

A Typical Day for a Suburban Woman

Shona transcript:

Hupenyu zuva nezuva hwemudzimai kuZimbabwe, semuenzaniso mudzimai asingashande. Ndichataura nezvemudzimai anogara, sekuChitungwiza, kunova *kuhigh density suburb*, kwekuti pamwe vanenge vachigara pamba vari roja, vanenge vasina imba yavo, saka vanenge vachigarawo neimwe mhuri paimba imwechete. Mangwanani kazhinji kana pari pamusha pekuti panogara muridzi wemba nemaroja, vanoita anonzi *maduty*. Saka aya madzoro ekuti ndiani anotsvaira panze, ndiani anogeza *sink*, ndiani anogeza chimbuzi. Kazhinji munhu anomuka na4am mangwanani kana aine dzoro rekutsvaira panze, otsvaira panze, otsvaira muchimbuzi, okorobha mumba, oshainisa, oisa cobra. Kana apedza, ogadzira vana vechikoro, dzimwe nguva vana vanenge vachienda kuchikoro mangwanani, dzimwe nguva vanenge vachienda kuchikoro masikati. Apedza kugadzirira vana vechikoro anovagezesa, ovapfekedza, obika porridge, oona kuti zvoni vana vadya porridge. Kana murume wake achienda kubasa, anomuka, odziisa mvura yekuti baba vageze. Zvese izvozvo zviri kuitita kuti zvoni baba vabude mumba *by 6am* kana kuti vana vaende kuchikoro nenguva dza7 mangwananai. Kana apedza izvozvo, achamhanya mhanya kuti atange kuisa muriwo wemanheru pamoto nekuti magetsi achaenda na10am. Kana baba vaenda kubasa, mai vachasara votanga kutsvaira mumba mavo, vapedza kutsvaira mumba, kana vachifanira kuwacha, vowacha nokuti kazhinji mvura inoenda masikati. Votanga kuwacha, voita basa rese, kana vapedza vadya ivo, vogadzirira kuti vana vadzoke kuchikoro masikati. Saka vanofanira kubikira vana kudya kwemasikati zvakare.

Dzimwe nguva mai vanogona vaine musika panze, pamusha pavo, vogadzira kuti zvoni vagadzire zvinhu zvavo zvavanotengesa pamusika. Kazhinji zvakare, madzimai iwaya anotengesa kumusika anotofanira kumuka mangwanani-ngwanani kuti vanohodha zvavanotengesa zvisati zvapera. Kana vapedza mabasa avo epamusha amai, vazhinji vanokwanisa kunge vachienda kumachechi, kumisangano yekumachechi kana kuti vanonotsvaga huni dzekubika kana kuti vanonotenga zvimwe zvinodiwa mumba. Kana vapedza zvese izvozvi, kuma4 emanheru vaenge vakutodzokera kumba kuti vatange kubika kuti baba vadzoke kumusha. Saka ukatarisisa hupenyu hwemudzimai wekuZimbabwe zuva nezuva, haana zuva, haana nguva yokuti agare pasi azorore kana kuti afunge angaite sei. Nguva nenguva anenge achiita basa, nguva nguva anenge achifunga kuti saka tichadyei manheru, saka tichadyei magwana masikati, saka vana vachaita sei? Kana vana vadzoka kuchikoro anogona kuwacha mbatya dzevana kuchikoro, anogona kuita mamwe mabasa.

