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Winter 2020

Gender Inequality in Education

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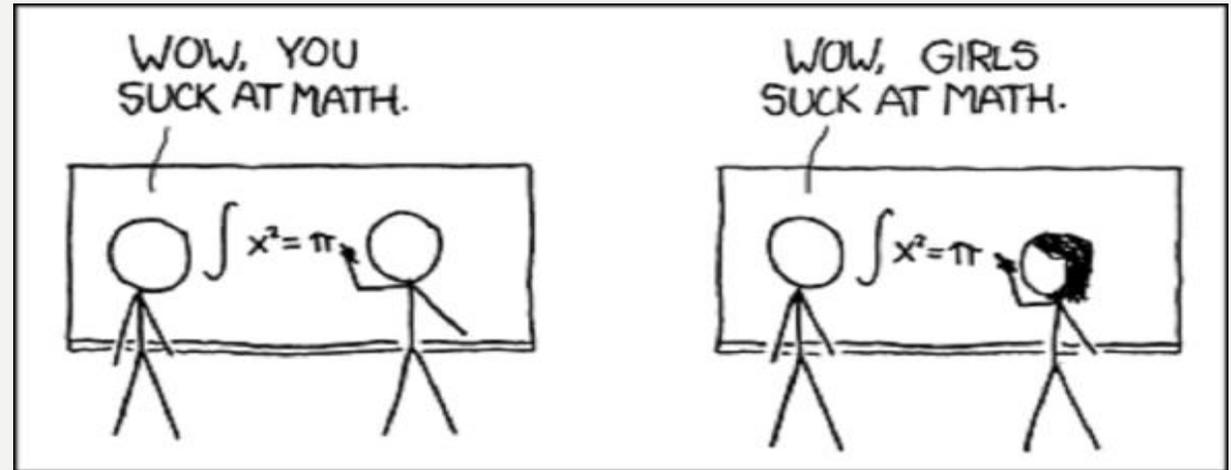
**GENDER
INEQUALITY IN
EDUCATION**

CIARRA BERNHOFT

GENDER IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

“60 years ago almost 50% of women had no formal schooling”(Jakeila & Hares, 2019).

Inequality in our schooling systems has improved immensely however we still have a long way too go. Cultural stereotypes placed on men and women from the time we are born have a large contribution to the gender inequality we see taking place in our educational systems today. These stereotypes are portrayed upon us and then we internalize them and incorporate them into our own personal identity and self perceptions. Stereotypes assign certain subjects and extra curricular activities to either be perceived as being masculine (for boys) or feminine (for girls). This type of classification of interests teaches children that there are certain things they cannot achieve in or enjoy due to their gender.



STEREOTYPES RELATED TO BOYS (MASCULINE) AND GIRLS (FEMININE) SHOWN IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS:

- Math, science, and engineering are seen as masculine fields of study where men innately excel while women must work hard to achieve success (Lynch, 2018). English, biology, and foreign language are seen as feminine fields of study therefore attracting more women than those previously listed (Lynch, 2018).

HOW GENDER INEQUALITY IS EXPRESSED IN THE CLASSROOM

Combine Cultural Stereotypes
("Math is for boys")



With Knowledge of One's Own Gender Identity
("I am a girl")

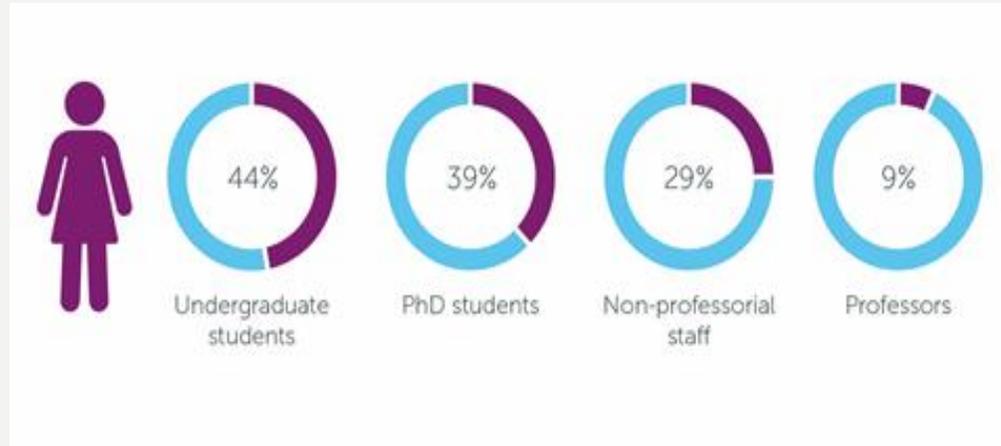


Influences Self Concept
("Math is not for me")

