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Poverty is a global issue that affects millions of people, despite geographical and cultural barriers. It is defined as a lack of resources required for an acceptable level of living, including inadequate access to education, healthcare, and work prospects. According to Sen's capacity approach, poverty is more than just a lack of income; it also includes a lack of fundamental capabilities that allow people to live satisfying lives. This multidimensional view emphasizes the complexities of poverty and the necessity for comprehensive methods to address its basic causes.

Poverty has a far-reaching influence on communities and cultures. Persistent poverty can cause a vicious cycle of disadvantage, in which a lack of access to education and healthcare fosters intergenerational poverty. Childhood poverty may limit educational prospects and impede social mobility, contributing to the persistence of poverty over generations. Addressing poverty necessitates a multidimensional strategy that includes economic measures, social initiatives, and empowerment strategies. Scholars such as Sachs call for the implementation of sustainable development goals to eliminate poverty in all of its dimensions, including education, health, and economic progress. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 1 (Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2015) particularly aims to eliminate all types of poverty, highlighting the necessity of global cooperation and concentrated efforts to help the poor.

The feminization of poverty, a global phenomenon, highlights how economic adversity affects women disproportionately. Diana Pearce's idea of the feminization of poverty refers to a tendency in which women make up a larger proportion of persons living in poverty, often due to systematic gender inequities. Women experience various problems that contribute to their economic vulnerability, including salary disparities, limited access to education and career prospects, and the burden of unpaid caregiving. The intersectionality of gender and poverty needs a comprehensive understanding of women's distinctive problems within the larger context of socioeconomic disadvantage.

Stephanie Land's novel *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* is a moving firsthand narrative that speaks to the difficulties of the feminization of poverty. In her story, Land describes her experiences as a single mother working as a maid, negotiating the difficulties of low-wage jobs, minimal social support, and the shame associated with poverty. Her tale serves as a microcosm of the bigger structural factors that contribute to the feminization of poverty, demonstrating the interdependence of human narratives with larger social and economic systems.

Land's work not only acts as a personal testimonial but also adds to the continuing discussion about poverty and gender disparities. Drawing on her personal experiences, Land paints a vivid and empathic picture of the difficulties that many women confront, highlighting the importance of institutional changes to address the core causes of the feminization of poverty. As readers connect with Land's tale, they acquire insight into the larger cultural mechanisms that perpetuate gender inequities and limit women's economic potential.

Gender inequality and poverty are intertwined concerns that need comprehensive approaches to sustainable change. Sachs supports for sustainable development objectives that address the multifaceted facets of poverty, including gender inequities. Societies can seek to create an environment that empowers women economically and breaks the cycle of poverty by tackling structural concerns like uneven pay and inadequate access to education and healthcare.

Diana Pearce's theory of the feminization of poverty, introduced in 1978, emphasizes the gendered aspect of poverty and its disproportionate impact on women. This approach goes beyond economic statistics to recognize the linked issues that contribute to women's economic vulnerabilities, such as pay discrepancies, limited access to education and work, and the weight of caring duties.

Linking the feminization of poverty theory to Stephanie Land's novel *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* sheds light on women's lived experiences within the larger framework of systematic gender disparities. Land's experiences are consistent with Pearce's theory, as she deals with the economic problems of low-wage jobs, restricted professional growth opportunities, and cultural shame associated with poverty. The novel provides a moving depiction of the linked challenges mentioned in the theory, showing how women, particularly single moms, manage the intricate web of hurdles that lead to their excessive representation among those living in poverty.

The incorporation of feminization of poverty theory into discussions about poverty and gender inequality emphasizes the significance of identifying and addressing the diverse nature of women's economic challenges. Scholars like Sachs advocate for holistic methods, highlighting the need to address not just economic inequities but also the underlying social and cultural elements that lead to the feminization of poverty.

The novel *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* by Stephanie Land serves as a sensitive lens through which to see the complicated themes of poverty and gender inequality. It allows for a more nuanced investigation of the themes raised in Land's work and provides a conceptual platform for investigating the larger systemic causes impacting women's economic

challenges. By choosing this narrative and theory combination, the author aims to contribute to a more comprehensive discussion of the issues women confront in low-wage jobs and emphasize the need to tackle the systematic injustices that perpetuate the feminization of poverty.

The researcher aims to analyze the factors of feminization of poverty experienced by Stephanie Land in *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* and the varied responses exhibited by her. This study is relevant to the literature on postcolonial novels that focus on feminism and gender issues, such as Amma Darko's *Housemaid* and *Faceless*. These works highlight the central issue of poverty as seen through the lens of postcolonial feminism, emphasizing the plight of women and raising social awareness.

