The desperate times that lower class women found themselves in periodically made them stoop to desperate measures, such as prostitution; in addition, there was an increase in abuse and neglect, ranging from infanticide, to abortion, to baby farming, which brought the nature of motherhood in Victorian England into question. One of the main reasons that working class women had such trouble getting by in Victorian England was the extreme disparity between theirs and the upper class, both in economic and social terms. Once women married, Jalland notes, even upper class women risked death in giving birth. Mortality became an issue in miscarriages, still births, and during labor in general; however, the risks that mothers faced were not nearly as great as those of lower class women, who had very few resources to improve their chances of survival. Jalland's *Working Class Mother and Child* quickly became an alternative for some women of limited means in the 1850s. Bland points out that the National Vigilance Association served as both a moral watchdog group, as well as an organization which sought to assist women who were persecuted over issues of sexual deviance, by providing aid to women who were victims of assault or women who were displaced by the Criminal Law Act of 1851, which put a ban on brothels. Bland's *William Coote*, who served as the secretary of the National Vigilance Association, was among those concerned about the welfare of the children of prostitutes. He extended an offer to provide aid to those women and children left homeless, though his efforts went mostly unheeded. Bland notes that in fact, new laws were being set in place in the mid- to late 1850s which hit this segment of the population mercilessly. From 1851 through 1861, several Acts were instituted which significantly affected the working-class mother. Throughout the nineteenth century, incidents of infanticide were continually on the rise, in large part because little was done to convict the guilty party. Violent acts by desperate working-class women resulted in a movement to put more emphasis on holding someone, namely the mother, responsible for these deaths. This came to a head with the passing of the Offences Against the Person Act. As working-class women oftentimes found themselves financially challenged, they would accordingly find themselves financially unable to support their children. Smart's *Women* notes that women who gave birth to illegitimate children found themselves in a particularly questionable situation. On the one hand, if a woman kept the baby, she would likely be unable to properly provide for it; however, if she concealed her pregnancy and abandoned the child, she would be held liable, with the potential of being sentenced to hang, regardless of whether the baby was born alive or dead. Smart notes that as the punishment for those convicted of infanticide became harsher and more ubiquitous, and as medical procedures became more advanced, infanticide began to dwindle and abortion became more prevalent. It is pointed out by Carol Smart that although abortion was always deemed an offence by the law, until the nineteenth century, there were very few cases where a woman was actually found guilty of the crime. Smart's *Laws* soon began to develop, differentiating between various stages of development; this was quickly followed with a series of amendments over the course of several decades. By the end of the century, the laws essentially made the woman the sole guilty party, regardless of what stage the pregnancy was terminated, and despite the fact that she may have

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received aid through another party Smart The process of childbirth in and of itself in this era was dangerous, especially for working-class women who were unable to seek professional medical care. Victorian Children Playing Many working-class women found that they could not afford to support their newborn babies, as most women struggled to make ends meet, providing for their husband and other children. Many women who did not resort to infanticide or have an abortion, were forced to send their children to be looked after by other women. Children of Victorian England, poor and bourgeois In most cases, baby farming could be considered little more than a prolonged version of infanticide. Baby farms served as both a way for women unprepared for motherhood to relieve themselves of the burden, as well as a means for some women to make money from the fees charged to take an infant in. Some of the women who were in the baby farming business were careless in their duties as surrogate guardians, and such cases, the infants stood very little chance of survival under such horrific conditions, where the women were provided little money by the biological mothers and were at times unable to keep the children alive. Women who were found guilty of running the farms were convicted, and sometimes hanged. Ads were often taken out in newspapers, and women who were desperate enough would exercise this final resort. A woman who would consider this option would likely have one or more of the following qualifying problems: The fact that impoverished women resort to such an extreme stance brought the maternal qualifications of working-class women into question, making some wonder if through their extreme poverty, these women may have lost their natural instincts for motherhood Matus In an effort to curb the excessive practice of baby farming, the Act for the Protection of Infant Life was put in place in , putting stricter health and safety regulations on those who watched over children Smart Not all women of the lower-class resorted to such harsh alternatives to raising children. Some women, particularly farmers and those living in the country, were able to scrounge and make ends meet for themselves and their families. In addition, in the Victorian English countryside women even began to band together to improve their lives, both practically and spiritually. A woman named Mary Sumner set out to organize a collection of women to gather and bond together in a quest to rear their children according to their staunch Christian beliefs. Not only did they reach out to the community in their own humble congregation, but Sumner and her followers attracted women from neighboring communities, and they even began issuing a quarterly journal which reached upwards of 60, people by Horn Working-class women in Victorian England had many different obstacles to overcome. Not only were they living in a repressive society, but they were marginalized by class issues as well as gender issues. Because of their low status, many women were forced into prostitution, and oftentimes women who had children found themselves so desperate that they resorted to infanticide, abortion, or baby farming. However, by the turn of the century, some progress was being made in the effort to bring the status of women to a higher standing. However, for the most part, the primary duty of a working-class mother in Victorian England was simply to keep her family afloat.

