

## **My mother Never worked-** Bonnie Smith-Yackel (Summary)

This is a short narrative essay. In the essay the writer, after the death of her mother calls social security office to claim death benefit cheque. The social security office asks her to hold on to her phone so that they can check the details of her mom. But to her surprise, the social security office informs the writer that she cannot get her mother's death benefit cheque because her mother never worked when she was alive. The death benefit is only for those people who earn money by working and pays regular tax to the government.

The writer remembers her mother's history, all the work she used to do for the family when the social security office asks her to hold on to her phone. Her mother and father got married in February 1921 and they had their 8 The writer remembers her mother's history, the entire work she used to do for the family when the social security office asks her to hold on her phone. Her mother and father got married in February 1921 and they had their eight babies in 1942 when the writer's mother was 44 years old. The writer's parents were farmers, so her mother always worked around the house cooking, cleaning, canning, milking, feeding cows and pigs, making quilts, knitting, keeping a large garden, sewing clothes, working on the farm. She kept chickens and ducks, and she would use soft feathers of chickens and ducks to make pillow. She would fetch water from miles away. She worked very hard for the family, even harder than her husband. She did not stop working even after she was paralyzed from the waist down. Sitting in a wheelchair she canned pickles, baked bread, ironed clothes, wrote dozens of letters weekly to her friend and her "half dozen or more kids" and made three patchwork housecoats and one quilt. She made balls and balls of carpet rags and kept all her love letters. She was 75 years old then.

This essay very beautifully highlights the exploitation of women. Similar situation is found in our Nepalese society also. Our mom and sisters work very hard at home from morning to evening while our father and brothers work in the office for limited hours. But we generally say our mom and sisters do nothing, they just stay at home. The females at homework for long hours and do difficult and dirty work but their work or duty is not recognized as "work or down. Sitting in a wheelchair she canned pickles, baked bread, ironed clothes, wrote dozens of letters weekly to her friend and her "half dozen or more kids" and made three patchwork housecoats and one quilt. She made balls and balls of carpet rags and kept all her love letters. She was 75 years old then.

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