

# PERSPECTIVE

## *Equality*

*Equality is a fated and ever-present notion irrespective of the place or historical epoch in question. Society strives for equivalent treatment of and opportunity for members in spite of individual distinctions.*



*Dux vol.12*

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# **1. Equality and Society**

Equality Paradox \_Andrew Joun Kim

'Equity' vs. 'Equality: Interchangeable and Yet so Drastically Different

\_Grace YongEun Song

Equality and Equity in modern society \_Sunghyun Yoon Chris

The equality that isn't absorbed into society \_Teryn Song



## ***Equality Paradox***

By Andrew Joun Kim

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Especially with recent dates, many issues regarding the large theme of equality have arisen. Whether racial, financial or personal, there is no denying that there is a strong emphasis on issues related with equality. Nevertheless, by fighting for equality, what is the result that we actually want? Is equality really good? Before those questions, is equality even plausible?

Everyone deals with finances and money at some point in their lives, and it would be ludicrous to even fathom that there is financial equality in the world. However, is “equality” really the right word to fight for? From what it seems like, it is not. Realistically, it is ridiculous to think that financial equality can be reached. There are too many facets that affect the financial state of each person including the type of job someone may have, their birth lottery, and possibly even sheer luck. The right word to fight for, however, is “stability.” Reducing poverty and getting rid of situations where people must live on streets with no food is not asking for equality but rather stability. The difference is that the economy is not susceptible to whims and everyone is somewhat safe from large-scale financial mishaps.

However, there are a few other issues where the word “equality” may be the best thing to fight for. For example, a recent movement called the Black Lives Matter movement took place, fighting for the equality of how humans treat those of certain heritage and skin colors. In this case, equality is valuable and beneficial. However, the only other concern is that equality, in this case, is unrealistic. Why? In order to make this conclusion, we must trace human behavior and actions all the way back from the first ever living things in the world. Firstly, it is a given fact that

even out of the same species, some groups of people are more developed physically or culturally than others. This is significant because there have always been groups of animals culling out those who are weak. This is primarily proven by the theory of natural selection, stating that the most fit ends up surviving. Since the creation of humans from the start is unequal and there has been a lifelong history of inequality. Therefore a lifetime of evolution and experience has shaped humans into unequal beings and people who seek to gain the most benefit for themselves, even if that means culling out a certain group of people.

These reasons make the oxymoron: the equal is the unequal, meaning that the state of inequality is the most fair and unbiased status.

It seems as though science itself proves that the term “equality” is not a realistic goal and cannot be reached. However, a state of inequality is not directly correlated with having good morals, meaning that people can always treat others better instead of accepting that equality is a mere dream. This realization is what is required for the future to thrive.

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Seoul International School, 9



# 'Equity' vs. 'Equality': Interchangeable and Yet so Drastically Different

By Grace Yongeun Song

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People often use the terms equity and equality interchangeably, but as Dr. Ruthmae Sears eloquently explains, treating everyone as equals can ignore the preexisting limitations many people have endured their entire lives. Sears is an associate professor at the University of South Florida and associate director for the Coalitions for Science Literacy, which focuses on inclusive excellence. As a research investigator, her studies include issues in curriculum, developing reasoning and proof skills and the integration of technology in teaching and learning mathematics.

Sears has presented her findings nationally and internationally, and several leading mathematics journals have published her work. She was also the principal investigator for the structural racism study

commissioned by the City of St. Petersburg. In December, Sears led a presentation on the extensive report to the city council, who subsequently voted to approve the study and its recommendations.

On Feb. 16, a local and international audience will hear another presentation from Sears, this time on the juxtaposition between racial equality and racial equity. The St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs (SPCWA) begins Tuesday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. with opening remarks by Board Chair Diane Seligsohn and Mayor Ken Welch. Renowned author and former military advisor Sarah Chayes will then present the keynote address, and Sears said she most looks forward to the diverse perspectives the conference provides.

"Also seeing where we're at and where could we go," added Sears. "Thinking about



the possibilities, the opportunities and gaining insight as a collective of how we could transform and enhance the St. Petersburg community with a global mindset.”

Sears believes the global conference highlights the city’s visionary actions and ability to effectuate change. Sears said it is easy to only address issues in the context of your boundaries without thinking about how those actions align within a global setting. She looks forward to SPCWA bringing together diverse perspectives to tell the same story through different lenses.

Sears explained that equality is when everyone is treated the same regardless of differences and used her background in mathematics as an example. Some students may excel in math, while others need the help of tutors and aides to meet minimum standards. Equity would accommodate the students that struggle, and ensure that everyone thrives within set parameters.

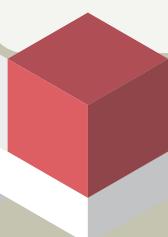
“If you don’t have the right, what we call prerequisites, you’re highly unlikely to take

advantage of many opportunities,” said Sears. “If it’s just equal, you’re still going to be excluding a large portion of the population based on those preexisting limitations, which perhaps was structural before they even engaged in the space.”

Sears said that in education, leaders often refer to an achievement gap. She believes that gap is in opportunity rather than achievement and said some people lack the proper bridge over barriers they encounter in life.

Sears said it is critical to institute support mechanisms that ensure a level playing field, which led her to the stepladder analogy to visualize the concept of equity versus equality. If everyone is watching a sporting event from the same height and distance, some may be too short to see the game. They require some form of elevation to have the same view as others.

“That’s where equity kicks in,” said Sears. “Equity is thinking about ways to ensure we provide opportunities for all in which



everyone can benefit.”

