

Gender Inequality and the impact on Women's Lives

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Spring 2020

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Introduction/Background Information:

Gender inequality, what is it really? According to the definition gender inequality is defined as allowing people a different amount of opportunities due to their specific gender. Now this idea of gender inequality is a huge problem, everyone around the world faces this problem, but which gender faces it worse? We focus on one side of the debate and the inequality that woman face, from what job and pay they deserve to safety, all of these problems are main concerns for woman and we will find out as to why woman face the heavier side of this problem. Before we get into the problem and solutions, why not start off with a little history. It all starts with the battle for the right to vote, the suffrage movement, that led the start to a revolutionary movement that took years to fight for and it wasn't just the United States fighting for this right, but everyone in Europe also had the same belief. Slowly countries like New Zealand were the first to gain woman's right to vote in 1893, by 1944 most European countries had the woman's right to vote, India granted woman's vote in the 1950, and the country to recently grant woman's vote is Saudi Arabia in 2011 ("A Brief History of Gender (in)Equality."). So, it comes to show how long countries have been fighting to get their voices heard through a vote. Why does it matter? Well now that Woman got the right to vote they had a sense of freedom and achievement and wanted more, but what stopped them from achieving the jackpot. Well, the biggest factor being gender inequality, pushing what the woman achieved down the drain and imposing limitations for woman. Think of it like this, imagine if you were walking a steep hill with

obstacles along the way that makes it impossible for you to ever reach the top. Well, that's exactly how the woman feel, they work so hard only to be pushed back even further than they were in the start. But things are getting worse, with woman not getting enough opportunities they end up in poverty and a lot of other things like safety and health related issues impose a threat on woman. This topic to me hits really close to my heart, I have a loving mom who I know faced a lot of difficulties reaching what she wanted and being a Mexican American woman, it was hard for her to reach what she wanted and even now I know she isn't happy with her life because she wishes she could do even more. My girlfriend, who is Indian, who I love very much tells me the problems and the safety concerns in India and how many women are worried about their safety and no one is being taught about sexual harassment and violence which are major conflicts she says need to be fixed. But overall, woman are just capable of doing what they want just like men do, but it all begins with us doing our part and hearing all the woman around the world so we can make the world a better place.

1st Draft Section:

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“Many American Men Have a Skewed View of Gender Inequality, TIME Poll Finds”

In this article, Time magazine conducted a survey to see the overall statistics of what men and woman feel are the main causes of gender inequality. Most men and woman said the wage gap, but what was interesting is that more than ¼ of males that took the survey believe that the wage gap isn't a problem. Diving deeper into the article and the percentage of household chores are dominantly done by women suggesting that woman are non-stop working everyday while the men just rest. Towards the end of the article another question from the survey was discussed and the results showed that more than ¼ of the men believe that no action should be taken towards solving gender inequality and so a lot of women especially of color lose hope for change

Barone, Emily. “Many American Men Have a Skewed View of Gender Inequality, TIME Poll Finds.” *Time*, Time, 26 Sept. 2019, time.com/5667397/gender-equality-opinions/.

Louise Otto-Peters (1819-1895)

In this article we learn about a woman named Louise Otto-Peters who was a journalist and advocated for women's rights. Otto-Peters had written an article advocating for better working conditions for women under the male leadership. Also had a very great education which increased her influence in her social and political works and activism. After the passing of her husband, Louise founded the General German Women's Association where more than 300 women attended meetings. The group focused primarily on social and political issues that affected all women during that time period.

Bestmann, Rosa. "Louise Otto-Peters (1819-1895)." *Towards Emancipation?*

hist259.web.unc.edu/henrik-ibsen-1828-1906-2-2/.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF GENDER EQUALITY IN MEXICO"

Overall the article focuses on the problems women face in Mexico because of their gender. With the world facing problems of gender inequality there are still huge problems in Mexico like violence towards women and gender roles. In Mexico old customs still play a role for both men and women, the belief that women should oversee the house and give birth results in them falling behind in the work force. Even though men and women both work in the same job, women are still getting paid less. Although good changes are occurring like the law Mexico passed stating that if anyone sends any intimate photos of someone else to anyone, they will face jail time. One last thing is that now Mexico will join other countries in an empowerment movement providing women the right health benefits and education that they need.

Boullosa, Daniela. "The Importance of Gender Equality in Mexico." *GVI USA*, GVI, 6 Jan. 2020, www.gviusa.com/blog/the-importance-of-gender-equality-in-mexico/.

"A brief history of gender (in)equality"

In this article we learn about the history of how gender inequality started and how women influenced a change. As we all know the most popular and significant moment called the Suffrage movement initiated the process for the Woman's right to vote. Throughout this article we also learn about different roles women play and how their lives are affected as a result of marriage, education, government, and parental rights. We learn how women were restricted and were always below the men, but this only resulted in a spark in women that demanded a change.

