THE DANISH FAMILY

FOR DANES, SPENDING TIME WITH THEIR FAMILIES IS A TOP PRIORITY, AND BOTH PARENTS PARTICIPATE IN THEIR CHILDREN’S SCHOOL LIVES AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES. THE RELATIVELY LOW NUMBER OF WORKING HOURS, ALONG WITH WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY, ENABLE PARENTS TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEIR CHILDREN THAN THEIR EUROPEAN COUNTERPARTS.

A TRUSTING FAMILY
Danish society revolves around family life. Currently, most families in Denmark are small, consisting of no more than four members. Parents feel their children are safe, so they let them play outdoors unsupervised, and they can ride their bike or take the bus to school. As a result, children in Denmark are raised to become independent from an early age. Foreigners are usually baffled when they notice how fearless Danes seem to be, for example when they park their baby prams outside shops or cafés while enjoying a good cup of coffee inside.

UNCONVENTIONAL FAMILY MODELS
The traditional family model with mom, dad and children is still dominant in Denmark; however, the family model has shifted into more contemporary and diverse family units - from single parents and mixed families with stepchildren to families with parents of the same sex. Danes do not think it is necessary to get married in order to start a family - so many couples live together without legalising their relationship. Divorce, on the other hand, is as common in Denmark as in other countries.

A BALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF DOMESTIC TASKS
Most Danish couples share household responsibilities, although women still do
more housework than their male partners. Generally, couples in Denmark split up domestic duties such as shopping, cleaning, and picking up the children, though the traditional, stereotypical gender roles still prevail in some families.

**SHARED PARENTAL LEAVE**

In Denmark both parents have the right to take parental leave. In total they are entitled to 52 weeks with maternity leave subsistence allowance of which 32 weeks can be freely divided among both parents. Nearly all children attend day care centres when they are about one year old and affordable child-care is available for all citizens. Therefore, couples don’t depend on their parents’ support and the grandparents’ help is not expected.

**SHARING HOBBIES WITH THE CHILDREN**

Parents usually get involved in their children’s upbringing and recreational activities, both at school and in their spare time. They go to school meetings, play games with their children, share their hobbies and take them to their favourite sports. By showing their support, parents get to build a deeper relationship with their children and bring the whole family together.

**FACTS ABOUT DANISH FAMILIES:**

\1. 57% of the 17-year-olds live with both parents. 31% live only with their mother and 7% only with their father

\2. In most Danish families both parents work and their children are in day care

\3. The average age of Danish men who marry for the first time is 35 years. The average age for women is slightly lower at 32 years

\4. Almost every other Danish woman with children enjoys some kind of recreational activity at least twice a week

\5. The fertility rate in Denmark is 1.7, but Danish women give birth to a relatively high number of children compared to other European countries, where the average is 1.6 per woman.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

In Denmark there are 24 international basic schools

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