Related studies include Kouadio Pascal KOFFI's paper "Feminization of Poverty as a Postcolonial Feminist Parlance in Amma Darko's *The Housemaid* and *Faceless*," which examines poverty as a crucial component of Amma Darko's feminist discourse. Eleanor Thornton Hough's thesis, "The Good Old Days, when Times Were Bad: The Feminization of Poverty, Its Traumatic Effects, and Care-based Recovery in Appalachian Literature," examines how poverty is portrayed, the trauma it causes, and ways to mitigate its negative effects in Elizabeth Madox Roberts's *The Time of Man*, Barbara Kingsolver's *Flight Behavior*, and Toni Morrison's *Home*.

The third study by Rosanne Kennedy uses "domestic humanitarianism" as a critical lens to examine the cultural logics and moral economy that shape Stephanie Land's book *Maid* and the episode "Three Miles" of *This American Life*. This investigation sheds light on the humanitarian remedies and impromptu responses to economic insecurity that have taken the place of the American Dream's fading promises.

These studies collectively contribute to the scholarly discourse on the feminization of poverty in novels, offering diverse perspectives and analytical frameworks for understanding the representation of women's economic vulnerabilities in literary works. To conduct the analysis, researchers gather supporting material from journals and scholarly works, identify themes, patterns, and recurrent motifs in the texts, read the novel multiple times, and analyze data qualitatively.

The steps used to acquire data include reading the novel multiple times, highlighting and taking notes on relevant dialogues, signals, and statements, drawing on Diana Pearce's idea of feminization of poverty, recognizing women's challenges to make ends meet and survive poverty, and collecting credible results and evidence from the book to form a final conclusion.

In conclusion, this study aims to analyze the factors of feminization of poverty experienced by Stephanie Land in *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* and the varied responses exhibited by her. By examining these studies, the researcher hopes to provide valuable insights into the representation of women's economic vulnerabilities in literary works.

This research focuses on a qualitative content analysis of Stephanie Land's novel, *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, to explore the nuanced portrayal of the feminization of poverty. The research design draws inspiration from Diana Pearce's theory of the feminization of poverty, which emphasizes the interplay between gender and poverty. By employing qualitative content analysis, the study seeks to uncover recurring themes, patterns, and narratives within the text, focusing on factors such as wage disparities, limited access to education and employment opportunities, and societal stigmatization.

The research presentation will culminate in a thematic analysis, organizing extracted data into overarching themes that capture the essence of the feminization of poverty in *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*. The analysis will explore the character responses to the identified factors, shedding light on the coping mechanisms employed by Stephanie Land. The findings will be interpreted in the context of Pearce's theory and related studies, contributing novel insights to the ongoing discourse on gender, poverty, and literature.

Data sources for this study include the entire novel, journals, thesis, and reviews on the feminization of poverty and other relevant topics. The researcher collects data using a qualitative technique, gathering detailed information on a study topic, which can then be utilized to establish research objectives. The researcher gathers supporting material from journals and scholarly works, identifying themes, patterns, and recurrent motifs in the texts that offer insight on the personal and social factors driving the feminization of poverty.

The steps used to acquire data include reading the novel multiple times, highlighting and taking notes on relevant dialogues, signals, and statements, drawing on Diana Pearce's idea of feminization of poverty, which emphasizes the disproportionate impact of poverty on women, recognizing women's challenges to make ends meet and survive poverty, and collecting credible results and evidence from the book to form a final conclusion.

The researcher groups the data or notes gathered throughout the process of gathering data into categories according to their own topics. The researcher describes the data from the novel discussed the factors including unpaid care work, single motherhood, gender wage gap,

occupational segregation, discrimination and stereotypes, inadequate social safety nets, and the responses that are seeking employment, utilizing available social safety nets, and seeking legal and social protection by using the theory of feminization of poverty. The personal and social factors of feminization of poverty and the varied responses exhibited by Stephanie in the novel are then analyzed.

The research was presented into four chapters: the introduction, which consists of the background of the study, problem formulation, objectives, review on related studies, method of the study, and presentation of the study; the theoretical approach, theoretical framework, such as the theory of feminization of poverty and gender discrimination; the analysis of the gender discrimination experienced by the character Stephanie in the book *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*; and the conclusion.

This chapter discusses the theoretical approach and theoretical framework used to analyze Stephanie's book *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*. The author uses the theory of feminization of poverty by Diana Pearce to analyze the disproportionate prevalence of poverty among women in Stephanie's book.