Sears said the previous city administration made noticeable progress regarding equity for citizens. She commended former Mayor Rick Kriseman, former Deputy Mayor Kanika Tomalin, and Nikki Gaskin-Capehart, director of urban affairs, for their leadership and innovative thinking on adopting equitable solutions. While Sears noted the recent progress in St. Petersburg, she said the focus should now turn to the next steps. She said the structural racism study highlighted room for growth by creating more opportunities to address past shortcomings in the city.

“We’re moving forward,” she added. “But we want to make sure that we’re not just leaning forward — we want to make sure we’re making progress forward.”

When asked to describe her work on the structural racism study, Sears let out a long exhale and paused before calling it “a journey.” She said reading through the historical documents and realizing the

pain people endured was traumatic, as was thinking about the fellow residents that stood by and silently watched the inequality continue. Although the study was a painful experience, Sears said knowing that the city wants to focus on the recommendations and the future provides a reason for optimism. She said the city’s willingness to listen to painful documentation of its mistakes shows growth and is a cause for hope moving forward.

“This is where that love kicks in,” she said. “When we start thinking with humanity — many of the decisions become clearer when you put the people in the story and when you start thinking about how you help people.”

Grace Yongeun Song

Seoul International School, 11

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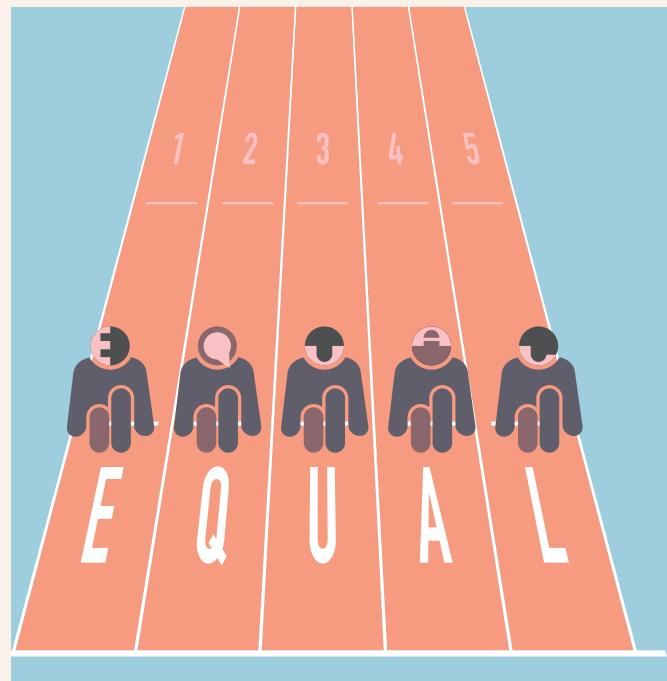


## Equality and Equity in modern society

By Sunghyun Yoon Chris.

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Equality is one of the most important topics arousing worldwide in the 21st century. As time elapsed, numerous scientific, social innovations occurred, and with the same trend, equality among different types of people has been securing and now widening its position in modern society. Equality, referring to the Oxford dictionary, is the fact of being equal in rights, status, advantages. It's noticeable that the definition of equality actively states that the ideal state of an equal society is the utopia where everyone gets treated equally, regardless of their race, gender, economic wealth and their reputation in the society.



Then, what is equity? The two distinct terms sound similar and also has the same nuance; yet, they have different definitions and contrasting state of their ideal society. Equity is the recognition that each person has different circumstances and allocating the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome. For instance, collecting a large amount of taxes on the rich and a smaller amount of taxes on the relatively poor in proportion to their income is an example of equity.

The idea of the two terms differ significantly, as equality is about treating everyone equally

without consideration of the background advantages or disadvantages, but equity is giving everyone a different treatment based on their background or socioeconomic status in order to achieve a similar outcome. Looking at their fundamental idea, it's deducible that equality regards the process as the most important factor; equity, however, considers the outcome as the most essential aspect. This is because equality is intended to create fair competition by providing everyone with the same amount, which also links to the modern capitalistic society; however, equity intentionally makes people start at an equal position by providing appropriate resources and opportunities based on several indicators, which in another sense, is also intended to create fair competition.

Considering the two contrasting social ideas, in what direction should society in the 21st century develop its social form? The answer is simple. The two social ideas must melt into society in a complementary manner and strive to create a society that is good for everyone to live in. In order to make this ideal phenomenon occur, the government must announce several policies that have socialistic characteristics and policies with capitalistic features in the right proportion. For instance, many welfare policies should be announced to help the vulnerable and in the harmony with these socialistic policies, procedures that would help form more fair competition with a firm free economy, which allows everyone to have an opportunity to succeed in society.

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# The equality that isn't absorbed into society

By Teryn Song

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How much percent of the human society do you think is equal for all of the people that live?

The percentage of equality is rising as human society grew. But still, there are some parts of equality that still have to be improved. As an example, there are still discriminations against how people look, how they talk. This means that there are still parts of equality that aren't fully absorbed into society. In order to fix this problem, we need to know what kind of equality we need for society.



First, there is gender inequality. There are a lot of examples of gender inequality. Even though as time passed the inequality decreased, there is still a little bit of gender inequality left. For example, women get paid less than men when even if they both have the same job.

Also, some people tend to think that women are undervalued and that men are always better.