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Chapter 3 : Victorian Occupations: Life and Labor in the Victorian Period

At a time when historians are reaching for new approaches to understanding the hidden life of working-class European families, this study of family life and work explores some of social history's most pressing questions in a compelling and lucid way.

The Worst Trade and the Development of Bradford. The rise of the worst industry, Occupation and class in mid-Victorian Bradford. Management and the problem of costs in the worst trade. The end of prosperity - the slump of the s 2. Work and Its Discontents. Labor process in the worst industry. Skill and the reorganization of the worst trade. The organization of labor in spinning and weaving. The organization of labor outside of spinning and weaving. Grievances and work conditions. Overlookers and the control of labor. The worst committee and labor discipline. Trade unionism in the worst industry. The problem of labor in mid-Victorian Bradford 3. Politics in Bradford The emergence of liberalism. The challenge of working-class politics 4. High and Low Culture in Victorian Bradford. The making of an industrial city. Voluntarism and urban society. Religion in mid-Victorian Bradford. Education and social mobility. Temperance and the question of leisure. Democracy and voluntary association 5. The debate over the family. The question of gender in Victorian Bradford. Domestic life and the working-class mother. Infant mortality, abortion, infanticide and the working class family 6. From Voluntarism to the Sanitary Gospel: The Family and Social Reform. The rise and decline of voluntarism. The emergence of the sanitary gospel 7. Family Limitation and Family Economy in Bradford The standard of living and the working class family. The family economy in mid-Victorian England. The nature of the family economy in Bradford. The problem of thrift in working-class families. Gender, marriage and the problems of family life Appendix: Collection and Analysis of Data.

Chapter 4 : Contraception in Victorian Britain: A Bibliography of Secondary Materials

WORK, GENDER AND FAMILY IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND. STUDIES IN GENDER HISTORY Recent years have shown that the study of gender has proved to be of too great an importance to.

