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# Introduction

### Gender Bias Through the Ages

There should be no doubt in anyone’s mind that men and women are different. Visually,we look different; chemically we are different. Other things also influence gender differences. Societies all over the world have designated roles for men and women. Religions and cultures influence the general idea of what men and woman should and shouldn’t do. However, it is possible that none of these influence people as much as their own identity. What sex you are can very well have a significant correlation to how you view gender roles in society.

Historically, men and women have had different perceptions of themselves and their genders. Recent examples of which include television shows of the 1950’s, such as the Honeymooners, in which the woman is viewed as inferior by the men. Time and time again, however, the women always prove themselves superior in one way or another. Both of the genders in such a case favor their own gender as the “winning side”. Farther back in history, it is obvious that men have viewed the women as inferior. In most all ancient cultures, women were never allowed to hold jobs, own property, or do anything but raise the children. However, such cases as Katherine the Great, Elizabeth the First, and Boudicca have shown that women are incredibly capable of being leaders and fighters. However, in a male-dominated society, such views are quickly oppressed and hidden from public view in order to maintain the male supremacy that exists in this world.

In American culture, the Selective Service and Military Service requirement of being a male has long been a controversial blow to women’s rights. Viewing women as less capable than men, our government has not changed this long-standing barrier for the female gender, time and time denying them the same rights as men.

Our government itself has a horrible history when dealing with gender equality. The woman’s suffrage movement itself began more than sixty years before it was actually granted as a constitutional right. In our current Congress, we have sixty-one female Representatives of the House, while we have thirteen female Senators, a total of seventy-four out of 535. Females only have fourteen percent of the representative population, while they make-up approximately fifty-three percent of the population. On top of that, in the entire 200 year plus history of this country, we have not had a female president. Does this effect both male and female perspective on who makes the better leaders?

In most cultures it is the role of the woman to raise the children. However, in those same cultures men are perceived as stronger physically. One may wonder who will the children feel safer with? Is a emotionally close relationship better then a dominate figure; and has this perception changed with the deconstruction of this traditional family setting?

Grammar school, middle school, and high school teaching has, in the American Culture, been dominated by females. Would a high school male be more likely to choose a male as his favorite teacher of all time? How about a female? If gender-bias is taught through teaching, will the effects of the the female-taught class leverage such a bias out to even the playing field, or will it remain biased to males?

Teaching is not the only job that is traditionally gender-oriented. Sports, infrastructure, and highest-level Managerial jobs are traditionally held by men, while nurses, teachers, homemakers, and beauticians are traditionally female-dominated jobs. Do such gender-dominated professions influence the jobs that younger men and women want to have when they mature into adulthood?

Psychoanylist Sigmund Freud found through his sessions that men and women have a natural inclination towards phallic objects. He attributed this to women wanting to be as powerful as men and seeing the penis as the sign of male dominance. This is the reason many present day psychologists theorize that things such as airplanes, spaceships, skyscrapers, and the Washington monument are phallic in appearance. They subconsciously make us feel the dominance of men. If you pay attention you can see this reinforced daily anywhere you look. Would men and women both, if asked to draw a monument, unconsciously make it phallic?

When faced with the challenge of having to rely on someone who can’t come through with the job and is male or someone who definitely can come through, but is female, which will men chose more? How about women?

Our experiment will provide a deep insight into the workings of the effects of gender bias in young men and women in our society.

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