

## **HOUSEWORK AND FREE TIME, CONTRADICTIONARY ELEMENTS OF PRIVATE SPHERE?**

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### **Abstract**

This thesis examines a relationship between housework and free time. I used the qualitative interviewing which can help us better understand this issue. In contemporary society, free time is an important element of daily life. We are concerned with what it means to us, we evaluate its quality and analyze how it affects our life satisfaction. On the contrary, the housework represents duty and a less popular activity in general. These two elements form time that we spend outside of paid work. In this study I try to explain what housework represents, how it affects our free time and whether these two elements conflict because they together constitute our private life, despite their different nature. The housework becomes more important and demanding during parenthood when it merges with childcare. An important aspect is division of housework between the partners, especially when they can substitute each other. Such division appears to be more efficient and can help both parents gain more free time that happens to be precious during the parenthood. During my research I also found out that housework does not have to be necessarily connected with a negative meaning, but can be perceived positively, for example, cooking, and it can have some social meaning inside a family.