

# Watch the (care) gap: class differentials and the elusive quest for work-life balance

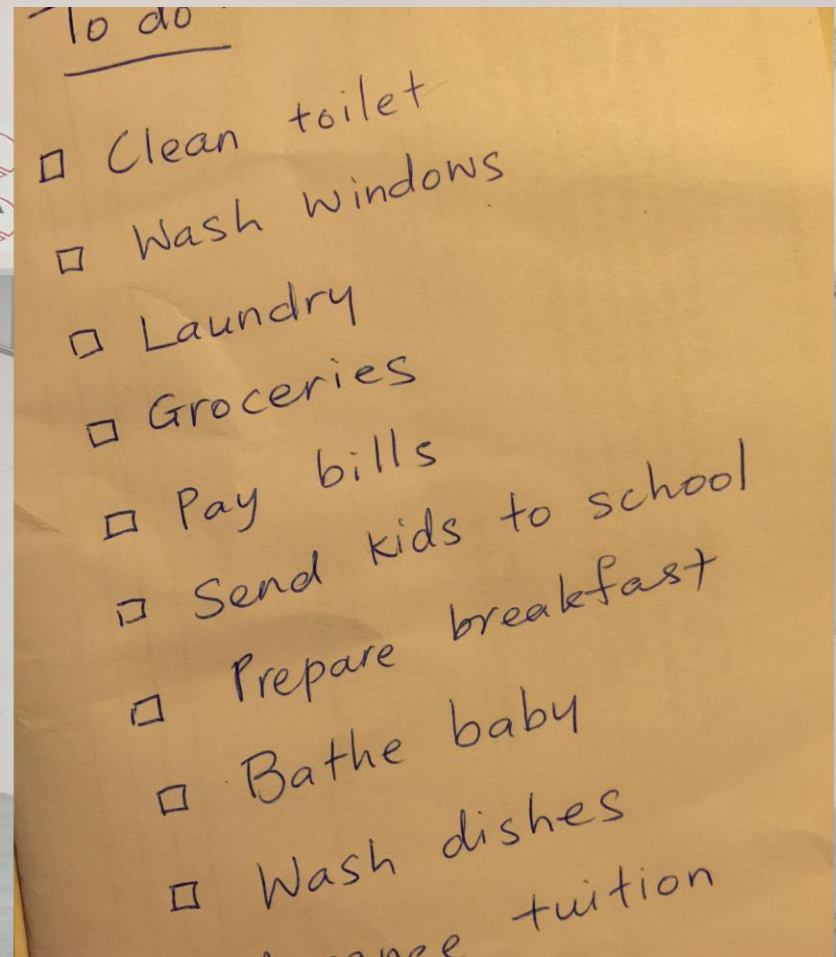
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# Contemporary problems of work and family

- Wage work and familial responsibilities competing for time/energy



- Gendered division of labor
- Work-life balance is a struggle/challenge for many



# Work-life harmony? What work-life harmony?: Class implications



- Work conditions: low wages, rigid schedules, little room for negotiations with employers

- Gendered Second Shift

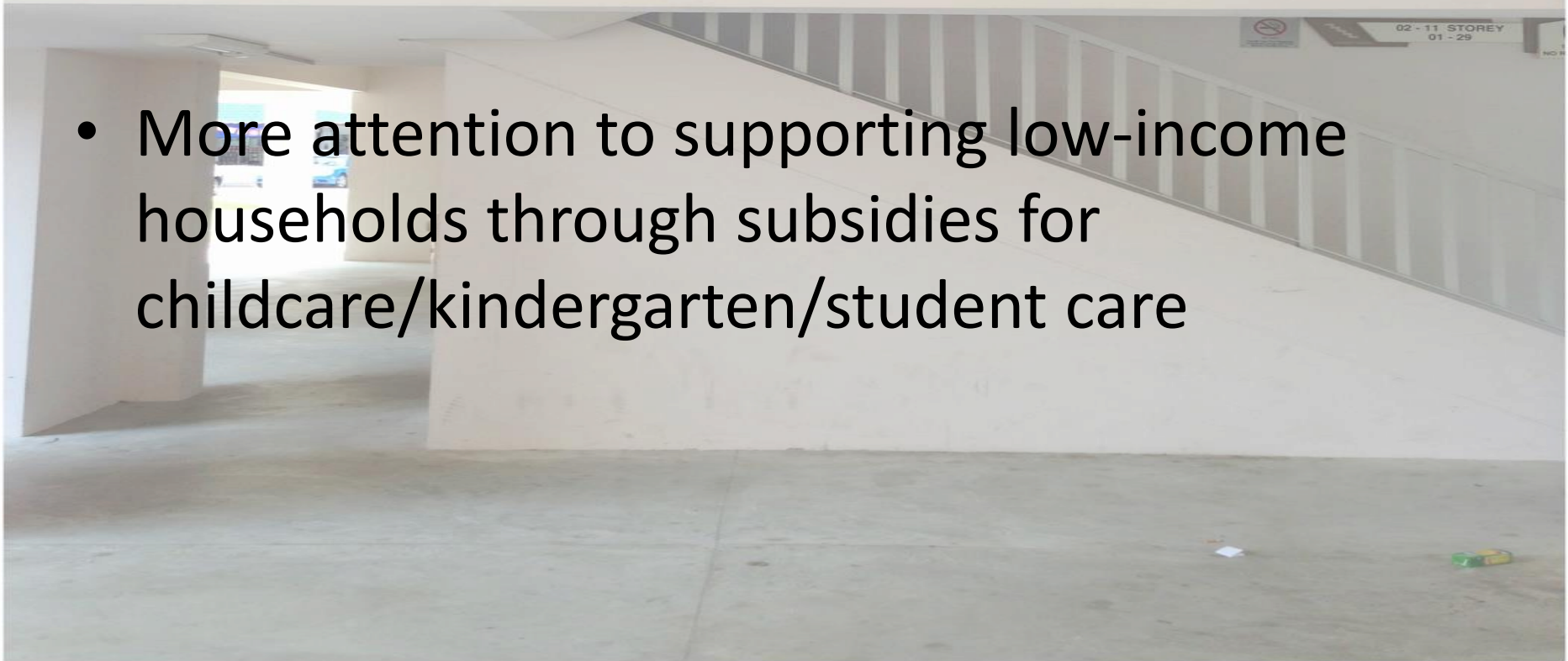
- Help from friends/family limited because they too have heavy responsibilities
- Childcare centres do not adequately address needs: no space nearby, hours don't match work schedule
- No access to paid workers for housework or childcare needs

# Recent policies: positive developments

- Slightly more concern for men's roles as caregivers



- More attention to supporting low-income households through subsidies for childcare/kindergarten/student care



# Watch the (care) gap

- **Rethink employment requirement for aid**



- **Address quality of wage work**

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# Expanding our lenses

- Similar needs/aspirations, but vastly different conditions
- “Work-life harmony” should not be class privilege



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