The sociology of literature plays a crucial role in understanding the feminization of poverty. Arlie Hochschild's study "The Second Shift" highlights the uneven allocation of domestic labor within homes, which contributes to women's economic vulnerabilities. Sociologist Arlie Klase's journal paper "Gender Inequality, Income, and Economic Growth: A Causal Nexus" highlights the systemic aspect of the issue, emphasizing the need for extensive sociopolitical interventions to address the underlying reasons of poor feminization.

Hill Collins' study "The Feminization of Poverty in the United States: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, and Family Structure" introduces intersectionality as a critical term, emphasizing the importance of considering multiple social identities when understanding the feminization of poverty. Alice Walker's novel "The Color Purple" provides a literary prism through which to study impoverished women's lives, focusing on the confluence of race, gender, and class.

The feminization of poverty is a sociological term that emphasizes the disproportionate and growing concentration of poverty among women, particularly those who lead homes. This problem is driven by several structural and systemic variables that contribute to women's economic fragility. One critical factor is the gender wage gap, which often results in women earning less than their male colleagues for identical work. This discrepancy restricts women's financial freedom and increases their chances of sliding into poverty.

Diana Pearce's study "The Feminization of Poverty: Women, Work, and Welfare" delves into the elements that contribute to poverty feminization. Hochschild and Machung propose that the uneven allocation of caring obligations worsens the feminization of poverty. Women are often saddled with the major obligation for unpaid domestic labor and caring, restricting their options to work in the formal economy and impeding professional progress. This caring load can be a substantial barrier to women's economic well-being since it limits their capacity to work full-time or seek education and training for better job opportunities.

Poverty is further feminized by social policies and institutional behaviors. A lack of inexpensive daycare, insufficient family leave legislation, and restricted access to healthcare might disproportionately affect women, impeding their ability to manage work and family duties. Williams discusses these structural impediments and underlines the significance of closing policy gaps to lessen economic inequities for women.

The feminization of poverty involves the phenomena in which women are overrepresented among destitute people, shedding light on gender discrepancies in economic well-being and the variables that lead to women's greater vulnerability to poverty. According to Pearce and Brooks, the feminization of poverty is rooted in systemic and structural disparities rather than individual decisions or actions.

Gender roles and cultural expectations have a significant influence on women's economic standing, which is an important part of the feminization of poverty. Chant underlines the importance of established gender norms that assign women main responsibilities for unpaid caring and household chores. This gendered division of work restricts women's capacity to fully engage in the labor market, resulting in lower incomes and more economic vulnerability.

Intersectionality is another important aspect of feminization of poverty. Hooks discusses how women's poverty experiences are impacted not only by gender but also by elements such as race, class, and ethnicity. Women from disadvantaged groups are frequently subjected to many types of discrimination and disadvantage, increasing their likelihood of poverty.

In conclusion, the feminization of poverty is the result of a complex interaction of causes, each contributing to women's increased economic vulnerability. The ongoing gender wage gap, caregiving duties, and personal factors all play a significant role in understanding the feminization of poverty and its impact on women's lives.

The feminization of poverty is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive understanding of the interconnectedness of gender, race, and class. Women from marginalized racial and ethnic groups often face discrimination and disadvantage, leading to greater poverty rates among women of color compared to white counterparts. Recognizing and addressing these intersecting inequities is crucial for devising successful methods to reduce poverty feminization.

Diana Pearce's "Feminization of Poverty" theory provides a comprehensive framework for evaluating and explaining the gendered dynamics of poverty. Pearce identifies two factors contributing to growing poverty: the role of various income sources and the assistance system. These factors include women's occupational segregation, the significant decrease in private transfers experienced by most women upon separation or divorce, and the overall underrepresentation of women in government work-related benefits. The assistance system contributes to female poverty through income-disregard programs and the Work Incentive Program, which create a "workhouse without walls," confining women in unskilled and low-wage occupations.

The feminization of poverty is characterized by the rising concentration of women, particularly those who are heads of families, among the lowest of the poor. This problem is inextricably related to gender-based income discrepancies, career possibilities, and the unfair allocation of caregiving obligations in society. This theory outlines major variables that contribute to women's overrepresentation among the poor, such as salary discrepancies, restricted access to school and career prospects, and the weight of caring obligations.

In Stephanie Land's book *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, personal factors that trigger the feminization of poverty are divided into two factors: unpaid care work and single motherhood. Unpaid care work is linked to the feminization of poverty, as it supports the occurrence of women's poverty in the scope of single mothers due to separation and divorce. Single mothers often have restricted access to well-paying professions, a shortage of affordable childcare, and societal stigma, all of which contribute to their greater risk of sliding into poverty.