Second, there is racism. This is also another type of equality that is not absorbed into society. That's because a long time ago and currently, it is one of the biggest inequalities in our society. For example, many people know the case of George Floyd. This is because white police choked a black man while trying to arrest him. This became a big case because people accused the police that they killed him just because he was black.

Finally, it is a big problem in society that is the



inequality between the rich and poor. They get different Hospitality. The poor people tend to get bad Hospitality because people think that even though they give them good Hospitality, they will never return it. However, they give their best Hospitality to the rich people because they know that they are rich so they try to be mice in order to be close to them.

Even though society is keep on growing, inequality will never disappear. Since the only way to make equality gets fully absorbed is people should stop the acts of inequality and start to respect every type of people whether they are rich, poor, different skin color, or has a disability, we have to respect all of those people.

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## **2. Struggle for Equality**

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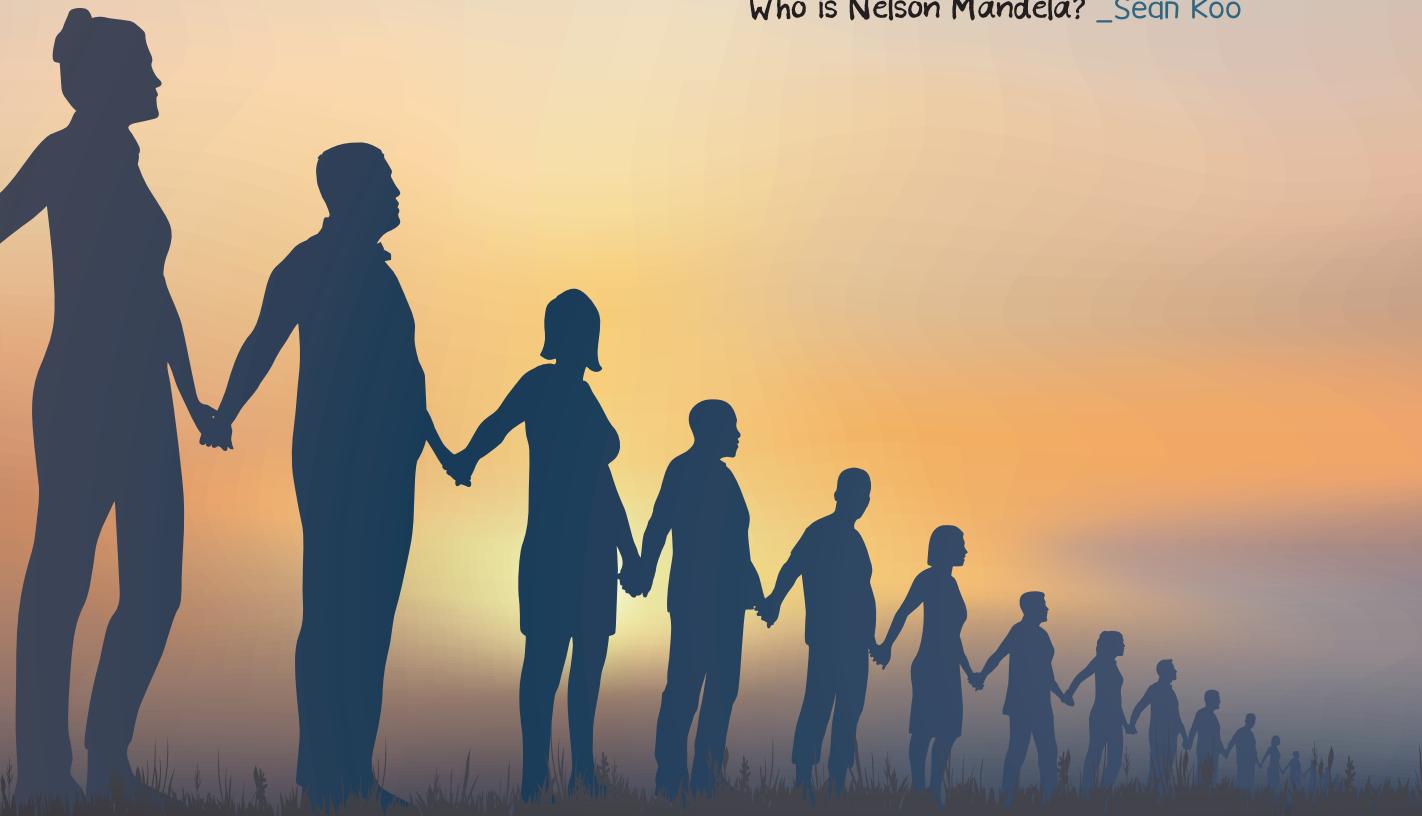
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## Equality today

By Brian Sungbin Yoon

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The Civil Rights Movement was a courageous movement from mainly African Americans to achieve an equal society without discrimination against races. By this period of time, numerous Black people risked their own lives to obtain their goals. As time passed, we all believe that we are finally living in an equal society where every race is treated the same. This statement is true in a way since there were loads of improvements in Black people's life. However, on the other hand, there are still obstacles and inequality that Black people face every day in their lives currently. In this essay, it will mainly focus on three aspects, which are voting, education, and economic equality.