We now gain a better understanding of woman's history and in our modern world we still seek a better change for woman.

“A Brief History of Gender (in)Equality.” *FutureLearn*,

www.futurelearn.com/info/courses/understanding-gender-inequality/0/steps/66837.

“Global Issues: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment”

This article focuses on the limitations women have around the world. Women around the world have less political participation, economic participation, and less access to health, education, and safety risk. The one area that will help boost women's empowerment is education. Most women don't even attend school as a result of their responsibilities in households or just the fact that they can't afford their education that they rather pay the education for men. Another area to focus is health as women are more prone to having HIV due to having less opportunities related to health and unequal power in relationships. The last area to focus on is more economic opportunities and more representation in political roles. Women are also underrepresented as decision makers and are outnumbered 4:1 in political representation.

Global Issues: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment,

www.peacecorps.gov/educators/resources/global-issues-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment/.

“History of International Women's Day”

This article gives us a timeline of how the idea of International Woman's Day started and the struggles woman had to face to enforce a change for woman. As a result of Woman's actions in the 1900s woman in Europe like Denmark and Russia were already doing their part to formulate a day called Woman's Day a day where both men and Woman help seek support the woman

needed. This eventually led to Russia granting the woman the right to vote and later in the 2000s President Obama made the month of March Woman's month. Now we face problems like low pay for woman and violence towards woman where the battles need to be won.

“History of International Women's Day.” *International Women's Day*, 2021,
www.internationalwomensday.com/Activity/15586/The-history-of-IWD.

“Understanding the Me Too Movement: A Sexual Harassment Awareness Guide”

This article discusses about the idea of not being afraid and speaking up for yourself and to not be afraid or ashamed of something that was never your fault. This article provides a bit of history of the #MeToo movement that was a revolutionary movement that encouraged woman to speak out on problems related to sexual harassment or violence. This idea sparked using social media that creates a great way to spread the awareness of sexual harassment by sharing past experiences. This movement continues today, and it shows how much woman around the world still face this problem and hope for a sense of change through their experience and to know that these women aren't alone.

“Me Too: Sexual Harassment Awareness & Prevention.” *Maryville Online*, 16 Sept. 2020,
online.maryville.edu/blog/understanding-the-me-too-movement-a-sexual-harassment-awareness-guide/.

“Economic inequality by gender”

This article focuses on specific graphs and charts to inform us of the economic difficulties woman face as a result of gender inequality. The specific idea it discusses is the gender pay gap between men and women, it measures the total income between men and woman respectively.

Going even further into the article, there is a map that shows the representation of women in management positions is a lot lower than men's when it comes to high profile jobs. Another chart shows women and how they are represented in low paying jobs. Compared to woman in high profile jobs where they are underrepresented, in low paying jobs the woman are overrepresented, resulting in Woman working harder for low paying jobs.

Ortiz-Ospina, Esteban, and Max Roser. "Economic Inequality by Gender." *Our World in Data*, 21 Mar. 2018, ourworldindata.org/economic-inequality-by-gender.

"GIRLS' EDUCATION IN MEXICO"

This article discusses the topic about education and the limitations that woman face like supporting family and early marriage that leads these women to drop school. Many problems have resulted in less woman in schools not because of their lack of learning ability but, because of society's oppression. As we learn in the article Mexico is in the top 10 of most child marriages and the numbers only keep increasing. Families also face difficulties in maintaining themselves and usually it's always the daughters of the family that must support and work to help provide for the family. But Mexico is making progress by seeking help from non-profit organizations that provide woman the materials and the access needed to continue learning without having to worry about their education. As of now Mexico wants to encourage woman to take STEM related jobs because the woman needs to do more than just be nurses, they want woman to achieve high roles.

Project, Borgen. "Girls' Education in Mexico." *The Borgen Project*, Borgen Project

https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The_Borgen_Project_Logo_small.Jpg, 28 Oct. 2019, borgenproject.org/girls-education-in-mexico/.

“10 Causes of Gender Inequality”

The focus of this article is about the certain causes of gender inequality. Some ideas can expand from jobs and employment to lack of safety and freedom, can all play a key factor in gender inequality. Some topics that stand out is job segregation according to men they feel more capable of doing certain jobs than woman, resulting in men obtaining higher better paying jobs than woman. Another topic is lack of legal protection where woman all over the world have to face safety concerns because there is no protection when it comes to domestic sexual violence or domestic economic violence. Lastly, poor medical care where woman don't receive the medical attention, they need due to lack of education and job opportunities.

