

This in the european
union. it shows



This chapter will outline the importance of childcare centres in a child's development and it also ascertains factors that may prevent mothers from making use of such services. In addition to this it will also delve into the importance of an adequate level of quality in order to be successful in childrearing and at the same time encourage mothers to enter into the labour market. In the next section we will start by discussing the woman in the labour market. Childcare centres in the 21st century was a revolution in aiding mothers in child upbringing whilst they engage themselves in work. According to Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) the participation of mothers in the labour market has implied changes to the traditional family.

This did not only affect child rearing but also the division of household chores. Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) insist on the fact that this is not only a one way direction such that now there are more women in the labour market but also a rise in non - parental childcare. The following Eurostat table (2005) shows the maternal employment rate in 2005 according to age and number of children in the European Union. It shows that the majority of mothers are in labour when the children attend school. Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) found that European countries have experienced an increase in the inflow of women into the labour market, even though most of them continue to assume the bulk of the responsibility regarding childcare. Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) also argue that childcare centres and grandparents might have been the reason for such an inflow of female workers in the labour market although in countries such as Italy, Spain and Greece children spent

few hours in child care centres. “ More women than ever are participating in the labourmarket.

Although more women may be working for wages, their hours spent doing unpaid household work has not diminished, increasing their overall work burden, time poverty, and stress. This raises the question: Are women really empowered under this model?” (Tran, Garcia, & Melesse, 2017).

Contrary wise Nicodemo and Waldmann (2009) say that women in the aforementioned three countries prefer to stay at home and take care of the children rather than opting for a wage due to a strong family culture and not because children are seen as an impediment.

Tran et al (2017) also emphasize on the fact that household chores and care duties should be minimized so as to reduce this twofold situation. Now we will have a brief outline of how government incentives and government decisions can affect the outcomes of childcare use. Government Incentives In 2014 the government of Malta initiated the free childcare scheme to children with both of their parents working (Government of Malta, 2014). According to Demarco (2017), until last June 2017, 7, 252 working parent were making use of these centres, whereby the number of parents using the free childcare scheme and are in education amounts to 109. Consequently parents can also make use of the breakfast club and Klabb for children of age 3-16.

The Maltese government has also been fostering an increase in the participation of women in the labour market in the context of EU policies, but despite this fact, a substantial amount of parents still choose not to send their children to child care centres in Malta and we have a high amount of

women still being inactive compared to EU. In fact the Malta Chamber of Commerce (2017) reveals findings showing that 55.5% of women from the ages of 20 and 64 are registered as employed. As a result, if women are inactive they are not entitled to free childcare services. In Sweden, according to Stanfors (2014) the government started giving subsidies to childcare in 1943. Childcare centres accelerated in the 1970's, when the government of that time made childcare a political issue. Stanfors (2014) adds the fact that childcare centres became very popular in Sweden whereby in 1990 fifty-seven percent of the children were in childcare centres with a significant increase in 1997. Hence the figure increased to seventy-five percent.

Stanfors (2014) augments the fact that along the years the government of the country in question always took into consideration the emotional resistance the parents had vis à vis childcare centres and was successful by evolving these centres into the best alternative for children to develop positively. As such, by 2012, eighty-four percent of Sweden's children aged 1-5 were in childcare.