Will our marriage survive now that she earns more?

I have been married to my wife for seven years, and we have always supported each other through life's challenges. Recently, she was promoted at work and now earns almost twice my salary. I am genuinely proud of her because she has worked hard and deserves her success. But deep inside, I feel something I did not expect, an uncomfortable sense of inadequacy. The situation has become harder because of the people around us. Her relatives joke openly that she is now the "man of the house." During family gatherings, when bills come, everyone looks to her. They say it playfully, but it hurts my pride. I have noticed myself withdrawing from her emotionally, even though she has done nothing wrong. I fear resentment may grow if I do not address it. How do I overcome these feelings and protect my marriage without losing my sense of self? **David**

20-25%

Balanced. In many modern marriages, about 20-25 percent of wives earn more than their husbands, a trend rising with higher female education and career growth.

Couples generally adjust well, but men earning less may initially feel inadequacy or face societal pressure. Studies show these households often have more egalitarian division of labor and open financial communication, which boosts relationship satisfaction. While some research notes slightly higher conflict or divorce risk linked to traditional gender norms, strong communication and shared values mitigate this.

Children in such families, especially daughters, benefit from progressive role models. Cultural context heavily influences dynamics and acceptance.

Dear David,

Compared to situations other couples face regarding money, yours has some manageable aspects. I commend you for your self-awareness in recognising the resentment you feel and your willingness to address it through acceptance.

Your situation, as you described, has two layers. The first layer involves how you perceive yourself in this context; you feel a sense of inadequacy and insecurity. The second layer is related to your extended family's influence on your pride. However, in both cases, it is evident that the core issue relates to your sense of identity as a man. Fortunately, there are several positive aspects to consider.

Firstly, you have not indicated that your wife puts you down despite the changes in your financial situation, which would make matters more challenging. Secondly, the only substantial change is that she earns more; you still have an income. It would be more difficult if you were unemployed.

Interestingly, her new income is "almost twice" your previous income.



Maintain your efforts for your family with your income, and if there are additional expenses, request your wife's assistance



Samuel Ssettumba
Counsellor

Therefore, you can still manage the bills you have always covered, so please continue to contribute. Maintain your efforts for your family with your income, and if there are additional expenses, request your wife's assistance. Most women will support you if they see you doing your best, and I hope your wife falls into that category, given how you have described your relationship.

The resentment stemming from the financial change may arise from traditional views of a man's role in the family, which have been exaggerated by societal expectations that fail to recognise modern realities. Women are now as educated and capable as men, often surpassing them in productivity.

This shift challenges outdated expectations of manhood. The key realisation, David, is that your wife's higher earnings do not diminish your role as a husband and father, nor do they lessen her love for you, based on what you have shared.

You need to challenge your perspective with factual understanding. Remember, feelings are not always facts. By applying facts to your feelings, you can begin to understand why these emotions, while valid, do not represent the complete truth.

Achieving this requires thoughtful reflection, not through an emotional lens; resentment often stems from emotion. Viewing things purely through emotion can undermine your marriage and divert your energy from loving your wife to misinter-

READER ADVICE

Do not be proud

Levite David Sr. Sit down, stay calm, and reflect deeply on your situation. Replace pride with humility, because pride often destroys peace and relationships. Financial status does not define your worth as a man. Focus on building your strength, wisdom, and character. Respect, patience, and humility will guide you toward stability and a stronger marriage.

Decide wisely

Mosh Yaya. Situations like these require maturity, patience, and careful thinking before reacting. Avoid making emotional decisions based on temporary feelings. Take time to reflect, communicate openly, and understand each other's intentions. Strong relationships are built on trust, respect, and teamwork, not pride or competition. Peaceful solutions come through calm and understanding.

This should be private

Taiwo Senbanjo. One important question is who shared the salary information with the family in the first place. Financial matters are private and should be handled carefully. Couples must agree on what to share and what to keep confidential. Protecting financial privacy prevents unnecessary judgment, interference, and tension that could harm your marriage and peace.

Talk to your wife

Nachie Urshie Mpanga. You should talk to your wife and respectfully ask her to set clear boundaries with her family regarding private matters. Marriage requires protecting each other's dignity. When extended family becomes too involved, misunderstandings grow. Honest communication between you and your spouse will help restore respect, strengthen trust, and protect the unity of your home.

Express your feelings

Jesca Adikini. Would you have preferred that she remain silent about her achievement?

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