Print this page Families and households Because of high birth rates and improving life expectancy, Victorian families were generally large. The growth of residential domestic service, even low down the social scale, and the prevalence of lodgers, especially in towns, meant that many households were further swollen in size and complex in formation. Many young people, especially young women, migrated to towns and cities in search of work as the possibilities of agricultural employment declined. Migration was facilitated by family and other connections: Most households necessarily drew income from a number of sources, with many women and juveniles adding to wage earning even if their employment was usually more intermittent and low-paid than that of adult males. Although the male breadwinner wage was increasingly regarded as the ideal and even the norm, in practice many households were dependent upon female earnings, especially those households run by widows. As the mid-Victorian boom got underway the demand for female and juvenile labour expanded, particularly where new technologies or patterns of work were resented by skilled men. Cheap female and immigrant labour was often used to undercut male workers. Urbanisation created manifold opportunities for female employment despite the regulation of hours and conditions of work for women and juveniles in certain sectors, and the coming of compulsory education after Thus most women in Victorian society, in the two thirds of the population below the upper and middle classes, worked for wages. But in what occupations and how much? Women may have also have preferred to keep their income-earning a secret from their husband. Sometimes it was illegal as with prostitution or performed in unregulated sweatshops a further reason for failure to record. An occupational designation, for whatever reason, meant something very different for men than for women. With the emphasis primarily upon their role as wives and mothers, women workers did not usually see their occupation as a centrally defining characteristic of their lives, and therefore frequently failed to declare it. Business records can be used to supplement the census and to give an indication of the gender-specific nature of employment and wage earning in certain firms and regions. But the survival of wage books is generally poor and biased in favour of larger firms in the regulated sector - for example factory textile employment, where wages and employment levels were generally much higher than the norm. Trade directories are another useful source but suffer from the fact that they were published irregularly, and record not employment but the names of business proprietorships. They have the advantage that they generally record all incomes, including poor relief and self-provisioning, allowing one to assess the contribution of women and juveniles to the family economy. Their disadvantage is that they have patchy survival over time and region, and they have varying levels of detail, accuracy and comparability because they were compiled for differing purposes. Female employment in the s, 60s and 70s appears to have been higher than any recorded again until after World War II. Family budget evidence suggests that around per cent of women from working class families contributed significantly to household incomes in the mid-Victorian years. This might have been even higher during the industrial revolution decades, before the rise of State and trade union policies regulating female labour and promoting the male breadwinner ideal. Domestic service of all kinds was the single largest employer of women As in earlier centuries, the bulk of waged work for women appears to have been found in trades associated with female skills or proclivities, particularly where these were also casual and low paid. Domestic service of all kinds was the single largest employer of women 40 per cent of female occupations stated in the census of in provincial cities and 50 per cent in London. The textile and clothing sectors came a close second. Women were also found in large numbers in metalwares and pottery and in a variety of petty trades, especially in towns: Because many sectors which employed large numbers of women were concentrated in certain regions of the country as with the cotton and woollen industries of south Lancashire and west Yorkshire , the statistics of female labour force participation varied across the country. Top Women

