A woman in traditional Armenian attire, including a heavily beaded and jeweled headpiece and a light-colored dress with yellow accents, is shown holding a large, reddish-brown terracotta jug. She is looking off to the side with a thoughtful expression. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting with warm lighting.

Altered Gender Roles in Armenia

Presented by Mariam
Khachatryan to the
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Communications
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Located between crossroads of Eastern and Western culture, Armenia is a nation which prides itself with its traditional values. Armenian women are expected to predominantly take on the role of creating a family and being the homemaker while men are in charge of being the primary breadwinners. More serious issues encountered by society due to this includes sex-based abortion, domestic violence, and spousal transmitted Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's).



- **Men grow up in an environment that favors freedom and are under the pressure of being able to support themselves and their future family. Women are taught to take on the role of being a future wife and mother from an early age.**
- **Armenian women are encouraged to be obedient in regards to gender roles in families. The giving of control to men and degradation of women in this country is apparent in a variety of traditions and practices discussed further are usually considered to be the “norm,” in Armenia.**



Research Questions

- What is the Armenian woman's role in society and how has this changed throughout the years?
- How have gender roles changed in Armenian society throughout the years?





Methodology

- Gender barometer survey in Armenia Sociological Survey, 2015
- The Report on Sociological findings “Men and gender equality in Armenia report on sociological survey findings”
- Interview conducted amongst mother and grandmother to determine the generational varying attitudes regarding the issue



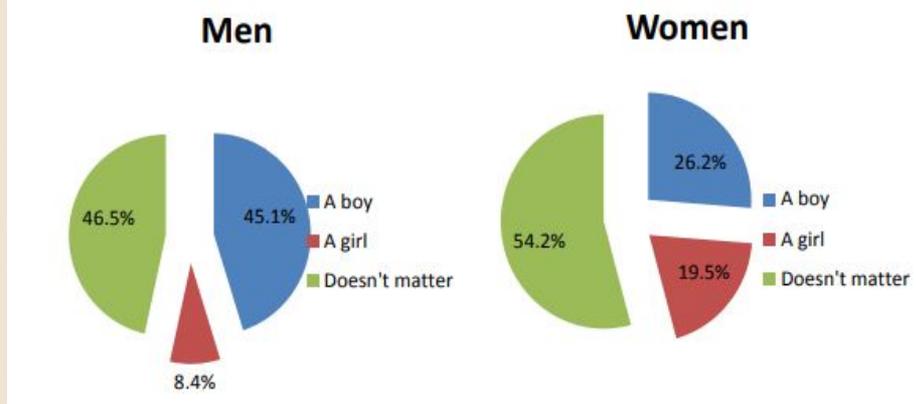
Research objectives

1. Whether the presence of double standards exist in Armenia.
2. Whether the concept of “double burden” is applicable to Armenian females
3. Whether it’s acceptable for responsibilities among men and women can be interchangeable

Findings:

Gender based Abortion in Armenia:

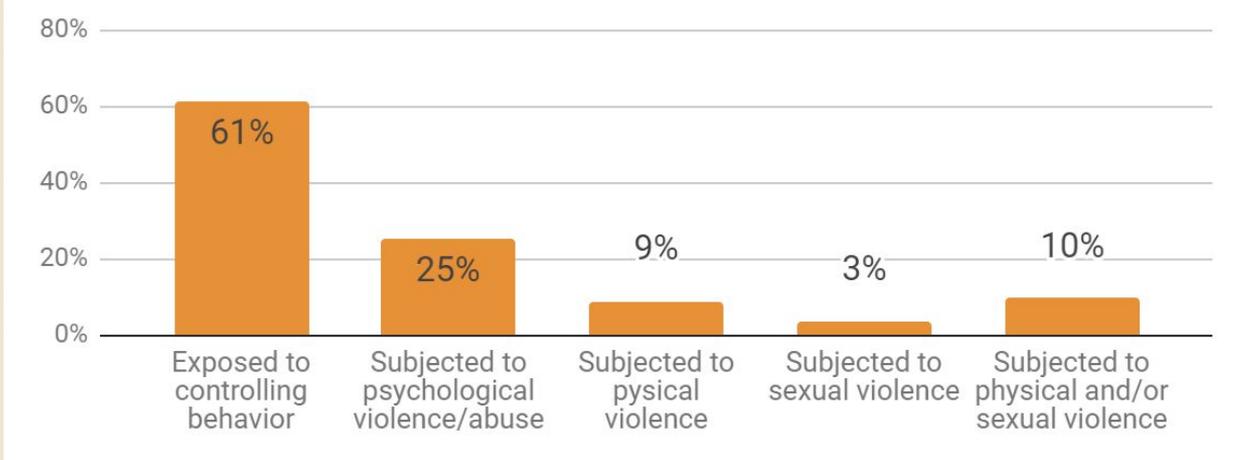
Armenian families typically favor having a boy versus having a girl to continue the family name.





Domestic violence in Armenia:

Due to both societal factors and unenforced laws, Armenian women are subjected to violence.





Sexually Transmitted Diseases caused by male migration:

Many men migrate for parts of the year in order to work. Due to infidelity, their wife then contracts these STD's.

Has any member of your family migrated for work in the past one year?

	Male	Female	Total
1 Yes	23.8%	27.7%	26.5%
2 No	76.2%	72.3%	73.5%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Women are responsible for being the homemaker while men are expected to provide for the family:

Women aren't expected to be the breadwinners of the household and are instead expected to be the homemaker. A majority of the women who do work, carry on the dual burden of having responsibilities both at their house and at work.

A career should not be a woman's first priority. Family should always come first.	89.3%	(male)
A career should not be a woman's first priority. Family should always come first.	81.2%	(female)



Interview:

My grandma possessed a quite traditional upbringing and agreed with the statement, “Gender roles must be distinct among Armenian families.”

My mother believes that these roles are traditionally set but modern day society and everyday life sometimes calls for the need of the interchange of these roles.

Both of them agree that the cause of the lack of interchange among gender roles is caused by societal opinions.





“If a woman is organized enough, she will have the ability to manage both her home responsibilities and work at the same time without the need for the man shoving his nose into the womans day to day tasks.”

-Grandma

“If women can step up and take on the tasks men are traditionally expected to do, then men should do the same and help around the house from time to time.”

-Mother

Limitations and Avenues for Future Research:

- Limited research for Armenia
- Incorporating male opinions and experiences in the interview segment
- Showing the differences of attitudes in rural areas versus the city center

