



Background Paper

Committee: Commission on the status of women

Topic B: Gender equality in caregiving and childcare

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What is a caregiver? According to Johns Hopkins Medicine, “a caregiver is a person who tends to the needs or concerns of with short, or long term, limitations due to illness, injury, or disability.” There are many types of caregivers, such as; family caregivers, professional caregivers, independent caregivers, private duty caregivers, informal caregivers, and volunteer caregivers. Caregivers do many tasks which may be difficult to the people they are helping, such as; using the bathroom, showering, feeding, walking, taking medicine, etc. In the world, 57% to 81% of all caregivers are women, and many are unpaid. The CSW took action in 1996 to combat the negative attitudes and encouraged men to participate equally.

Unpaid caregiving affects many women and children around the world, especially the ones who do not go to school or work, and want to pursue that. Caregiving leaves women with less time for education, job opportunities, political participation, and so much more which are crucial for women to succeed in life. Caregiving, especially in rural areas and aging societies, can limit the exposure that women have to outside jobs, leading them to have a very little income. This is why the CSW encouraged men to also participate in domestic participation not only in caregiving, but child support, maternity leave, family support, education, etc. A national study found the following statistics about women who work in the caregiving field: 33% of women decreased work hours, 29% passed up a job promotion, training, or assignment, 22% took a leave of absence, 20% switched from full-time to



part-time employment, 16% quit their jobs, and 13% retired early. These are all prime examples of how women in this field lose so many opportunities in many aspects of their lives.

Since so many women work in taking care of others, they have no chance to start a family of their own, having children. Some countries that have suffered fewer births due to this are; Japan and Italy, Japan going from 128 million, to 53 million in 2017, and Italy going from 61 million to 28 million around the same time. Caregiving is a complete responsibility and women should not be getting paid more in the field, because females take the risk of not getting a good person.



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