

Families get government help with housework

24th April, 2017



Working families in two towns in Germany will get government help with the housework. The towns are in the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The government decided to test a

new project to help people, especially women, who work overtime. The plan is to give vouchers to employees who work extra hours. The employees can use the vouchers to get help with the housework, such as cleaning, laundry, ironing, vacuuming and dusting. The idea behind the project is to help support family life and to reduce the shadow economy. The shadow economy is when people pay for goods and services in cash but do not pay tax on them. This means the government loses a lot of money.

Government spokesman Christian Rauch explained more about the project. He said: "Our experience shows that well-qualified women work fewer hours than they would like because they want to carry out household duties in addition to family responsibilities. If these women increase their working hours by five to ten hours and receive a voucher from us, they can afford quality help with the housework." He added that the new system would also create more jobs for people in the household-help industry and create more tax for the government. Another spokesman, Dr. Ralf Kleindiek, said: "With professional help in the home, it is easier to balance work and family life."

Sources: bbc.com / faz.net / bmfsfj.de

Writing

People should get money for doing housework. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

working / families / housework / project / vouchers / laundry / support / cash / tax / spokesman / experience / duties / quality / system / industry / professional / balance

True / False

- Families all across Germany will get government help with housework. T / F
- The new project is especially aimed at men. T / F
- The government also wants to get people to pay more tax. T / F
- The shadow economy helps the government to get more money. T / F
- A spokesman said well-qualified women want to work less. T / F
- Women need to work an extra five to ten hours to get a voucher. T / F
- The new system will help to create more jobs. T / F
- A spokesman said the project will help to balance work and family life. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. help | a. lower |
| 2. especially | b. do |
| 3. employees | c. particularly |
| 4. laundry | d. make |
| 5. reduce | e. washing |
| 6. explained | f. responsibilities |
| 7. carry out | g. assistance |
| 8. duties | h. described |
| 9. create | i. paid |
| 10. professional | j. workers |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What housework do you hate doing?
- Should both people in a marriage share housework equally?
- What are the good things about doing housework?
- What housework needs doing in your house right now?
- How can robots help with the housework?
- How difficult is it to balance work and family life?
- What questions would you like to ask the government officials?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. give vouchers to employees who | a. economy |
| 2. laundry, ironing, vacuuming | b. duties |
| 3. shadow | c. a lot of money |
| 4. people pay for goods and services | d. for the government |
| 5. This means the government loses | e. by five to ten hours |
| 6. carry out household | f. work extra hours |
| 7. increase their working hours | g. work and family life |
| 8. they can afford quality | h. in cash |
| 9. create more tax | i. help with the housework |
| 10. it is easier to balance | j. and dusting |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of housework?
- What do you think of the new project?
- What do you think of people getting paid to do housework?
- What do you think of doing the laundry?
- How can governments support family life?
- What do you think of the shadow economy?
- Should we pay more tax to the government?
- Would this voucher system work in your country?

Spelling

- test a new ocrjetp
- help people, lyslpiecae women
- eopmeesyl who work extra hours
- use the rhouecsv to get help
- cleaning, nrudaly, ironing, vacuuming and dusting
- help ptsopur family life
- well-dfaleiiuq women
- carry out household eiutsd
- in aidtonid to family responsibilities
- they can afford atliuqy help
- in the household-help iusnrddy
- it is easier to aelcanb work and family life

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. c	3. j	4. e	5. a
6. h	7. b	8. f	9. d	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Laundry

You think laundry is the worst household duty. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their duties are great fun. Also, tell the others which is the most exciting of these (and why): dusting, vacuuming or ironing.

Role B – Dusting

You think dusting is the worst household duty. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their duties are great fun. Also, tell the others which is the most exciting of these (and why): laundry, vacuuming or ironing.

Role C – Vacuuming

You think vacuuming is the worst household duty. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their duties are great fun. Also, tell the others which is the most exciting of these (and why): dusting, laundry or ironing.

Role D – Ironing

You think ironing is the worst household duty. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their duties are great fun. Also, tell the others which is the most exciting of these (and why): dusting, vacuuming or laundry.

Speaking – Duties

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst housework duties at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| • laundry | • cleaning |
| • ironing | • cooking |
| • dusting | • house repairs |
| • vacuuming | • washing dishes |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.