Social factors also play a significant role in the feminization of poverty. Single mothers are more likely to face financial insecurity and restricted economic possibilities, increasing their risk of sliding into poverty. They often face a range of social challenges, including occupational segregation, low-paying jobs, and inadequate welfare systems. Poverty can perpetuate an intergenerational cycle of disadvantage, as impoverished children are more likely to have educational challenges, health disparities, and restricted opportunities for advancement.

Gender pay disparities and occupational segregation are key components of the feminization of poverty. The higher the percentage of female workers in an occupation, the lower the average income in that occupation, and the majority of the earnings gap between men and women can be accounted for by the various jobs held by men and women.

In *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and A Mother's Will to Survive*, Diana Pearce explores the feminization of poverty, which is a social phenomenon that promotes women's poverty due to discrimination and social stigma. This is exacerbated by the welfare system, which provides incentives to work while on assistance, often giving people less than the state determines they require. This insufficiency of social safety nets, including insufficient help for childcare, healthcare, and housing, leads to women's economic fragility, making it difficult for them to overcome the cycle of poverty.

Women respond to the feminization of poverty through various coping methods and tactics. Diana Pearce's work highlights the gendered aspect of economic suffering and the disproportionate impact on women. Her paradigm also provides insights into how women respond to these obstacles. Women may use both individual and collective coping methods to negotiate the complicated web of economic vulnerability, such as seeking employment, using available social safety nets, and seeking legal and social protections.

1. **Seeking Employment:** Women actively seek jobs to combat the gender wage gap and occupational segregation, which contribute significantly to the feminization of poverty. They hope that by actively engaging in the job market, they can improve their economic well-being.
2. **Utilizing Available Social Safety Nets:** Women have responded to their new economic vulnerability by seeking work and entering the labor market in increasing numbers. This response exemplifies women's empowerment in the face of economic hardships. Women hope that by actively engaging in the job market, they can combat the gender wage gap and occupational segregation, both of which contribute considerably to the feminization of poverty.
3. **Seeking Legal and Social Protections:** Women respond to the feminization of poverty by seeking legal and social safeguards as well as economic opportunity. They advocate for legal measures to combat employment discrimination and demand social safeguards that acknowledge and meet their specific needs, thus fighting the institutional hurdles that contribute to the feminization of poverty.

In conclusion, Diana Pearce's theory of the feminization of poverty shows both the structural causes that contribute to women's economic vulnerability and the dynamic and adaptive remedies that women deploy. Understanding these responses is critical for designing successful policies and programs that economically empower women and contribute to ending the cycle of

feminization of poverty. Pearce's timeless ideas continue to affect conversations about gender, poverty, and the continual search of economic justice for women.

Chapter III of this analysis explores the feminization of poverty, a concept introduced by Diana Pearce, which highlights the structural variables that contribute to women's economic vulnerabilities. Stephanie Land's book, *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, provides a moving account of the interplay between gender and poverty, highlighting how women, particularly single mothers, are disproportionately affected by economic difficulties.

Land's narrative emphasizes the institutional hurdles and injustices that lead to the feminization of poverty, such as a scarcity of job opportunities, inadequate compensation, and a lack of support systems. Her experiences reflect broader societal trends where women, especially those who lead homes, are increasingly locked in low-paying occupations with no upward mobility. The gender pay gap, caregiving obligations, and a lack of access to excellent education and job training all contribute to women's poverty.

The book debunks misconceptions that poverty is caused by human failure or laziness, instead highlighting the institutional mechanisms that imprison women in poverty cycles. Land's experiences call for measures that address gender inequality, improve support networks for working parents, and promote equitable salaries and opportunity for all.

The study aims to discover how women respond to the feminization of poverty, relying on Pearce's findings and expanding on previous research. The discussion will delve into the various techniques used by women to combat economic inequality, including the difficulties of looking for work, leveraging accessible social safety nets, and advocating for legal and social safeguards.

The discussion chapter will examine the findings' implications in connection to current research, highlighting gaps and providing ideas that can broaden our understanding of how women overcome economic challenges in the larger societal context. It will also go beyond theoretical reflections and look at the research's practical consequences, assisting policymakers, advocates, and practitioners with useful insights by investigating the lived experiences of women reacting to the feminization of poverty.

In conclusion, the discussion chapter serves as the analytical heart of this research, providing a platform to synthesize, interpret, and contribute to the evolving discourse on the feminization of poverty and women's responses in the pursuit of economic justice.

