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**GENDER INEQUALITY**

Gender inequality, otherwise known as gender discrimination refers to the unfair rights between male and female based on different gender roles which leads to unequal treatment in life. It is the contention between male and female in the matters of equal access to education, healthcare, equal employment, decision making and freedom from threat of violence and oppression. This social disparity has been since time past.

Up until the era of Suffragettes in the late 19th century, women were always deemed lower than men and inequality was highly insignificant. It was a fundamental patriarchal society. The traditional preconception was that men were strong intellectual beings that were the hunter, gatherers and providers for their household. Whereas, women were passive objects that would cook, clean, cater for their husbands wants and desires, and doing nothing more than bear and raise children. During the 20th century, there was an upheaval in the traditional view of women and their roles and the view of a predominantly patriarchal society they were living in. Women now wanted to have an education, work, not deemed less able due to biological determinism and be treated equally.

How does gender inequality affect us? Gender inequality has effects on the scale of population. According to statistics of the General office for population family planning, because of the discrimination of genders, the number of new-born boys and girls are unequal. To most people, the hope to have a boy loses the balance between two genders. Since this has occurred for quite a while, the impact is rather large. Despite the attempt to close up this gap, it is estimated that there will be 4.3 million men more than women. This will cause a ripple effect in disrupting security the order of the society before marriage age of children. This is already beginning to happen in China where it has been estimated, according to the China Academy of Social Science, that in ten years they will run short of brides.

Discrimination of gender leads to consequences in education. Education is an important tool as it is the key to the growth of humans. A whopping 60 percent of the world’s illiterates are women. Regardless of gender, one is supposed to be entitled and exposed to the same amount of education and opportunities that come worth it. Research from the World Bank even shows that “Increase in female education improves human development outcomes such as child survival, health and schooling.“ However, “lower female education has a negative impact on economic growth as it lowered the average level of human capital” (Klasen 2002, cited in Chaudhry & Rahman 2009).

The economy is also bound to be affected by gender inequality. This is due to the fact that there is a link between education and economy. This can be weighed when looking at the unequal pay between the female and the male. Generally, women earn 70 percent of what men earn, even while having the same job description and being at the same level as the men. That means that for every 1 dollar a man earns, a women earns 70m cents. Chances of getting a god job are slimmer for women and there is more likelihood of being refused on applying for jobs.

This gender gap can’t be resolved overnight. With this being said, acknowledging the current state of gender inequality and raising awareness is the first step in mobilizing individuals and communities to create change. Other steps must also be taken to combat this problem. Starting from the home, chores should be split equally between male and female child. Mothers and parents should be supported and empowered. Women should be helped to gain world power. Demands should be made for same salary policy and abolition of wage gap for the equal work. There should be a stop to child marriage and sexual harassment. Education should also be made gender sensitive.

Realizing gender inequality, women’s empowerment and the human rights of women and girls is critical to realizing these goals and vital to humanity’s progress. Notable feats have been achieved but there is still a great disparity that needs to close up. I’ll end with the words of Gloria Steinem, “The story of women’s struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.”

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