Education, which is one of the basic rights for everyone, was biased against black people in

the past. To make the process of education fair, lots of activists worked hard. However, as time passed, it seems like education had improved itself but did not reach equality. During the 1950s, which was the time with Jim Crow laws, segregation happening, equality of education was also one of the hotly debated topics. As a result, Brown vs Board of education and many legal cases broke down the barriers and determent for African Americans to gain an equal education just as white people. (Library of Congress, 2020) By this decision, Black people were able to attend normal schools with White people. This made a significant difference and improvement in a way since Black students no more had to study in schools with poor facilities and were also able to get educated by better teachers. However, about 33 percent of African-American adults had at least a two-year college degree in 2015, up from 28 percent in 2007, while whites grew to 47 percent from 41 percent. (Kolodner, 2016) This might seem like an improvement in education for Black people since the college degree percentage increased consciously. However, these statistics also show an increase in inequality in society since the gap between white people and Black people upon education increased. These shreds of evidence highlight the fact that there have been improvements upon education for Black people since the Civil Rights Movement took place. However, this also emphasizes the reality in modern society where Black people still face discrimination against their races in education, and that equality is not achieved yet.

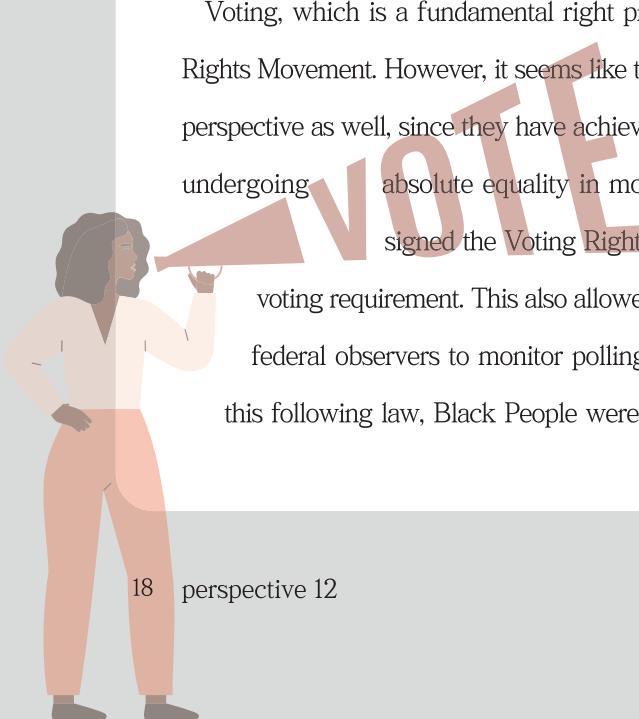


During the Civil Rights Movement, the employment of Black people was a big obstacle. Numerous Black people were discriminated against in the aspect of employment. From this point of view, the Civil Rights Movement can be viewed as unresolved, since there are remaining inequalities in current society. Signing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law, prevented employment discrimination due to race, color, sex, religion, or national origin. (Civil Rights

Movement Timeline,2020) This was a significant improvement for Black people since they were now able to be employed in various jobs without racial discrimination. Furthermore, they were enabled to receive an equal amount of wages as white people and get an acceptable amount of wages considering their ability. Nevertheless, Black workers have received far smaller pay increases in recent years compared with other racial groups, despite unemployment for black Americans is historically low.

(Morath,2020) As the source refers, there have been big improvements for Black people, where the unemployment rate is at the lowest percentage ever. However, it shows that despite the fact that the job market is tight, and wages have been rising steadily, the wage of African Americans' earnings is nearly stagnant over the period. It also reveals that there is inequality in the society since the wage of White people increased 5% while Black people didn't experience any kind of increase in their wages.

The law, which was signed during the Civil Rights Movement mentions that Black people will not face any kind of discrimination upon races in employments and wages. After the Civil Rights Movements, it is true that African Americans were able to be employed and receive an equal amount of wage. However, it shows that inequality and discrimination still remain inside the society which shows that the root problem isn't solved.



Voting, which is a fundamental right provided to everyone, has been achieved by the Civil Rights Movement. However, it seems like the Civil Rights Movement was an unsettled act in this perspective as well, since they have achieved improvements in the past but Black people are not undergoing absolute equality in modern days. On August 6 of 1965 president Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to prevent the use of literacy tests as a voting requirement. This also allowed federal examiners to review voter qualifications and federal observers to monitor polling places. (Civil Rights Movement Timeline,2020) By this following law, Black People were finally able to vote in the elections. In the past, they

had this right, but there was a barrier that deterred their right to vote, which was the literacy test. This test contained severely challenging questions that almost none of the people could pass even though they were smart enough. Therefore, as the government got rid of this test stopping Black people's votes, they were finally able to vote for the candidate they thought would benefit themselves. As a result, a sort of Democracy was also achieved by the Civil Rights Movement. However, the statistics show that the number of black voters declined, falling by about 765,000 to 16.4 million in 2016, representing a sharp reversal from 2012.(Krogstad, 2017) This evidence reveals that the voting rate of African Americans has fallen dramatically for 7 percent. This shows that inequality remains in the society since, in the following year, the voting rate of White people had increased from 63 percent to 65.3 percent. So that the gap between White people and Black people in the aspect of voting has increased a lot, and this directly suggests that modern society is not solely equal, but is experiencing some inequality as well. These pieces of evidence show that the Civil Rights Movement was a successful act in the way that Black people were enabled to vote for candidates. However, it also suggests an idea on the other hand that it is inconclusive since it failed to achieve full equality in the aspect of voting.



The vast amount of evidence suggested in the essay shows that even though the Civil Rights Movement had introduced an outstanding amount of improvements into the lives of Black people, African Americans are consciously facing hardships due to racial discrimination in their lives.

These kinds of continued discrimination towards African Americans due to their race seems to appear mostly in education, employment, and suffrage. We wish we can get totally get rid of racial discrimination and experience an equal world for various races.