In *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, Stephanie Land explores the concept of feminization of poverty, which suggests that poverty is not gender-neutral but rather linked to gender dynamics. This theory emphasizes the disproportionate representation of women among the poor due to issues such as the gender pay gap, vocational segregation, and the burden of unpaid care duties.

Land's story serves as a case study for investigating the expression of gendered economic inequality, aligning with Pearce's emphasis on the concentration of poverty among female-headed families. Her pursuit of low-paid employment, a prominent issue in the book, echoes Pearce's views on the consequences of the female wage gap and occupational segregation. Land's labor market issues and difficulties in obtaining secure, well-paying jobs provide a vivid example of the structural inequities underlying Pearce's theory.

Land's dependence on social safety nets and public assistance programs, as described in the book, is consistent with Pearce's claim that women, particularly those suffering economic difficulty, frequently turn to existing social safety nets to help them overcome financial difficulties. The use of support systems becomes a visible representation of the societal mechanisms that lead to the feminization of poverty.

When Land faces legal and societal hurdles along the way, the relevance of Pearce's theory becomes clear. Obstacles she faces, such as discrimination and weak legal safeguards, support Pearce's claim that women must deal with structural concerns that exacerbate their economic insecurity.

Using Diana Pearce's theory of feminization of poverty in *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* gives a compelling analytical framework for comprehending the gendered components of poverty as shown in Land's personal narrative. The intersection of theoretical insights and lived experiences deepens our understanding of how systemic inequalities contribute to the feminization of poverty, transforming Land's story into a broader commentary on the structural challenges that women face in their pursuit of economic stability.

Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land is a novel that explores the human aspects that contribute to the feminization of poverty. One significant personal aspect in the story is the weight of unpaid care work, which is a central motif throughout the novel. The novel portrays Land's struggle as a single mother to balance the obligations of caring for her kid with the hurdles of finding secure employment. This is

consistent with Diana Pearce's idea of the feminization of poverty, which emphasizes the undervaluation of unpaid domestic labor as a key factor leading to women's economic vulnerability (Pearce D., 1978).

The novel delves into single parenthood, providing another lens through which to explore the human dynamics linked with the feminization of poverty. Land's story reveals the intricacies and difficulties that single mothers confront as they strive to strike a delicate balance between employment and family obligations. The difficulties of single parenthood add to women's overall economic fragility, supporting Pearce's claim that female-headed families are disproportionately concentrated among the poor (Pearce D., 1978). By addressing these personal elements in the context of Land's experiences, the story adds to our knowledge of how individual challenges interact with larger societal systems to perpetuate the feminization of poverty.

Unpaid care work is a significant personal aspect in the feminization of poverty. Land's story vividly depicts the challenging and sometimes unnoticed task of caring, as she struggles to raise her kid while navigating the complications of low-wage work. The representation of Land's everyday existence clearly illustrates the undervaluation of unpaid domestic work, which is important to Diana Pearce's idea of the feminization of poverty. The story not only reveals the human sacrifices involved in caring but also serves as a heartbreaking critique on the societal disparities that perpetuate the feminization of poverty.

In the novel, Stephanie, a single mother, is shown negotiating with her child's father, Jamie, to care for their daughter, Mia, for longer periods of time so that she may work. Jamie's refusal to help, citing financial pressure and inconvenience, highlights the uneven distribution of caregiving work within the partnership, with the mother carrying the majority of childcare chores while experiencing financial restrictions. Jamie's resistance to cooperate and outburst of fury emphasize the emotional cost of managing these interactions, aggravating the mother's difficulties in juggling work and caring commitments. This relationship emphasizes caring wages as a crucial component contributing to the feminization of poverty, since women's unpaid and undervalued labor in caregiving duties frequently goes unnoticed and unacknowledged, prolonging cycles of economic vulnerability and dependence.

Stephanie Land's book *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* highlights the challenges faced by single mothers, particularly in terms of economic fragility. Land's struggles as a single mother include unpaid care work, institutional restrictions that prevent female-headed families from advancing economically, and the emotional toll and difficulty of handling motherhood in the setting of economic uncertainty. This is consistent with Diana Pearce's feminization of poverty hypothesis, which highlights the concentration of poverty among women, particularly those who run families (Pearce, 1978).