and the family firm Outside the working classes the traditional view of Victorian women is that they were little involved in business or enterprise and that their lives were largely devoted to the private sphere of domestic and family life. Certainly the cultural and evangelical ideals of the period placed women on a pedestal of moral probity, motherhood and domestic orderliness. There is some evidence that middle class women in some sectors of the economy did increasingly withdraw from direct involvement in family firms in the mid Victorian period, whilst the legal status of married women and their limited property rights made it difficult for them to operate in business on their own account at least before the s. However, the stereotype of the middle class woman as the angel in the house can easily be overplayed. Widows and spinsters were rarely in a position to rest on their laurels or be ladies of leisure. Many of the former carried on family businesses after the death of their husbands, whilst the significant surplus of spinsters in Victorian society found work as governesses or in trades which were regarded as suitable for women such as millinery and inn-keeping, grocery retailing and other victualling. Both widows and spinsters were prominent in property ownership and in financing businesses as sleeping partners. The typical firm in the 19th century was a small family partnership. Because of this many opportunities existed for wives and daughters to be closely involved. There is evidence of their important roles, especially behind the scenes: Women were prominent in many sectors which underwent considerable technological and organisational change partly because employers at first found it easier to recruit women and juveniles to new practices in the face of opposition from established, unionised or skilled adult male workers. Women provided a flexible, cheap and adaptive workforce for factories and sweatshops, and had feminine skills associated with some of the most rapidly expanding consumer goods industries at the forefront of industrialisation such as textiles, pottery, clothing and victualling. Some new technologies were adapted and modified with young female workers in mind, while the cheap labour of women and children could also hold back mechanisation in favour of traditional labour intensive methods. Women provided a flexible, cheap and adaptive workforce Regional and sectoral variations in the extent to which women were involved in waged work had a major impact upon regional differences in gender relations within families and communities, and upon the complexion of local politics and trade unionism. This included decisions about consumption, and has been held partly responsible for the increasing independence and fashion consciousness of young women, and the rise in mass spending on household goods, clothing, furniture, curtains and foodstuffs. The more women worked for wages the less time they had to produce their own goods for the home. However, there are more examples where working women shouldered the double burden of waged work and the bulk of household responsibilities, and where their role in politics remained marginal. As the 19th century progressed, there was a greater prevalence of gender-specific employment which was often used to enhance control and discipline in the workplace. Supervisory roles were almost exclusively taken by men, and men also came to operate the most expensive and sophisticated machinery and to monopolise the high status and higher paid jobs even in textiles. The expansion of heavy industries such as iron, steel, mining, engineering and ship building in the later century also created sectors which employed almost exclusively male labour, which were associated solely with male attributes and which endorsed the male breadwinner ideal. Thus a hardening of gender assumptions in the nineteenth century was closely associated with corresponding changes in the workplace. Women, Gender and Industrialisation in England, by Katrina Honeyman Basingstoke Macmillan, A concise volume good on gender, class and industrialisation. This website also contains a number of very useful links to other websites associated with the history of women. Places to visit There a several museums which help to recapture the nature of Victorian society and the place of women within it, most obviously the Victoria and Albert Museum in London which has wonderful collections of art and artefacts reflecting the nature of the middle- and upper-class Victorian home. The new industrial and commercial middle classes of the Victorian era were great patrons of the arts, and some British provincial art galleries contain major collections of the sorts of works which they commissioned as well as work depicting domestic interiors and women. Other guides to archive holdings can be found on the websites of most major repositories. Many collections of working class autobiographies have been published and