Whether it be in the ocean, out on the Savanna field, in the Amazon forest, or in our own bodies, the mutualistic relationships of nature display the power of synergy. Synergy exists not only in nature but also in our daily lives. Can you think of any synergistic relationships that occur in our day-to-day lives?

Brian Sungbin Yoon  
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## The Need For Equality In Workforces

By Nancy Koo

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Thousands of foreign workers in Iceland—primarily employed in construction, hotels, and restaurants—are being subjected to some of the worst examples of illegal employment practices in the country. Currently, there are 30 thousand foreign employees in Iceland, a greater number than ever before.

There are approximately 37,000 foreign workers in Iceland, comprising 20% of the workforce while comprising 13% of the total population—these workers, most of them working in trades within or related to the tourism industry, are arguably the driving force behind the “boom time” economy Iceland currently enjoys. According to the UN study, there are about 150 million migrant workers out of the 232 million international migrants. Foreign domestic workers are workers that migrate to different countries to find workplaces or employers and send money to their family. There are many varieties of domestic workers, ranging in age, sex, ethnicity, and country. Countless problems and flaws have aroused regarding the issue of the treatment foreign domestic workers receive from their employers. Foreign domestic workers depend greatly on their employers and do all that is asked of them. However, in return, they are forced to work laborious hours and are not paid properly or are not paid at all. Abuse, sexual harassment, confinement, and sometimes murder are just a few of the substandard treatment foreign domestic workers receive from their employers. Unfortunately,



foreign domestic workers have a difficult time advancing towards help from the government.

The government of Iceland is trying its best to tackle this ongoing issue that affects most of the people living in Iceland. Many organizations in Iceland have been trying their best to solve this problem. Efling, a labor union, is investigating the average pay of foreign domestic workers. The Directorate of Labor is looking through their documentation of foreign domestic workers and are trying their best to resolve the urgent issue at hand. ASI, Advertising Speciality Institute, has asked the police for follow-ups on the matter. Even though these organizations try their best to fix this problem, there is no improvement in the working conditions or the wages of these workers.

Setting up strategies for the checking of the enrollment and examination of complaints may be a potential arrangement for this issue. It is the government's duty to protect the basic rights and safety of foreign domestic workers. Also, the government should enforce stronger laws that ensure the safety and rights of foreign workers. Most of the foreign workers living in Iceland usually work as maids or guides in the tourism industry. By enforcing the laws related to foreign workers, the safety of the workers will be protected. By taking small steps towards solving this issue, this dilemma can be solved in a matter of time.

Nancy Koo

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# *Asian-American Students and the Fight for College Admissions*

By Jason Lee

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In late 2018, Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA), a nonprofit group of students took to court against the President and Fellows of Harvard College to see whether the Harvard admissions process' use of race in accepting its undergraduate applicants was disproportionately affecting Asian students in favor of white students. The end consensus? While research ultimately found that there was no link between being Asian and being rejected from colleges such as Harvard, a growing amount of discontent over the college admissions process amid the pandemic and an ever intense battle for Asian-American rights has put this topic back in the forefront of discussion.



The discussion on whether college admissions processes—Harvard's in particular—were discriminatory against Asian-Americans started in 2014 when Harvard's applicant rating system

and its potentially unfair assessment of race was brought to court by SFFA. The discussion revolved around Harvard's admissions officers' appraisement of an applicant's overall fitness via leadership, maturity, but also race. On both sides, tremendous amounts of data from applicants of the classes of 2014-2019 was brought to the table, but, as mentioned earlier, little correlation

between an applicant being Asian and their being rejected was found. Furthermore, recently, in early 2021, a study conducted by researchers at Georgetown University's Center of Education found reinforced the sentiment that top colleges were not being discriminatory towards Asian-Americans.



That is not to say however that there has been no active action against the Asian-American community pertaining to college admissions. In April of 2021, U.S. senators rejected a bill that would pull federal funding from colleges and universities that discriminated against Asian-Americans Pacific Islander students via race-based admissions. The reason to back this decision is largely based on the effort to help African-American students get their place in college, and to ultimately not mitigate the effects of Affirmative Action.

Ultimately, given the ruling against SFFA and subsequently the changing of college admissions processes for the benefit of Asian American students, it seems unlikely that any substantial change will be made that will change the way that race is taken into account by top-tier colleges such as Harvard. However, if there were to be any change, it would surely have massive ripple effects outside of just the Asian-American community, namely for African-American students that would surely struggle if policies such as Affirmative Action were to be repealed.

Jason Lee,

Seoul International School, 9

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## Gender equality in sports

By Andrew Nam

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Gender equality and equal rights education and knowledge have grown in recent years, becoming more accessible and being contested by a wider spectrum of individuals. Most youngsters are encouraged to engage in at least one sport at some point in their lives. Sport provides a one-of-a-kind environment for children to play, study, participate in activities, and meet friends that they would not otherwise have access to. Although girls are encouraged to engage in sports, the alternatives available to them in all activities, with the exception of gymnastics, are restricted when compared to those available to their male counterparts.



Unfortunately, the argument over gender equality in athletics continues to be a contentious one. Indeed, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the man who founded the modern Olympics, said in 1896 that "no matter how hardened a sportswoman may be, her physiology is not cut out to withstand certain shocks." The athletic business is making strides toward a more egalitarian future, and we'll be the first to say so. There is, however, still much work to be done. Sport has always been a reflection of society, and as a result, the disparity in compensation between men and women has continued inside the sports industry, just as it does in other professions.