Land's story also highlights the interconnectedness of single motherhood and poverty, exposing the increased hurdles and structural challenges that women face while attempting to claim their parental rights and provide for their children while living in a low-income environment. The novel paints a vivid picture of the feminization of poverty, highlighting the gendered elements of poverty and the structural injustices that exist within society systems. One prominent societal aspect highlighted in the novel is the gender wage gap, which becomes apparent as Land struggles with restricted earning prospects and pay inequalities when compared to her male colleagues.

Land's experiences are consistent with Diana Pearce's theoretical framework on the feminization of poverty, which highlights the disproportionate representation of women among the disadvantaged owing to reasons such as uneven compensation and limited access to well-paying occupations. Additionally, Land's depiction of occupational segregation emphasizes the gendered aspect of specific jobs, where women are frequently concentrated in low-wage sectors like domestic work and caring. This supports Pearce's contention that occupational segregation maintains economic inequities by restricting women's access to higher-paying occupations (Pearce, 1978).

Furthermore, Land's story reveals the widespread impact of discrimination and prejudices in the job market, aggravating the feminization of poverty. Her interactions with unfair recruiting processes and the cultural stigma associated with specific job positions show the structural difficulties that women face while looking for work. These experiences are consistent with Pearce's claim that gender discrimination impedes women's economic growth, contributing to their overrepresentation among the poor (Pearce, 1978).

Land's reliance on insufficient social safety nets, such as welfare programs, highlights the structural limitations in assisting women experiencing economic difficulty. As she navigates bureaucratic red tape and cultural stigma associated with public aid, the story emphasizes the need for comprehensive changes to overcome the shortcomings of social safety nets in relieving poverty among women. Overall, Land's perspective clearly depicts the societal elements that contribute to the feminization of poverty, providing a strong critique of society's structural injustices.

In *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, Stephanie Land explores the gender pay disparity as a significant socioeconomic element leading to the feminization of poverty. The story highlights the discrepancies in salaries and employment options as Stephanie navigates the low-wage work market, echoing the larger social issue of uneven compensation for

men and women. The difficulties she encounters in finding well-paying work are consistent with Diana Pearce's idea of the feminization of poverty, which emphasizes the gendered aspect of economic inequality (Pearce, 1978). Land's experiences highlight the structural injustices embedded in the labor market, emphasizing the widespread influence of the gender wage gap as a predictor of women's economic fragility.

The gender wage gap is evident in the unequal allocation of financial resources and decision-making authority in Stephanie and Travis's relationship. Stephanie is often excluded from financial rewards, with Travis pocketing the money collected from his parents without compensating her. When Stephanie voices worries about their lack of financial involvement, Travis rejects their contributions while asserting authority over the household money, implying entitlement and male privilege. This research demonstrates how the gender wage gap interacts with larger societal processes to sustain women's economic vulnerability and promote poverty cycles within intimate relationships.

Occupational segregation is also a salient socioeconomic aspect leading to the feminization of poverty. Land's story highlights the gendered character of some occupations, notably those in the service and caregiving industries, where women are overrepresented. The difficulties she encounters in obtaining secure and well-paying jobs highlight the larger social issue of gender-based occupational segregation, which is consistent with Diana Pearce's idea of the feminization of poverty (Pearce, 1978). Land's experiences highlight the structural constraints in the labor market that contribute to women's economic fragility, underlining how some jobs labeled as "women's work" frequently result in undervaluation and restricted prospects, continuing the cycle of poverty for women.

The lack of job options and limited access to flexible working arrangements for women highlights the labor market's entrenched gendered assumptions, in which conventional caring obligations are disproportionately assigned to women. The lack of career opportunities that suit mothers' scheduling demands reflects systemic hurdles that impede women's economic mobility and maintain their reliance on low-wage, precarious occupations. Additionally, Stephanie's admission of a lack of experience in accessible employment sectors demonstrates the intersectionality of occupational segregation, in which women suffer not only gender-based discrimination but also limited prospects for skill development and professional growth.

Another example of occupational segregation experienced by Stephanie is the introduction to their new employment in cleaning. The supervisor, who is most typically a woman, assigning cleaning jobs and providing basic cleaning supplies reinforces gender stereotypes that equate specific sorts of employment, such as cleaning, with femininity. The statement of meeting other women outside a client's residence highlights the gendered nature of the profession, implying a

concentration of women in low-wage, service-oriented positions. The occupational segregation is the concentration of women in traditionally feminine, devalued, and low-paying jobs, which reflects wider society norms and expectations about gendered labor divides.

In conclusion, *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* explores the gender pay disparity, occupational segregation, and the feminization of poverty through the experiences of Stephanie Land and her family. These issues highlight the structural injustices embedded in the labor market and the ongoing cycle of poverty and marginalization for women.

