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Gender Differences in Cleaning Your Hotel Room

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At home, the majority of women do more cleaning involving such household tasks as cooking, washing the dishes, keeping the floors clean, and so on while the men tend to achieve little of the household cleaning load with the exception of managing the finances and doing household repairs. However, when in a hotel room setting a man will throw away trash, straighten up the bathroom by putting the used towels in a pile, and engage in other straightening activities more than a woman will. I want to look into this because I found it interesting that in my personal experiences women will do more cleaning tasks than men at home but when in a hotel room men will engage in more cleaning tasks than women. I would like to research the rationale for this phenomenon.

When I looked at peer reviewed journal articles I found none pertaining specifically to gender differences in cleaning a hotel room but did find several concerning the unequal distribution of household chores. Youli (1996) wrote about how girls at a young age are trained to do household chores and are told they have to get married when they grow up and at the same time observe their brothers being allowed to play outside and not be obligated to do household chores. Bartkowski (1999) showed that household chores were distributed unevenly in the Protestant families that he studied. Women were in charge of the majority of the household chores including cooking and cleaning. Studies that used people of various religious backgrounds would also be helpful. Lobel, Slone, Ashuach, and Revach (2001) showed that even with the number of women in the

workforce the women still perform a substantially greater amount of household chores than men. Thus I predict that even though women do more household chores at home. From my personal experience, I also hypothesize that men will engage in more household chores in hotel rooms than women will.

Method

Participants

Participants will be 200 males and 200 females ranging in age from 18 to 60. They will be recruited by an ad which will be run in the newspaper and be available via the internet on the newspaper's website. Participants will be picked randomly from the responses from the ad. Experimental sessions will be conducted by both female and male researchers.

Materials

Researchers will need a hotel to use for the participants to stay in, video equipment set up in every room to tape the participants, monitors to watch the video, staff for the hotel including housekeepers, pencils, pens, paper, calculators, and everything needed in a regular hotel room such as towels, snacks, and refreshments. The hotel room which would be used would be one that meets standardized cleanliness and a medium to high level of comfort.

Procedure

When they arrive at the hotel where the experiment will take place, they will be asked to sign informed consent papers that make them aware that they could be videotaped throughout the session. Each participant will have their own room and no one will be allowed to have other people in their room at night. They will be told that the

study involves how servers react differently to guests depending on how they are dressed.

The hotel rooms the participants will be staying in would have big enough private bathrooms in their individual hotel rooms in which they could change their clothes.

Participants will be asked to dine in the hotel restaurant several times in different types of clothing, such as casual and formal wear. However, the real experiment will be the researchers' observation of the cleaning habits of the individuals via the video feedback. Observations will be divided into genders, male and female. A standardized checklist with clear definitions will be available for each gender and records will be taken any time any of the participants throw away trash, pile the used towels together, and keep dirty clothes together as opposed to scattered throughout the room or other cleaning tasks. At the end of the three days, two nights study the checklists will be added up to statistically determine which gender performed more cleaning tasks throughout the experiment. Upon completion of the experiment I would thank each participant for their time and make sure each participant is debriefed by explaining to them the true purpose of the study was to find out if there were gender differences in relation to cleaning your own hotel room and how the study could benefit both hotel chains and their customers. Each participant would also be asked to give their written permission for the researchers to keep the videotape footage for further study. I would also have contact information given to them in order for them to be able to reach the researcher in the future.

Implications

By using a t-test analysis I would expect to find results that show men perform more cleaning tasks than women do while in the hotel room. These results would consist of statistics that would show a majority of the participants who were men engaged in more household tasks while in the hotel room than did participants who were female. The results would indicate that hotel rooms that had male occupants were more likely to take less time to clean and get ready for the next patron than would hotel rooms that had female occupants. This information could help hotel chains better manage their assignment of the number of housekeepers who are responsible for the cleaning of specific hotel rooms. This could lead to less cost for hotels and perhaps in the long run cheaper rates for its patrons. If the results did not support the hypothesis then there would be no evidence from this study that there are gender differences in cleaning your hotel room.

References

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