In soccer, the year 2019 was a watershed point in the conversation because the public expressed support for gender equality, and female players, in turn, provided insight into the jobs and lives that women must lead outside of their professional playing careers. The issue, which had been simmering beneath the surface and was typically isolated to family activities or meetings among friends, was rekindled and renewed throughout the world in 2019 after the United States Women's National Soccer Team (USWNT) won the World Cup and the audience screamed "Equal Pay!"

Women's Sports Foundation featured some of the female athletes who are leading the campaign for equal pay in a separate article that was published in the same year. The United States Women's National Squad (USWNT) made a stance against 'institutionalized gender discrimination' against the team in the run-up to their World Cup victory. Compared to their male counterparts, the women's squad has done much better, with the men's team failing to even qualify for the World Cup in Russia. While the ladies have finished in the top three in every

women's World Cup since the tournament's inception in 1991, the men have not. Looking at the sport of ice hockey, the United States Women's National Ice Hockey Team, prior to winning the historic gold medal at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics, fought for equal pay and treatment with the men's national team. According to the New York Times, the ladies were barely scraping by on a livable income at the time and were left out of pre-Olympic marketing preparations despite their continued success as a team. "We're enthusiastically seeking something for the greater good," their star forward Hilary Knight said.

One of the most well-known and ongoing issues, even in 2021, is the disparity between the pay of women's basketball players and their male counterparts in the NBA. It is well known that the majority of professional women basketball players, in order to earn a living from their sport, must participate in a variety of various national leagues. Because they are competing across Europe, Russia, China, and Australia to make ends meet, the athletes are subjected to a high level of physical stress because they do not have an off-season. However, it is also crucial to understand that the WNBA players are not requesting the multimillion-dollar salaries that their NBA counterparts earn; rather, they are requesting a share of the league's profits instead (more on this later).

Andrew Nam  
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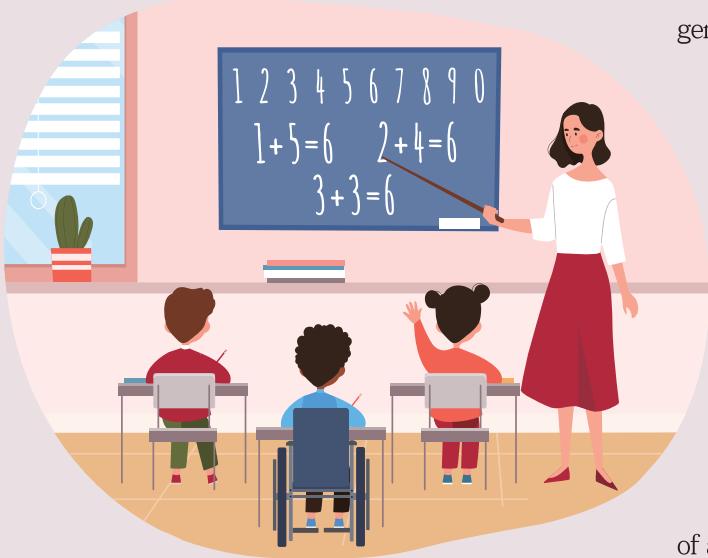
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# ***“Not Yet”: The Power of a Growth Mindset in Achieving Educational Equality***

By Seoyoon Eunie Choi

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Education has long been seen as a way out of poverty, providing opportunities and experiences valuable to social and economic advancement. But the connection between education and poverty is not as straightforward as a unilateral, beneficial relationship. Poverty can, conversely, negatively impact the education experience of children of low-income families, perpetuating a cycle of

generational academic underperformance. It is important to acknowledge this and, in some ways, attempt to ameliorate the effects of poverty on children's education.

The quality of education available in much of America's high-poverty areas is insufficient, despite such areas generally having more students in need of additional help. This can be attributed to the fact that many of America's public schools are funded by local property taxes, and high-poverty areas, with their lower home values and taxes, are unable to raise as much money to fund their schools. And as a result of this systemic inequality, low-income students often face a lack of support and sufficient motivation. They may find it more difficult to participate, or may avoid situations in which they might need to work hard or take risks.

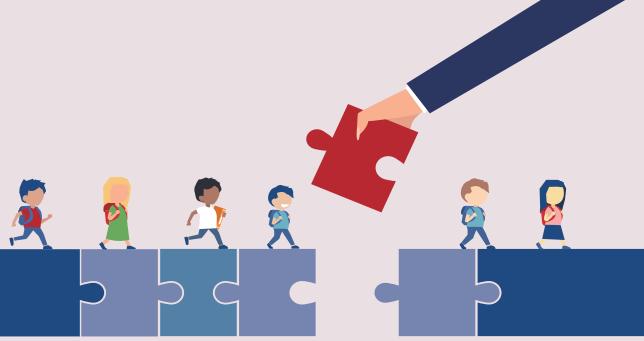
This is not to say that children in poverty do not see the potential benefits of school; in fact, children from all backgrounds see the advantages of school, but deprived children are more likely to experience anxiety and lack of confidence about school. This feeling of a lack of control can contribute significantly to a student's development of a fixed mindset, which, according to Carol Dweck, professor of psychology at Stanford University and leader in the field of student motivation, is when an individual believes talent and skill is innate, and that their own cannot be improved (Dweck, 2016). The converse is a growth mindset, which is an individual's belief that "their talents can be developed (through hard work, good strategies, and input from others)" (Dweck, 2016).