Stephanie Land's book highlights the significant role of discrimination and stereotyping in the feminization of poverty. The author exposes the prejudices and discriminatory practices she encounters in her job, which are representative of wider cultural standards. This representation aligns with Diana Pearce's notion of the feminization of poverty, which emphasizes the institutional impediments women encounter in the workplace. Land's experiences demonstrate how gender-based discrimination and stereotyping restrict women's access to well-paying occupations, continuing the cycle of economic fragility.

The story provides a moving depiction of the interwoven socioeconomic elements that lead to the feminization of poverty, underlining the importance of societal reform in addressing unfair labor market practices. The speaker's experiences highlight the deeply rooted preconceptions and biases that promote unfavorable impressions of those living in poverty. The mention of presenting oneself to landlords as a responsible tenant emphasizes the difficulties faced by low-wage workers in combating these preconceptions as they overcome housing and job restrictions caused by systematic discrimination.

The discrimination and stereotypes in Land's story also highlight the substantial socioeconomic differences within the social element of the feminization of poverty. The belief that consumers must be "big-city doctors and lawyers" to buy such houses reflects cultural conventions that associate money with respected professions, emphasizing the ongoing socioeconomic disparity. Stephanie's lack of knowledge about their clients' backgrounds highlights the alienation and separation that many people living in poverty experience from more wealthy societies.

In conclusion, Stephanie Land's book underscores the intersection of discrimination and stereotypes with the feminization of poverty, perpetuating cycles of economic inequality and social exclusion.

In *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, Stephanie Land highlights the importance of inadequate social safety nets in contributing to the feminization of poverty. Her story is a firsthand account of her dependency on public assistance programs and welfare, highlighting the limitations and deficiencies of these support systems. The difficulties she faces in navigating bureaucratic barriers and cultural stigma associated with public aid parallel Diana Pearce's idea of the feminization of poverty, emphasizing the inadequacy of social safety nets in assisting women facing economic troubles.

Stephanie Land's experience of inadequate social safety nets is evident in her dependency on various government assistance programs, such as the Pell Grant, SNAP, TBRA, LIHEAP, WIC, Medicaid, and childcare subsidies. The vast number of programs highlights the intricate and often daunting bureaucracy and inadequate social safety nets that people living in poverty, particularly single mothers, must navigate in order to gain access to basic assistance. Despite the aid offered by these organizations, Stephanie's world is marked by a quiet desperation among the bustle of everyday life as a single mom, reflecting the emotional toll of economic uncertainty and the ongoing fight to make ends meet.

The passage also captures Stephanie's struggles with the social aspect of feminization of poverty when navigating inadequate social safety nets, especially access to good childcare facilities. The facility's depiction as "cold, crowded," and the employees' appearance to "hate their jobs" highlight systemic inadequacies in the quality of care given to low-income families. The inability of social safety nets to protect the well-being of impoverished children underscores the inability of social safety nets to protect the well-being of impoverished children.

Land's experiences highlight the severe constraints and problems that people like Land experience in accessing important resources and assistance. She dispels the misconception that welfare provides a full safety net, highlighting the lack of appropriate help for meeting the core requirements of people living in poverty. The mention of obtaining food assistance underlines the restricted scope of available help, which fails to address the larger financial challenges of those trying to make ends meet. This narrative highlights the systemic inadequacies of social safety nets in addressing the numerous issues of poverty, leaving people like Land without the resources they need to attain financial stability and security.

In *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, Stephanie Land explores the complex responses to the feminization of poverty, including seeking employment, utilizing social safety nets, and advocating for legal and social protections. The novel portrays the struggles faced by single mothers like Land, who grapple with economic hardship and societal stigma. Land's narrative highlights the resilience and determination required to navigate the job

market, often characterized by low wages, unstable hours, and limited opportunities for advancement.

Stephanie's response to the feminization of poverty is evident in her relentless efforts to secure stable employment as a means of providing for herself and her daughter. Her desperation is evident as she explains her constant search of job prospects, emphasizing the pressure and urgency she feels to escape financial distress. The frequency and amount of job applications emphasize the enormity of her attempts to acquire permanent work and financial security.

Another excerpt exemplifies the pragmatic and resilient approach taken by women like Land as they handle the difficulties of finding work in unstable situations. Land's eagerness to accept as many tasks as Jenny offers, despite realizing her inadequate management abilities, demonstrates her urgency and ambition to create cash and support for herself and her family. This story highlights the limited alternatives accessible to low-income women, who may feel obligated to accept unpleasant working circumstances in order to find job.