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include several written by women. For a guide see for example, *The Autobiography of the Working Class: Mayall, Hassocks Harvester* , , Examining surviving Victorian housing from outside and from within can be very revealing particularly if these can be matched to information from Census returns. It is possible to reconstruct Victorian households at each census point and to imagine where each household member resided within the house. Details of these can usually be obtained from local history libraries. She specialises in the impact of economic and social change within different local and regional, economic, social and cultural settings. Her books include *The Industrial Revolution London*,

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Chapter 5 : Work, Gender, and Family in Victorian England - Karl Ittmann - Google Books

Work, Gender and Family in Victorian England by Karl Ittmann, , available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide.

However, the period known as the Victorian era in England, from to , witnessed such polarized gender roles that it can also be analyzed according to the different functions assigned to men and women, more commonly known as the ideology of separate spheres. Women inhabited a separate, private sphere, one suitable for the so called inherent qualities of femininity: Following such principles allowed men, allegedly controlled by their mind or intellectual strength, to dominate society, to be the governing sex, given that they were viewed as rational, brave, and independent. Women, on the other hand, were dominated by their sexuality, and were expected to fall silently into the social mold crafted by men, since they were regarded as irrational, sensitive, and dutiful. As Susan Kent observes: The majority of women did not have the option not to marry: Therefore, no matter what the women desired, most were predestined to become wives due to their economic reliance on men. This requirement of chastity and absolute purity was not expected of men, as the potential husband had the freedom to participate in premarital and extramarital sexual relationships. Such a biased idea was one of many double standards in Victorian society, which demanded unquestionable compliance from women and none from men, since the women were thought to be controlled by their sexuality and were thus in need of regulation. After a woman married, her rights, her property, and even her identity almost ceased to exist. By law she was under the complete and total supervision of her husband: Indeed it is understandable to see why many women saw marriage as falling little short of slavery. One Victorian male contemporary writing in a letter to a friend described the perfect wife as nothing more than an extension of his household surroundings: Motherhood, unfortunately, in reality was not any more respected than marriage. Such was the overall view. However, as with marriage, there were unjust requirements and unfair expectations. Firstly, motherhood was almost always separated from anything sexual. Sex for any other reason than creating children was viewed as dirty and scandalous, quite separate from the revered sexless image of motherhood. Purity was an expectation and a necessity in order for motherhood to be truly appreciated: This meant that mothers also had to be religious, since religion supported the view of women as free of sexual passion and gratification. For example, in , Annie Besant was denied the custody of her daughter because she had written in a magazine promoting birth control, sex for pleasure, and was an admitted atheist. As Holmes and Nelson relate: Thus mothers were viewed by men as angelic only if they seemed to eschew sex, were meek, submissive, and conforming. Mothers, men kept in mind, were also women controlled by their emotions, and were socially accepted as long as they stayed in their sphere of submissiveness and passivity. Therefore it seemed that despite the superficially elevated positions of wives and mothers, women were alone in a world ruled by men. This could not have been more clearly evident than when women came into contact with law: Laws designed to benefit men over women were hard to overlook. Besides the legality of marital rape and wife-battery, the husband also had complete say in sexual intercourse. Refusal of sex was grounds for annulment of marriage Perkin. The issue of adultery was also skewed to favor men. The reasoning was that wives and mothers served as moral guides to children, so adultery committed by a woman was considered perverted and unnatural. And thus men believed that unless there was an explicit rule against it, men were free to treat women any way they wanted without any shame. Men justified their actions with their supremacy and expected women to tolerate the abuse without demur. Kent goes on to argue that not only had men failed to protect the interests of women; they were almost incapable of it. If women were looked upon as ruled by their sexual reproductive systems in the institutions of marriage and motherhood, they could not expect any more protection or understanding from the legal system. Prostitution, legal during the Victorian era, seemed to embody the second of the two categories of women present in Victorian society: However because wives and mothers were not truly respected, my belief is that prostitution reflected what men really considered all women to be: And indeed in

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Victorian England a large number of women were prostitutes: Ironically, in a society that was not open to women working outside the home, prostitution seemed to be the only profession protected by law. To begin with, sex as a subject was not at all discussed. Girls could grow up into women and still not know where children came from: Sexuality and anything in relation to it contradicted the accepted notions of purity and was strictly looked down upon. Masturbation was so demonized that it was considered a mental disorder. Victorians, it seemed, simply could not understand why anyone would voluntarily choose to participate in such revolting and degrading activities. One solution was the mutilation of female genitals: The psychologist Sigmund Freud explained this argument: If women foolishly attempted to undertake study, he concluded, they risked ruining forever their childbearing capacities Perkin From an early age girls were taught they were useless; supported by the ideology of separate spheres, women lived their lives in conditions that some feminists saw as being close to slavery. If women were going to fight against the oppression forced on them by men, they had to get to the root of the problem, and the idea of the separate spheres was the basis. One Victorian woman referring to her childhood recalled: We were girls, you see, and what use were girls anyway? By discarding the underlying beliefs that upheld the unjust aspects of Victorian society, women understood that their position in society would increasingly improve, especially in the institutions of marriage, motherhood, and law:

Chapter 6 : Work, Gender and Family in Victorian England : Karl Ittmann :

- David Levine, *The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto Work, Gender and Family in Victorian England examines the impact of the Industrial Revolution upon the family and questions the extent to which ordinary working men and women shared the 'Victorian values' and prosperity of their middle-class countrymen.*

Chapter 7 : BBC - History - Ideals of Womanhood in Victorian Britain

Many of these same issues have appeared in the contemporary American debate over family calendrierdelascience.comng on West Yorkshire, England, in the latter half of the 19th century, Ittman illuminates the many social, personal, and familial crises brought on by the industrial revolution.

Chapter 8 : Work, gender, and family in Victorian England / Karl Ittmann. - Version details - Trove

The question of gender in Victorian Bradford. Domestic life and the working-class mother. Infant mortality, abortion, infanticide and the working class family.

Chapter 9 : Victorian Era Family Daily Life in England

During the Victorian period men and women's roles became more sharply defined than at any time in history. In earlier centuries it had been usual for women to work alongside husbands and brothers in the family business.