A growth mindset "rewards striving and struggle, seeing failure as an integral part of the process toward growth" (Quintero, 2015). One example is that of a Finnish elementary school teacher, who was influenced by Carol Dweck's research and provided "growth mindset" feedback to her students. For

instance, when a student failed a test, rather than simply writing a number, she would write "not yet". This pushed the student to work harder for subsequent exams, and simultaneously showed that the teacher was not giving up on them and expected them to do better in the future. It exemplified that failure was simply a part of the path to improvement, rather than a final defining statement.

This kind of thought process is crucial in classroom development, as a growth mindset is a "strong predictor of achievement" and "exhibits a positive relationship with achievement across all of the socioeconomic strata in the [United States]" (Claro, et al., 2016). However, students in poverty, who experience hardships, setbacks and losses unique to their circumstances, often struggle with initially cultivating, much less sustaining and performing highly with, such growth mindsets.

Examining the prevalence of growth or fixed mindsets between students of different socioeconomic classes, as well as the interaction between income and mindset, can



aid in better understanding the systemic issue of educational disparities in relation to poverty. Teachers and guardians must promote growth mindsets in their students, to better ensure that they feel welcomed and intellectually supported in the classroom. Of course, this is only one way to help students move out of their fixed mindsets, and it is certainly not a panacea to the multitude of difficulties lower-income students face. The cycle of poverty still exists, and solving economic disparity is a question much larger than this article. However, adjusting students' mindsets can ensure that students are provided the best environment to thrive in while learning, and can perhaps aid in achieving educational equality between different socioeconomic groups.

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## Who Is Nelson Mandela?

By Sean Koo

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In the current world, though there are still discriminations, Africans live in their countries with equal rights whether they be white or black. However, that situation for black men was different in the past. In the past, they were discriminated against just because of their skin color. Though this may seem not true as even today, black men are treated unfairly but it's true. The fight for equality in Africa met to an end as one man toppled South Africa's racist system of Apartheid: This man was called Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela (by name Madiba) was born on July 18, 1918, in South Africa. He lived in a middle-class family with both his father and mother who both graduated from college.

He was the son of Chief Henry Mandela of the Madiba clan of the Xhosa-speaking Tembu people.

After his father passed away, he could have become chieftain but renounced it deciding to become a lawyer.



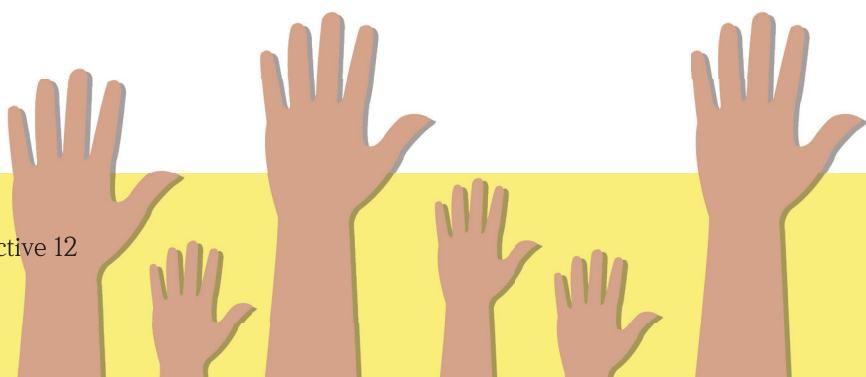
Mandela attended South African Native College after graduating high school and finished in 1943 after he studied law at the University of the Witwatersrand. In 1944, Mandela joined the ANC (African National Congress) becoming its leader in the Youth League to liberate the

black people. That year, he also married Evelyn Ntoko Mase. He's working in the ANC made the organization revitalize leading to the opposition of apartheid policies such as making the first black law practice.

In October 1963, after sabotaging many places, Mandela and other members were imprisoned in the Rivonia Trial. On June 12, 1964, he was sentenced to imprisonment in prison for life. During his time in prison, he was offered to be freed in exchange for recognizing the government. On February 11, 1990, Mandela was released from prison due to President de Klerk. He negotiated with the president to make a peaceful nonracial democracy in South Africa. On 10 May 1994, Mandela became the first black president of South Africa and passed away on December 5, 2013.

