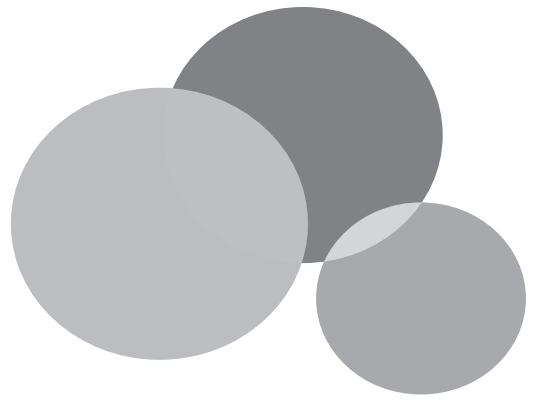


NINETEEN



Possible answer

Making sense

This is a very strong response to a simple question to which the expected answer would have been some brief narratives of personal experience. This is more like a rehearsed polemic about the roles and expectations of males and females within the medical profession and within the wider society. It may have been rehearsed for this interview, or, it may be a strongly held position, or it may have come out of a discussion at the father's playgroup where 'T' had had the opportunity to develop a position.

Interpret the material: This is a discussion of male and female roles in society where males still appear to be seen within Talcott Parson's notions of instrumentality and females within the nurturing role. The example of medicine is an interesting one as females who have achieved access to this elite profession are high flyers and high performers. Yet they too appear to be subject to strong traditional parenting expectations. These statements are contradicted by T's own situation where he is the stay at home person while his higher income wife is the primary paid worker. T obviously has strong views on the 'injustice' of the situation, suggesting that he is having some problems with the role. This may relate to others' responses to him or to his perceived loss of status and independent income. The statement that most males prefer to be breadwinners suggests that cultural socialisation into separate parenting roles is strong. A feminist analysis would see the initial stages of role reversal as confronting as they challenge previous 'norms' but that as society gets used to these changes greater egalitarianism will be achieved.