Soken-Huberty, Emmaline. “10 Causes of Gender Inequality.” *Human Rights Careers*, 6 Apr. 2021, www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/causes-gender-inequality/.

Cross Cultural Experience:

Learning new cultures has been something that amazed me, from learning different beliefs and customs from other cultures I've come to respect and understand people better and it's helped shape the person I am today believe it or not. I've always though diversity is something that needs to exist everywhere to gain love and peace from around the world, but for some people they just made it seem more difficult. From the BLM movement to Woman's rights, it been something that a lot of cultures everywhere have been fighting for and I'm happy that I can be a part of that fight. One personal experience I've had which involved my friend, who I won't mention her name, but it's something related to my topic on gender equality and it just saddens me how people can just take advantage of a person. My friend she was from France and she came over here to New York to study and it was a great opportunity for her and I was happy to

hear that she got the chance to finish middle school here. I met her in my Spanish class and I don't know something about her made her trust me immediately it's just some gift I may have or something. But I started talking to her and even though we only had one class she found a way to talk to me and we had a great friendship and she was happy to always see me she felt safe with then with other people. The next school year we had the same classes so it was great since we knew each other and she had also made other friends too so it was good. Unfortunately though later that year things didn't go so well for her. I remember I saw her crying one day when she came to school and I came up to her and asked her what's wrong but she just told me to leave me alone. Then later that day she came over and hugged me and apologized and asked if she could talk to me and I said of course. She said she only trusted me with this and she said that a guy had been taking advantage of her and that he is threatening her that if she didn't do what he asked he would hurt her. I asked her if she told anyone and she told me who would listen to me I'm not even born here you think they would listen to me. It hurt me a little because I too also felt the same way especially since her English wasn't as great so I told her I would make sure to tell them and I did. I told the principal what problem she was going through and they got to it right away and the sad thing I learned that my friend didn't tell me is that 8 girls including my friend were involved and they were all foreigners which is crazy. What made things even sad is that the guy that did it I knew him he wasn't my friend but I knew him and it was just crazy that out of all girls he went after they were all girls of minority groups. That day it was the happiest I'd seen my friend in a while, the guy was arrested that day and I felt proud because I just realized that without me none of those girls would be safe. From that day I knew I could make an impact and make sure that any girl or anybody from a different culture should be attacked or taken advantage of for being different. Overall, the cross cultural experiences I've had helped me

realized that we all go through different pains, but instead of making things worse why can't we just make things better. Like preventing an innocent woman from getting hurt because of their race or culture, we can all learn to become a better person and be a part of the culture instead of breaking it apart. Culture makes this world a beautiful place and just how everyone can be creative, we can all be supportive and help expand creativity.

Response Paper [The Problem]:

Gender inequality as introduced in the intro is a big impact everywhere, especially to women, but what can be the main factors to this. Well based on a lot of research, there are a lot of factors that you probably already know or may leave you shocked. First off, I am Mexican-American and sadly a lot of women in Mexico face a lot of problems of gender inequality, but the main start of this problem is from the household. As informed in the article "Research suggests that primary school education becomes useless because most women are forced to drop out of school in order to be present for various household duties"(Roy). This ultimately proves that for all women that want to pursue education becomes a chance of luck because if no family problems occur then she's free to pursue her educational dreams, but if there are problems the girls of the house are in charge of chores and results in them dropping out because they simply can't make time to do both things. This also represents gender inequality because the men in a Mexican household can obtain their education without having to worry about helping out in the house. In addition to this women in Mexico face other hardships like unequal pay, violence, and child marriages. As conveyed in the article "Mexican women get paid 16.5% less than their male counterparts for the same job. Girls in rural areas have less access to education than boys. There are many cases of child marriages, as well as high rates of domestic

violence” (Boullosa). This illustrates the problems Mexican women face, not only are they getting paid less than men, but they have less opportunities to become successful and also have major concerns of safety and, in certain areas in Mexico, having to marry forcefully. This relates to gender inequality because Mexican women are limited to learning materials, which results to poverty and lack of opportunities for women as they don’t have the same amount of education as men and can’t afford anything since, they don’t have the proper education. Now as we talk about potential problems of gender inequality in the world around us, it’s very much the same as in Mexico. Some more problems that impose gender inequality towards women is jobs, the fact that the age gap is very wide between men and women, for instance “In most societies, there’s an inherent belief that men are simply better equipped to handle certain jobs. Most of the time, those are the jobs that pay the best” (Soken-Huberty). This shows that with this belief in mind, woman are limited to only work in jobs that don’t offer anything since according the belief men are more capable than woman. This then leads to women to have no opportunities for a job and have to resort to living under someone else which could also be a danger depending on the person you depend on. To add on there’s also not as much protection for women than there is for men, making it very dangerous for women to go out late at night or even have any freedom at all. Also illustrated in the article “over one billion women don’t have legal protection against domestic sexual violence or domestic economic violence. Both have a significant impact on women’s ability to thrive and live in freedom. In many countries, there’s also a lack of legal protections against harassment in the workplace, at school, and in public. These places become unsafe and without protection, women frequently have to make decisions that compromise and limit their goals”(Soken-Huberty). Safety is a big

