

# Are younger women too optimistic about their money future?



**Haven't we been down this road before?** Young women believing they can have it all – a well paying career, marriage and family. During the Feminist era, young women saw themselves becoming *empowered* with choice. You could have a choice of marriage and a family or marriage, family and a job outside the home.

According to a Pew Research Center survey just released, **young women (ages 18-34) see it as less of a choice and more of an expectation.** Survey results indicate today's young women –

- place a higher value on “being successful in a high-paying career or profession” than young women 15 years earlier.
- describe careers as “very important” or “one of the most important things” (66% compared to 56% in 1997); while only 46% of older women (ages 34-65) agreed with them.
- have less of an equity pay gap (ages 16-34) and are more likely to be earning 90% of a man's earnings than the traditional 77-80% for older women.
- were similar to men in placing high value on marriage and good parenting.

**Contrast this to current economic conditions** where young woman, many of which graduating with college degrees, are having a difficult time. Not only are they delaying marriage and having children, but also finding wages for (18-24) has dropped more than for senior workers.

The **bright spot is that these young women are optimistic** according to Kim Parker, associate director of the Pew Research Center. **90% believe that in time they will eventually be able to achieve the success they desire.**

However, Pew Research also indicates that **women do not maintain the same career progress as men**. While no reasons were specified, the most common career interrupters are marriage and family.

Rather than younger women with high expectations for a career, marriage and family on **equal terms**, they could learn something from their grandmothers who discovered how to **juggle** all three.

**Grandmother comments welcomed.**

Source: Young Women Want Money and Motherhood Pew Research,  
<http://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/alpha-consumer/2012/04/19/pew-young-women-want-money-and-motherhood->