How to Solve Problems

The myth of gender and the myth of nature and the environment have established people’s beliefs and laws of treating each other and the nature, and those ideas have gradually changed because people devote themselves to create better societies by amending the myths. Despite their efforts, the myth of the gender and the myth of nature and the environment still face problems. While major magazines and media perpetually glorify the myth of the gender with masculinity and femininity that are ruining youths’ lives, the rate of carbon dioxide emission has not changed significantly for many years. Thus, in order to solve problems and alleviate damages, one has to tackle these issues patiently but aggressively by setting laws on the myth of gender and the myth of nature and the environment, specifically on the latter myth.

The myth of gender has constantly maintained the norm of masculinity and femininity in the United States for many decades, but nowadays the idea is becoming increasingly less important. Nevertheless, American major magazines and media stubbornly emphasize it, and their actions have created side effects in the society. For instance, a technology called “Photoshop,” which physically changes the image of human body with computer, and those corporations’ stereotypical acceptance of masculine men and feminine women are major reasons that many men and women, regardless of their ages, are suffering from anorexia and are idolizing artificial figures. According to “Becoming Members of Society: Learning the Social Meanings of Gender,” Aaron H. Devor characterizes a mainstream viewpoint of masculinity and femininity in the society. He points out, “These two clusters of attributes are most commonly seen as mirror images of one another with masculinity usually characterized by dominance and aggression, and femininity by passivity and submission” (Devor 530). Devor understands that the masculinity and the femininity are major parts of the myth of gender and that they will not likely disappear in the United States. However, he hints, “Fortunately, our training to gender roles is neither complete nor uniform” (535). To solve the problems associated with the myth of gender, federal laws, which must be passed in America regardless of the objection as major magazines and media are able to manipulate the outcome by using their authorities against politicians, should permanently prohibit the publication of doctored photo, an edited image, so that the Photoshop will become useless in these companies. Furthermore, they should require major magazines and the media to set a restriction of the acceptable minimum weights when hiring models. However, there is a high chance that major corporations and the media will continuously disobey the bills because of high incomes, so there will be maximum three strikes of violating the laws, each of which will give heavy consequence to a certain disobeyer. For instance, if one company breaks the law for the first time, the government will seize sixty-percent of its monthly revenue. On second strike, the government will take over eighty-percent of the business’s equity. Finally, a third strike will force the company to go out of business, and all of its incomes will be divided among people in the United States. These solutions are necessary because the current myth is destroying people physically and mentally, and they have to be distant from false reality. Megan Geuss, a journalist of *arstechnica*, reveals that Israel has already gone ahead to regulate advertisers by passing laws, although not as harsh as the solutions proposed above, that are now known as “the Photoshop laws” (Geuss). She also adds, “International advertisements must comply with these regulations to have their ads placed in magazines or on billboard space sold within Israel” (Geuss). Although the law does have a few flaws, Israel has actively created restrictions and prohibitions in order to keep local teenagers and adults away from preposterously unattainable ideals. Therefore, through this regulation, masculinity and femininity, which have been major parts of the myth of the gender, can become even less important in the society.

On a different degree, however, while the myth of gender can be changed with gradual, yet aggressive enactments starting in America, the myth of nature and the environment has even greater problems because the world faces an invisible, yet inextinguishable global gas known as carbon dioxide that causes global warming. Nowadays, the myth of nature and the environment is prioritizing not only the protection of the environment but also the reduction of the carbon dioxide from atmosphere. Unfortunately, the environmental policy, as of right now, is not powerful enough to drastically decrease the rate of carbon dioxide emission. Moreover, a significant number of people do understand the problem but somehow neglect the seriousness of the situation. Charles Siebert, from “The Artifice of the Natural,” metaphorically illustrates the “ignorant” society:

We’ve become, in a sense, a race of armchair naturalists even as more and more of us are now visiting the places and creatures whose stories we’ve watched on the TV. We go as nature tourists, fully equipped and expectant of seeing those characters, as though visiting the various sets of a Universal Studios theme park. (Siebert 684)

He implies that because people are losing the ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy, they are not wholly experiencing the negative effect of the global warming on the environment. The myth of nature and the environment should become more extensive and belligerent than the current notion because people have to realize that the danger of carbon dioxide is imminent; it is secretively and rapidly harming their fortunes and their future and will not stop as long as people continue to produce it. Justin Gillis, a journalist of *The New York Times*, points out the endless carbon dioxide emission around the world, and he advocates scientists’ argument of limiting emissions. Unfortunately, their pleas are disapproved because the scientists “have met sharp political resistance in many countries, including the United States, because doing so would entail higher energy costs” (Gillis). Since a campaign alone cannot encourage countries to stop releasing the carbon dioxide, there has to be enforcing international environmental laws. One specific bill that must be passed is a stronger “odd-even” policy. Originally, it was used to forbid cars with odd or even number plates to run if their number plates did not match with the odd or even date, respectively. Now, this law should become effective on licensed planes, trains, ships, and other transportations that produce carbon dioxide. If one rides an unlicensed transportation, not only it will be confiscated immediately, but his or her authority of using rides also will be lost perpetually. Unless it is an emergency or the ride includes physically impaired people, other eco-friendly alternatives, such as cycling or walking, will be enforced. If people violate “odd-even” policy by using the licensed transportation on wrong day, their actions will result in a cumulative fine, and each payment will depend on people’s social class. Respectively, lower, middle, and upper class will have to pay one hundred, one thousand, and one million dollars, and additional violation will cause that disobeyer’s fine, regardless of the social class, to be increased tenfold. Although it is not compulsory to compensate the entire payment in one month, violators must pay at least seventy percent of the amount every month unless they have completely paid off the fine. If they fail to comply with the condition, the government will confiscate their properties that are equal to their required payment. By radically controlling the global carbon dioxide emission and stressing the importance of the myth of nature and the environment, it will allow people to realize the peril of the current environmental issue.

The laws that are shown above have different impacts on the myth of gender and the myth of nature and the environment because while they weaken the masculinity and femininity that have defined the myth of gender, they strengthen the myth of nature and the environment in order to reduce the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, a similarity is that those enforcements will bring a substantial amount of disapproval from people because the enactments restrict their freedom and rights. Despite the disagreement, the bills will be the first, yet profound step of improving the society and thus must become official.

For many years, People have believed that a panacea exists and that it will completely resolve certain problems around the world. Unfortunately, there is no perfect solution in this unstable world because myths, including the gender and the nature, have been continuously amended for many decades but are not flawlessly universal. Fortunately, people are gradually providing more plausible solutions and taking actions for the hope of improving their societies, so the time will come when the world burdens with fewer problems than it is currently holding.

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