concern for a lot of people and I know from experience how dangerous it can be if you are in the wrong place at the wrong time, but for women its every day. Just knowing that women don't have any legal protection from anything brings up major concerns for women and their futures, this also ultimately limits women in what they want to do in their lives because anywhere they go their safety isn't guaranteed. Another major problem is the availability of medical and health related resources. As illustrated in the article "In addition to limited access to contraception, women overall receive lower-quality medical care than men. This is linked to other gender inequality reasons such as a lack of education and job opportunities, which results in more women being in poverty. They are less likely to be able to afford good healthcare... Many women also experience discrimination and dismissal from their doctors, broadening the gender gap in healthcare quality" (Soken-Huberty). This conveys the limitations women face when getting the help they deserve in the medical field. Due to their lack of jobs women can't afford quality healthcare which results in higher health risks for women and without the money and resources they can't do anything about it. Overall, many factors come in play in gender inequality, but with many limitations it leads women into being isolated within their own society. After the interviews I conducted with my friends they all said the same thing that their main concern was their safety, and I don't blame them. One of the interviewees went to the same high school as me and told me certain things that even I didn't know was going on in my own high school. Like one of my friends had a weird encounter where the teacher was making inappropriate actions on a student and how some of them would actually get close to the students just so that they could touch the girls. When I heard this I got really mad and disgusted because it's something I can't tolerate and to hear how my friends were scared and uncomfortable with

their learning environment made me worry about what other girls might face and that was the biggest concern for all my interviewees.

Recommendations/Suggestions:

Like all problems there is always a solution. Women may face a lot of problems due to their gender, but that doesn't stop them from uniting together and working hard to have their voices heard. One of the movements that started to spread awareness of any sexual related assaults and harassment. For example, "The Me Too movement is an effort to effect social change, organized primarily through social media, where it's often expressed as #MeToo. Originally founded in 2006, it became prominent both online and in the mainstream in late 2017, when several high-profile actresses opened up about their experiences with sexual harassment in the film industry" (Understanding the Me Too Movement: A Sexual Harassment Awareness Guide). This illustrates how The Me Too movement began after some actresses went out onto social media to express the harassment they went through and to spread awareness to not only all the women but the men so everyone knows the abuse and harassment they went through. This is a great solution as it provides a personal story and a teaching for everyone that women still indeed face sexual harassment and it spreads awareness to other women. One special day International Women's Day embarks a day to remember all great things that women did from the past to present and every year all women battle for more equality as they are still underrepresented in certain categories like pay wage. This is a great solution because like all movements there needs to be more support and what other way to spread your voice than protesting to support and enforce changes. As for other problems like violence towards women is that maybe there should be a separate class in all grades that teaches what you shouldn't do and teach them about sexual

harassment and violence. This is a good idea because people learn young, so if the younger generation were consistently taught about this problem then the less they will do it. As for wage gap something really needs to be changed like passing a bill that bans companies and jobs to discriminate a gender and pay differently because of their gender. Just like condoms are providing for free in some place certain contraceptives or supplies for women when they are on their menstrual cycle to provide them with things to help with their menstrual cycle. I remember in my high school that if a girl forgot or didn't have a pad for when they had a period they would actually provide them with one, so if certain businesses that are appropriate could offer either pads or tampons for free to girls that need them. Overall, these are some steps that can be taken to help women provide the things they need and the rights they deserve.

Conclusion:

Therefore, gender inequality imposes unfair problems to both genders, but women suffer through far worse leaving them to face more limitations and with less working opportunities women face poverty and eventually women won't have the money to get the proper education and the health they need. There are also tons of problems that women suffer through like women in Mexico can't get the education they need because they are stuck having to help their families with household chores, resulting women to not have the same opportunities as men do. As for the solutions many actions could be made like introducing a bill to eliminate the pay gap, offering free pads and tampons to women that need it in case of an emergency, and teach the younger generations about sexual harassment so they are more aware and learn about these bad actions at a young age.

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- Boullosa, Daniela. “The Importance of Gender Equality in Mexico.” *GVI USA*, GVI, 6 Jan. 2020, www.gviusa.com/blog/the-importance-of-gender-equality-in-mexico/.
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