

Contextual Write-up:

The global comic book market is projected to grow from USD 9.21 billion in 2021 to USD 12.81 billion in 2028 at a CAGR of 4.8% during the 2021-2028 period...
Read More at:- <https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/comic-book-market-103903>

But have you ever thought about gender inequality in comics industry?

Gender inequality is discrimination on the basis of sex or gender causing one sex or gender to be routinely privileged or prioritized over another. Gender equality is a fundamental human right and that right is violated by gender based discrimination. And to address this issue, I want to take an often overlooked industry - Comics.

Quite often, when we speak about empowering or uplifting women, we tend to look at stats on very obvious metrics such as average salary, number of women in executive level positions, politicians and decision makers. But, comics have existed for a quite a long time (Published in 1897, The Yellow Kid in McFadden's Flats is considered to be the first comic book, insomuch that it bore the phrase "comic book" on its back cover). and many a times reflect the trends in the society. I want to explore how comics evolved over time, focusing specifically on gender inequality.

Finding Dataset:

Dataset: <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/danielr/marvel-superheroes>

****For 381 unique Marvel characters, this data contains the following fields:****

Attributes: (categorical)

- * Stats: score for intelligence, durability, speed etc. (numerical)
- * Power: whether or not the character has a given power - e.g. cold resistance (boolean/string - True/False)
- * There are blank fields (about 40-45 instances per column) for some of the power and stats fields

The key datasets I am planning to use are:

- * marvelcharactersinfo.csv (for physical attributes like gender, eye color, skin color)
- * characters_stats.csv (stats like intelligence)
- * superheroespowermatrix.csv (powers like telepathy, flight, empathy, cold resistance etc.)

Data Handling:

Fortunately, the dataset I chose has no major missing values and hence need not require to perform data handling. I had to merge them all to understand the comic stats by universe and gender though.

I plotted Violin plot, histogram and bar charts to further understand the datasets better.

Data Presentation:

there is no female character in the top 10 most performances/appearances comic. This is the core issue of the gender inequality. Let's further deep dive into different Universes to understand Gender parity. Not just in the top comic appearances but also in the total representation across publishers, there is only 27% female representation. we see unnecessary genderization where Male there seemed to be more Male characters among Villians compared to Female and there are literally no neutral characters in female comics. With gender equality being recognized more broadly the trend is improving over time. This is a positive trend and would like to see more Women superheroes in the comics and real life. And also proactively recognizing the need for it and taking active measures is need of the hour.