Sean Koo

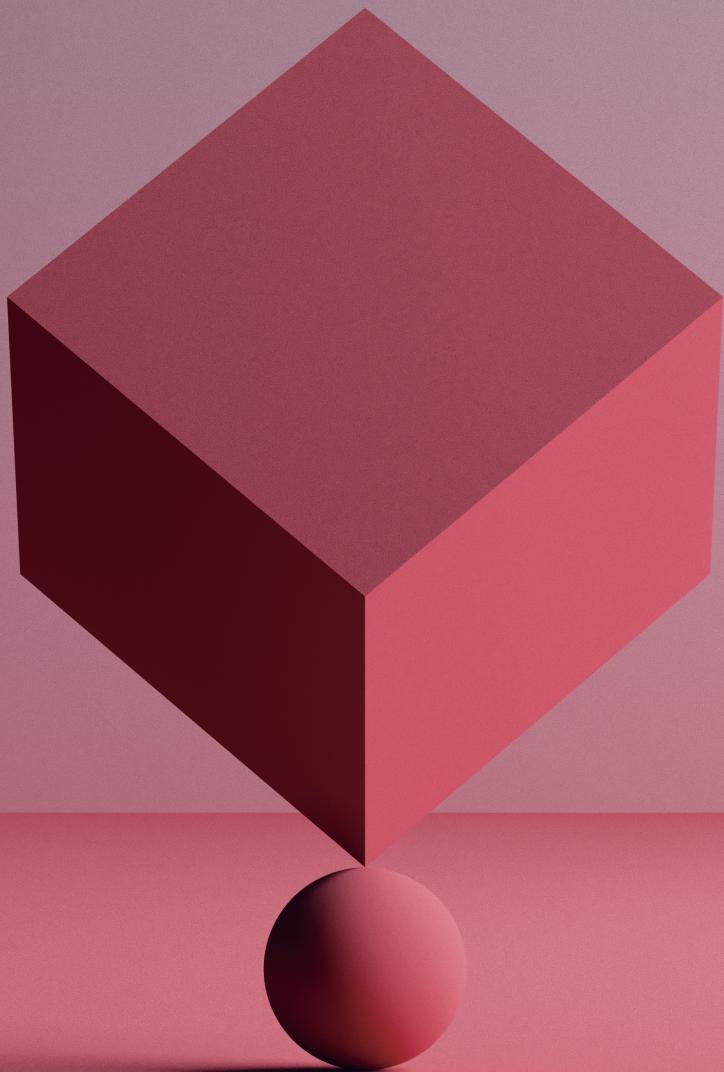
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### *3. Equality in Science*

Access and Allocation: An Ethical Guideline for Fair Vaccine Distribution

\_Kristin Cho



# *Access and Allocation: An Ethical Guideline for Fair Vaccine Distribution*

By Kristin Cho

Havergal College

Receiving priority access based on one's nationality or geographic location contradicts the moral statement that, "People's entitlement to lifesaving resources should not depend on nationality" (Emanuel et al., 2020). With COVID-19 paralyzing our world, vaccines have been a ray of hope, and yet the supply of vaccines is limited while the demand is great; some countries are more vulnerable, and yet vulnerability doesn't provide first access to vaccination. If parts of the world are not vaccinated, and the transmission of the virus continues, there will be more mutations, which will eventually decrease the effectiveness of the vaccines. To stop this catastrophe and achieve the goal of maximization of life-years, it is imperative to improve the approach of facilitating vaccine distribution globally. It is true that wealthier countries are exacerbating the scarcity of vaccines—capital rules first access. Whereas high income countries (HIC) like Canada have secured enough doses to vaccinate their population five times, the majority of low income countries (LIC) have only been able to secure vaccines through organizations like COVAX. The goal of COVAX, an initiative that advocates equitable access to vaccines, was that HIC would fund vaccine development for successful vaccines and help LIC to receive affordable access to vaccines. However, many HIC governments made bilateral deals with vaccine suppliers and cut down COVAX supplies. COVAX had the initial goal of 2 billion doses before the end of 2021 (Gavi.org, 2021), yet only delivered 89 million doses as of June 28th, the equivalent of 4.5%. Countries in especially perilous circumstances, such as India, have reached the point of having to constantly put up signs that say, "Vaccine Out of Stock" (Pollard, 2021). Moreover, India—the biggest global vaccine manufacturing country—had to cut back on exports because the local situation grew out of control, which delayed supplies for COVAX and

other countries. This raises a question: What is the just way of vaccine distribution?



During a serious crisis when supplies are limited, selfish partiality is triggered. Governments will evidently want to vaccinate their people first for the benefit of their country and argue for national partiality—a nation's right to favour its citizens. However, nationalistic partiality must not hinder the welfare of other nations: partiality means bias in favour of one, not at the cost of another. To what degree is national partiality acceptable? Simply investing in pharmaceutical companies for priority access shouldn't be a problem—however, actively participating in bilateral deals with other suppliers, even when doses have been secured for the entire population, as well as postponing COVAX supplies which provide for countries that haven't accumulated vaccines for even 20% of their population, is a problem. The longer it takes to annihilate the virus, the more mutations will occur and, by natural selection, the strongest of those viruses will survive, which is not in any nation's best interest.

The problem of the fair standard of vaccine distribution with the mismatch between demand and supply is controversial and of great importance. Should vaccines be distributed to minimize death counts or minimize the spread of the disease? Should the elderly be prioritized or the young? The WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization has designated priority groups to be frontline workers in health and social care settings, seniors over age 65, and people under age 65 who have health conditions that cause a higher risk of death (World Health Organization). Undeniably, healthcare workers are in the priority group as they are most vulnerable and are contributing to society's benefits by helping the population despite the great risks. The impulse that drives these healthcare workers to save strangers is not a hope for something in return but rather a sense of responsibility to aid those most in need for help. Currently, the primary approach of vaccine distribution is arranged in order to vaccinate vulnerable populations first to reduce mortality. Focusing on transmission, which is an increasing concern as mutations appear, vaccinating groups of the population that are most prone to transmitting the virus is another approach for vaccine allocation. Nations must act collectively and in a non-discriminatory manner to accelerate vaccine coverage and bring the pandemic under control by directing vaccines where they are most needed.

In a crisis, our essence becomes more prominent. Humans must counterbalance self-interested actions by striving for impartial ones, not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it is mutually beneficial. The longer it takes to eliminate the virus, the more mutations will occur, which can even reduce the efficacy of the vaccines. All nations must follow a non-discriminatory authority to enhance global vaccine coverage and allocate vaccines adhering to an objective standard. Often our selfish nature hampers us from being rational when most needed, but a coordinated effort for fair distribution of vaccines will result in the practical good of all nations: an end to COVID-19.

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