

FINALS WEEK 13: Gender Equality

1. What does gender equality mean to you? How do you think it can be achieved?

For me, Gender equality, means ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their gender, have equal rights, opportunities, and treatment in all aspects of life. It is about challenging and dismantling the social, cultural, and systemic barriers that perpetuate gender-based discrimination, stereotypes, and biases. Achieving gender equality requires collective efforts and a multi-faceted approach.

2. Do you think that gender should be a factor in determining someone's abilities or opportunities? Why or why not?

For me, No, I do not believe that gender should be a factor in determining someone's abilities or opportunities. Gender should not be a basis for discrimination or limiting individuals' potential. It is important to note that while gender should not determine opportunities, it is also essential to address and rectify historical and systemic gender-based disadvantages that some groups face. This includes actively working towards eliminating gender-based discrimination and promoting equitable policies and practices that level the playing field for everyone.

3. Research a famous person who has worked to promote gender equality or equity. What did they do to advocate for this cause? How did their actions make a difference?

Malala Yousafzai is one well-known lady who has devoted her life to advancing gender equality. Malala, a Pakistani-born activist for women's rights and girls' education, rose to prominence at an early age. When she was targeted and killed by the Taliban at the age of 15, her activism attracted attention on a global scale.

Malala persisted in speaking out and promoting gender equality and education despite the attempt on her life. She co-wrote the autobiography "I Am Malala," which helped to spread her message and illuminate the difficulties faced by Pakistani girls who want to pursue higher education.

The Malala Fund, a nonprofit organization devoted to ensuring that every girl has access to 12 years of free, safe, and high-quality education, was founded as a result of Malala's advocacy activities. The fund contributes to regional educational initiatives, promotes legislative reforms, and raises the voices of girls and young women who are fighting for their rights.

Malala became the youngest-ever Nobel laureate when she received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 in appreciation of her outstanding efforts. By highlighting the vital need for gender equality and girls' education around the world, this acknowledgment helped her global platform to rise even higher.

Malala has made a tremendous contribution to the cause of gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women via her daring activism and unshakable commitment. Her campaign has ignited debates, motivated countless people, and forced organizations and governments to emphasize girls' education as a fundamental human right. She has grown to be a powerful voice in the struggle for

gender equality, questioning established norms and advocating for universal access to inclusive and equitable education.

Malala's influence goes beyond her own discrete deeds. She has motivated a new generation of activists and young women to fight for their rights by highlighting the importance of education in severing the links between injustice, prejudice, and poverty.

Overall, Malala's campaign and the founding of the Malala Fund have helped to promote gender equality and girls' education around the world by raising awareness, influencing policy changes, and mobilizing resources. Her deeds serve as a potent reminder that one individual may make a major and lasting difference in advancing gender equality and uplifting vulnerable groups through their courage and dedication.

4. How do you think that the media portrays gender? What effect do these portrayals have on peoples perceptions of gender and gender roles?

People's opinions of gender and gender roles are significantly influenced by how gender is portrayed in the media. It is crucial to remember that media comes in a variety of forms and includes things like movies, television shows, commercials, news, social media, and more. As a result, gender representation might fluctuate across various media outlets and situations.

Having said that, gender stereotypes and roles are frequently maintained and reinforced in the media. Women have historically been objectified, given limited opportunities, and held to unattainable beauty standards while men are frequently presented as powerful, aggressive, and in charge. These constrictive and rigid representations have the power to influence cultural norms and damaging gender roles.

5. Imagine a world in which gender equality and equity have been achieved. What would this world look like? How would it be different from the world we live in now?

In a world where gender equality and equity have been achieved, several significant changes would be evident compared to the world we live in now.

Equal Opportunities: All individuals, regardless of their gender, would have equal access to education, employment, leadership positions, and economic opportunities. Discrimination and biases based on gender would be eradicated, ensuring that everyone has the chance to thrive and succeed based on their skills, talents, and merits.

Respect and Safety: A culture of respect, consent, and safety would prevail. Gender-based violence, including harassment and assault, would be significantly reduced, creating an environment where everyone feels safe and secure.