Land's actions demonstrate the endurance and ingenuity necessary to negotiate the labor market in the midst of economic instability, as well as the pragmatic techniques used by women facing the feminization of poverty to acquire employment and alleviate financial hardship. This research supports Land's picture of the complexity of pursuing employment amid the feminization of poverty by emphasizing the trade-offs and compromises made by people attempting to overcome structural hurdles and attain economic security.

In Stephanie Land's novel *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive*, the utilization of available social safety nets is a crucial strategy in navigating the challenges of poverty and economic insecurity. Land's narrative vividly portrays her reliance on social assistance programs and community resources as essential lifelines for herself and her daughter. Through Land's experiences, readers witness the resilience and resourcefulness required to access and navigate these support systems, often in the face of bureaucratic barriers and stigma.

Stephanie's response to the feminization of poverty is evident in her proactive attitude to obtaining help, which includes seeking aid from government organizations and waiting in lengthy lines with tedious paperwork. This drive to pursue all avenues of aid exemplifies the persistence and ingenuity necessary to traverse the feminization of poverty and assert agency in seeking support and assistance.

The excerpt also illustrates the respond in utilizing social safety nets:

When the author moved into the homeless shelter, she called Melissa, one of her oldest friends, and she discussed her plans for rebuilding her life with the help of some form of government assistance: food stamps, WIC checks for milk, gas vouchers, low-income housing, energy grants, and childcare. This story highlights the practical approach used by people suffering the feminization of poverty to get access to relevant resources and support. This research supports Land's characterization of the pragmatic techniques used by women in the feminization of poverty to traverse structural hurdles and obtain vital resources, displaying their tenacity and ingenuity in the face of economic hardship.

Seeking legal and social protections is another pivotal response to the injustices and vulnerabilities faced by low-wage workers like herself. Land's narrative powerfully depicts her advocacy for legal rights and social protections in the workplace, as she confronts issues such as wage theft, unsafe working conditions, and discrimination. Through Land's experiences, readers witness her courage and determination to assert her rights and demand fair treatment, often in the face of resistance and adversity.

Another quote illustrates the respond to feminization of poverty:

Stephanie's account of her strategy for addressing the feminization of poverty in her book *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* highlights her interaction with critical support structures in the face of adversity. Stephanie recognizes the presence of advocacy organizations such as the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services Center, which offer critical aid and refuge to victims in desperate situations. Despite the availability of such services, Stephanie feels lucky to have received aid from the housing authority, which provides a road to stability and independence.

The quote below also shows the same experience:

Stephanie's tremendous vulnerability and fortitude as she confronts marital violence in the midst of economic distress. Land's quivering hand as she dials the domestic violence hotline highlights the inner struggle and terror she feels when seeking help. Despite her discomfort, Land musters the courage to describe her dilemma before being interrupted by Jamie's frequent phone calls, emphasizing the immediacy and severity of her situation. The hotline's recommendation to hang up and contact the police exemplifies the vital role of legal and social safeguards in safeguarding the safety and well-being of people experiencing domestic abuse.

In conclusion, Stephanie Land's novel *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* serves as a poignant testament to the importance of social safety nets in providing temporary relief and support during times of hardship. Her persistence and autonomy in seeking help and safety, despite structural hurdles and challenges, demonstrate the courage and drive required to fight domestic abuse and access critical assistance and resources.

In conclusion, *Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive* explores the feminization of poverty through the lens of personal and societal factors. Stephanie Land's story of unpaid care work and single parenting highlights the unequal burden imposed on women, the cost of unpaid labor, and the difficulties of juggling employment and family duties with inadequate finances.

The book also sheds light on societal factors contributing to the feminization of poverty, such as the gender pay gap, occupational segregation, discrimination, and prejudices. Land's portrayal of institutional restrictions and prejudices limits women's access to higher-paying occupations and promotion chances, increasing their economic disadvantage.

The book also highlights the insufficiency of social safety nets in delivering effective help to individuals in need, as bureaucratic barriers and stigma often limit access to critical aid programs. Despite these challenges, Land's story demonstrates the perseverance and ingenuity of those facing economic difficulty. She emphasizes the importance of seeking work as a proactive economic empowerment tactic, using accessible safety nets and advocating for legal and social safeguards.

In conclusion, *Maid* provides a comprehensive examination of the feminization of poverty, exposing the interconnections of personal and social elements that influence people's experiences of economic instability. It serves as a call to action, pushing readers to tackle the core reasons of feminization of poverty and advocate for significant change to build a more equal and just society.

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