Manheru ndiyo nguva yekuti mhuri dzinoungana pakudya kwemanheru, baba vanenge vadzoka, vana vanenge vadzoka kuchikoro, vorara manheru mangwana vodzokorodza. Asiwo chimwe chandinooona ndechekuti vana mai vanodzidzisa vana vavo vasikana mabasa epamusha kuti vana vevasikana vavabatsire. Naizvozvo, hupenyu hwemwanasikana hunoramba huchingotenderera pakuti unodzidziswa kuita basa

rehumai. Unodzidziswa kuva musikana anokwanisa kuita basa pamusha. Asiwo vanakomana vanodzidziszawo mabasa akasiyana-siyana. Pane vamwe ana mai mazuvano vaakudawo kuti vana vevakomana vakwanise kudzidza kuita mabasa epamusha, zvakaita sekubika, zvakaita sekusuka, zvakaita sekutsvaira. Kotiwo vamwe vana mai vekuti vana vavo vakomana hapana chavanoita, vanongoitawo mabasa ekungonzi sekuti mugarden, kudiridza kana kuti kugadzirisa chinhu chingenge chafa pamusha. Vanasikana vachiita mabasa akawanda wanda. Saka zvakangosiyana-siyana. Asi sekuona kwangu, mudzimai haana zororo nekuti basa rake nderekuona kuti zvinhu zvese pamusha zvakanaka, zvinhu zvese pamusha zvakagadzikana.

English translation:

The everyday life of a woman in Zimbabwe, for example, an unemployed woman... I will talk about a woman who lives in Chitungwiza, which is a densely populated suburb, where people usually share a rented house with another family. In the morning, usually if it is a house where there is the landlord and tenants, they carry out duties. These are duties for chores such as sweeping the yard, cleaning the sinks and the toilets. Usually the person who will be on duty wakes up around 4:00 a.m., sweeps the yard, sweeps the bathroom, mops and shines the floor, and applies floor polish. After finishing this, she makes sure that the children are ready for school. Sometimes the children go to school in the morning and sometimes they go in the afternoon. After preparing food for the children, she bathes them [the children], clothes them, cooks porridge and makes sure the children eat the porridge. If the husband goes to work, she wakes up and boils his bathing water. All of this happens such that the husband would be able to leave for work by 6:00 a.m., and the children would leave the house for school by 7:00 a.m. After this, she begins to run around the house and makes sure that she puts the meat for dinner on the stove, because there are power cuts around 10:00 a.m. When the husband goes to work, the woman begins to sweep the house. After sweeping the house, she does the laundry if it is there, because usually there is no water supply in the afternoon. So she washes the clothes and finishes the rest of the household chores. When she is done, she finally gets to eat her breakfast and begins to prepare lunch for the children, who come back from school in the afternoon.

Sometimes the mother has a *musika*¹ at the house, so she gets ready to sell her goods. Usually women who own *misika*² wake up early in the morning to go and buy their goods in bulk before they run out. When she is done with all the chores at the house, a mother can go to church meetings, or some go to look for firewood, and some go to the mall to buy things needed in the house. When they finish this, around 4:00 p.m., they return home to prepare dinner, especially for the husband who will be coming back from work. So if you look at the life of a woman in Zimbabwe, she does not have time to rest and think about her future plans. Most of the time she will be doing work, thinking about the food she will prepare for dinner, thinking about what they will eat the following day,

¹ *Musika* is a market stall where a person can sell her goods. Usually it is clothes and vegetables.

² *Misika* is the plural for *musika*.

thinking about the children's plans. Usually when the children come back from school, she washes their school uniforms and does any necessary work.

The evening is the time that the family gets to eat dinner together; the father will be back from work, and the children will be back from school. After this they sleep, and the same routine happens the following day. However, the other thing I notice is that mothers teach their daughters certain household chores, so that the daughters can help them with some of the chores. Therefore the life of a girl is a cycle in the sense that you are taught the duties of a mother. You are taught to become a girl who can do any household chores. Even boys are taught different chores. Nowadays, there are some mothers who want their sons to learn to carry out some house chores such as cooking, doing the dishes, and sweeping. Then there are mothers whose sons do not do any household chores. They only do chores such as watering the garden or repairing any broken machines at the house, while the girls do quite a variety of work. Thus it [work distribution] depends with families. But, in my own opinion, I think women do not have time to rest [because they are busy] making sure that everything in the house is in order.

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