

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

المراة: أنا بشتغل مدرسة فرنساوي، وكنت في مدرس فرنسية من الحضانة. وبعدين أنا شايفة أنو في ستات كثير دلوقتي بتشتغل في مصر. زمان يعني الجيل بتاع مامتي كانوا قليلين إلي بيشتغلوا، كانوا بالزبط يعني في العمارة كلها يبقى في ثلاثة أربعة بالكثير بيشتغلوا. إنما دلوقتي أغلب الستات بتشتغل من كل الطبقات يعني سواء فقرا أو أغنياء، وبقي الشغل مهم جدا للست النهار داه، بس المشكلة إلي بتقابل الستات إلي بيشتغلوا أن هم بيضطروا يعملوا شغل البيت، ويربوا الولاد، ويزاكرلهم، وكرمان بيشتغلوا، فبيبقى عليهم جهد جامد، فدى بيخليهم شويه يقفوا عصبين. ففي كثير دلوقتي يقولوا دي حاجة مش كويسة، وأن المفروض الست مكانها البيت، والمفروض الستات تبطل تشتغل لأنهم زحموا الموصلات وزحموا الشوارع، وأخدين كمان الشغل من الرجالة. إذا كان في بطالة فدى بسبب إن الستات كثيره بتشتغل.

طبعاً الرأي داه غلط خالص. لو مسكنا الإحصائيات حنلاقي أن البطالة مش بسبب شغل الست، البطالة ليها أسباب تانية خالص مختلفة، غير خالص الموضوع داه. لأنو شغل الست أكد شخصيتها وقواها وإداها... خلاها تقدر تكسب حقوقها قدام الرجل لأن هي لما بتكسب فلوس هي هي بتقدر تبقى مستقلة وتحدد هي عايزة أيه، ومتعمدش على رجل سواء زوج أو أخ أو أب عشان تعيشش. فالشغل جزء من حرية المراة، حرية الست في المجتمع. وأنا بشجع كل أصحابي أن هم يشتغلوا، حتى إلي قاعدين في البيت، إلي اساساً أختاروا أن هم ميشتغلوش، وهم أغنيا ومش محتاجين شغل ولا حاجة. بقولهم أنتوا لازم تشتغلوا ولو عمل تطوعي، تتطوعوا بأي شغله. إلي مثلاً تتطوع تبع الجامع عشان تعمل نشاط للناس الفقراء أو كده، أو إلي بتتطوع بتبع الكنيسة بتعمل شغلة عشان الفقراء أو عشان الغلابه، فداه مهم جداً. لأنو الشغل بيحسس الست بكيانها، بإن هي مهمة، وإنها مش بس مكرسة كل حياتها للأولاد إلي بتربيهم وبعد كده بيمشوا ويسيبوها، وتقعد بئيه عندها حالة اكتئاب وز علانة وتحس أن هي ملهاش فائدة بعد ولادها ما بيخترجوا ويشتغلوا ويسيبوا البيت.

English translation:

Woman (grey-yellow shirt): I work as a French professor. And I was in a French school since nursery school. And ... and furthermore, it is my opinion that there are many women who work in Egypt now. Long ago, I mean, my mother's generation, the ones who worked were very few. They were exactly I mean, in the whole building, there were three or four maximum who were working. But today, the majority of women work, from all levels, whether poor or rich, and work has become something very important to women today. But the problem that working women face is that they have to do housework, raise the children and study with them, and they also work. This means they are under a great strain, which makes them a little anxious.

So, today, they are a lot of people who say that "women working is not a good thing, that the woman's place is supposed to be at home, and that women should stop working because they have overcrowded the means of transport, the streets, and they are also taking jobs from men. If there is unemployment, it is because there are many women who work." Of course, this opinion is completely wrong, and if we examine the statistics, we will find that unemployment is not due to women's work, and that unemployment has other completely different reasons, which have nothing to do with this situation.

A woman's work has affirmed her personality and strengthened her, and it has enabled her to gain her rights before men, because, when she gains money, she is able to be independent and determine what she wants, and not depend on a man -- be it a husband, brother, or father -- in order to live. So work is a part of the freedom of women, the freedom of women in society. And I encourage all of my friends to work, even those staying at home, who originally chose not to work, as they are rich and they don't need work or anything else. I tell them, "You have to work, even if you volunteer, volunteer in any activity ... [be] the one, for example, who volunteers for the mosque so she can be active for poor people or such, or the one who volunteers for the church also to do work for the poor and less privileged. So this is very important, because work makes the woman feel her existence, that she is important, and that she has not just devoted all her life to children that she raises ... and then they leave, and leave her, and then she sits, in a depression, and angry, feeling that she has no usefulness after her children graduate, and work, and leave the house.

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