

Gender Inequality in Today's Society... Yes, It Still Exists.

Mikayla House

Social Inequality

Race and gender are two commonly misunderstood issues among individuals today, many don't notice the issues associated with the two. Many people are openly accepting of everyone no matter their background, race, or gender, but there are also a lot of people who aren't. One common mistake made, is believing that gender and race no longer matter when it comes to people's lives and opportunities. There are a lot of things about gender that people in today's society don't understand or refuse to learn about, the inequality, the disadvantages, along with expectations to follow certain gender norms.

As a woman in today's society, I am able to see and experience first-hand, being treated different than men due to my gender. While growing up, many women were told not to wear certain things for the reason that they would look "trashy" or it would be considered inappropriate. Schools had dress codes banning women from wearing any clothing that would show shoulders as to not distract fellow classmates. I personally received more comments from both my parents and family regarding what bathing suit I would wear and if they felt that my shorts were too short or that I was showing too much mid-drift, however, my brother would never hear comments regarding what he wore whether it be a tank top, or no shirt at all. Women are judged far more harshly than men, if their skirt is an inch shorter than some would like, she's a whore or asking for someone to comment, if a dress strap is too thin, she's seeking attention. While women grown up, from childhood they are generally sheltered, not many play physical sports or activities that could pose as a threat to their safety. For me, as a child, I feel that I got lucky, many mothers wouldn't feel comfortable with their little girls playing baseball or tee-ball many girls were put into dance classes, or even gymnastics.

The main topic within gender that many fail to realize is the inequality or the lack of equality between a female and a male. Men are paid more, men are given more opportunities within their career, and men don't have to truly worry about losing their jobs. The higher leader positions such as CEO, and the executives are more commonly viewed as a man's job, and a woman holding that form of a

position would just be wrong (Williams, 2013). When women obtain positions in a male dominated field or job, they are faced with what is commonly referred to as a glass ceiling, meaning they are able to see all of the higher up positions within the job that they will not reach, they were held from positions of power (Williams, 2013). It is shown that the white man has a better chance of not only securing a job but receiving more adequate on the job training in preparation for his position and is assigned job that will increase career mobility (Maume, 2004). Throughout the lifetime, while keeping experience in mind, the inequality gap between man and women grows, both move up in the career, however men manage to move up at a faster rate than women (Maume, 2004). On average in the year of 2019, women made an average of \$0.79 for every \$1.00 that was made by a man (Elkins, 2019). The pay gap between men and women grows larger as the age of the two genders begins to increase (Elkins, 2019).

One consequence of being a white female is that many higher positions of power are not within reasonable reach for me without working twice as hard as a white man would have to. This is due to the vision that men are generally better leaders in the workplace, they are generally expected to give their careers their undivided attention which is difficult for women due to other responsibilities such as the family (Williams, 2013). Gender, race, and sexual dynamics are all very important factors when it comes to obtaining a full understanding or comprehension of the male advantage over female in the job force (Williams, 2013). Some may believe that a woman's disadvantage in her workplace is simply due to her own personal status, that she isn't trying hard enough, or not devoting enough time to her job (Williams, 2013).

There are some careers where women hold dominance and higher positions, such as nursing, or healthcare, this is simply due to society not viewing these positions as a position for a man (Williams, 2013). Positions of control and power such as president or CEO of a business or company are seemingly out of reach for many women. While women make up over fifty percent of the U.S. population, as of January of 2019, women only made up seven percent of executives in the fortune 100 companies and 5

percent of CEO's (Warner et al., 2018). The glass ceiling has much to do with this, women enter positions at a disadvantage, they may not be seen as able to be taken seriously as someone boss, or some may feel that they cannot put their emotions to the side.

While many may not be ready to admit that gender inequality is still an issue in today's society, that doesn't hide the fact that it still exists. While women have advanced and obtained a number of positions of power, they are still actively fighting for equality within their workplaces, jobs are more difficult to obtain and advance in and women do generally get paid less than the average white man. Gender norms are placed on people, and society seems to expect people to alter their lives in order to follow them, a woman isn't supposed to be powerful, she is not supposed to be smarter than the man, yet she is. Holding a high-power position is not a man's right, and it isn't not a woman's right, we have just made it more difficult for women to accomplish things and reach these positions than we have made it for men. A woman can be the president of our country, she can be the CEO of a large business, she can wear what she wants without being labelled. Some may say that gender inequality is no longer an issue but looking at the progress we have made over the past 100 years, they seem to be wrong.

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