



In Afghanistan, the family is the single most important unit. Women are generally responsible for household duties, whereas men will be the sole providers for the family. Although, in western influenced places – such as the city - professional women do exist.

In traditional middle-class homes, the man of the house leaves daily to work in traditional style jobs. The working women are still expected to spend time within the

family, not with people at work. This social behaviour is something in which many westernised cultures would not understand. Socialising with co-workers is considered normal today. The difference in culture between the two divided parties is quite astounding. A child's social life in Afghanistan takes place within his or her family. It is very rare for a child to have as many social links as we have nowadays. Their family and work is their first priority, followed by school and friends distantly linked.

Families commonly arrange marriages for their children. They believe that a communal decision needs to be made before any plans go ahead. There are many factors that contribute to the way that partners are found. These include family attitudes to different tribes, the overall status they hold in society, networks with other families and social groups, and of course, wealth.

Our context study, 'Encountering Conflict' has many connections to Afghanistan Customs – especially family. Inside the 4 walls of a home, conflicts can arise from many different situations. Seeing as the man is usually the sole provider for the family, if he loses his job, family conflicts can occur between the mother and father.

Through a deep study of the text, "The Rugmaker of Mazer-e-Sharif" we can gain evidence through Najaf dropping out of his Blacksmith job and starting a job that didn't have any allowance. Conflict transpired between Najaf and his older brother who couldn't accept the fact that Najaf didn't like the job which was found for him. But in saying this, it was quite brave for Najaf to stand up for himself – and it can be debated that he brought on the trouble himself.

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