"Whether boys are seen as, and therefore conditioned to be, less empathetic, or girls grow up falsely believing they aren't innately good at math and sciences we all lose out"
(Todaysparent.com)

- **Studies have shown that teachers often pay more attention to boys in class, they call on them more than their female classmates, and the questions boys are asked tend to be more difficult (Goldberg, 2016). Teachers use target students to ease awkwardness when asking the class questions. Target students are those that typically get called on to answer questions. White male students are most likely to be target students (Goldberg, 2016).**
- **Gender splitting is a common practice in the classroom. Ex: when the teacher has girls line up before the boys in class (Goldberg, 2016). This practice excludes students that identify as non-binary.**
- **Teachers have their own gender biases that can portray themselves in the classroom and affect students learning and beliefs, most of the time this happens unknowingly (2018)**
- **Students often replicate learned stereotypes placed on different school subjects. Ex: girls often rate their ability in math to be lower than male classmates (Cvencek, Meltzoff, & Greenwald, 2011).**

GENDER INEQUALITY IN UNIVERSITIES



This graph shows the percentage of women in chemistry departments in the UK.



- ❖ Although inclusion and access to higher education has increased for women (Nesterova & Unesco, 2018). There still is underrepresentation of women in subjects and careers related to math, science, engineering, medicine, and business leadership (Lynch, 2018).
- ❖ These subjects are often thought of as masculine fields of academia. Studies have found that fields perceived as masculine are also perceived to discriminate against females leading to underrepresentation of women (Cimpian , 2018).
- ❖ The graph displayed gives an example of this underrepresentation of women in the field of chemistry (2018).
- ❖ Women also face benevolent sexism in Universities and other professional settings. An example of this would be when men comment on a women's appearance instead of acknowledging her achievements and success (Nesterova & Unesco, 2018).

HELPFUL SOLUTIONS TO GENDER INEQUALITY IN EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

Title IX was passed to help protect people from being discriminated against based on one's sex in any educational setting (gender bias in education, 2014). However, gender inequality and discrimination is still present in all levels of education. It is important that educational settings are safe spaces for everyone, these solutions may be a step in the right direction:

- One's self perception is affected by the material they use in school by eliminating gender bias in textbooks it can help decrease it in society as well (2018).
- Providing courses on gender bias and equity to teachers can help them overcome bias's they themselves have. Therefore they will not bring them into the classroom (2018).
- All gender restrooms can help eliminate confusion and other problems that arise for non-binary students (Cruz, 2018).
- Washington D.C. has made it possible to officially register for school as a category (non-binary) other than male and female making it a lot more inclusive of everyone in our society (Cruz, 2018).

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Cimpian, J. (2018, April 23). How our education system undermines gender equity . Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brown-center-chalkboard/2018/04/23/how-our-education-system-undermines-gender-equity/> This article discusses the way teachers themselves reflect their own gender biases into the Elementary school classroom. It discusses how women face discrimination in certain academic fields and therefore avoid them leading to underrepresentation.

Cruz, D. D. L. (2018, November 19). Some Schools Allow Children to Register With a Gender Option Besides Girl or Boy. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/19/well/family/some-schools-allow-children-to-register-with-a-gender-option-besides-girl-or-boy.html?searchResultPosition=6> This New York Times article discusses ways that school districts have implemented ways of including more gender equity. Including gender neutral restrooms and providing a non-binary gender category on school registration forms.

Cvencek, D., Meltzoff, A. N., & Greenwald, A. G. (2011). Math-Gender Stereotypes in Elementary School Children . Retrieved from <http://faculty.washington.edu/agg/pdf/Cvencek&al.ChDevel.2011.pdf> The researchers of this study discuss how Elementary school children demonstrate American cultural stereotypes based on the subject of math. The diagram of internalizing stereotypes originates from this article.

Gender Bias in Education . (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnuuDf7LkWY> This youtube video provided insight on the Title IX amendment. As well as discussing the importance of safe spaces in educational settings.

Gender equality through school: providing a safe and inclusive learning environment. (2018, March 14). Retrieved from https://gem-report-2017.unesco.org/en/chapter/gender_accountability_through_school/ This report provided examples on ways schools have implemented gender equity into schools. Such as requiring gender education and equity classes for teachers and removing gender bias from school material such as textbooks.

Bibliography

Gender inequality problems remain in higher education. (2018, February 28). Retrieved from <https://edu.rsc.org/analysis/gender-inequality-problems-remain-in-higher-education/3008712.article>
This article discusses the lack of women in postgrad positions in the chemistry department. It provided an important example of how underrepresentation of women persists in certain academic fields stereotypically deemed masculine. The graph provided was retrieved from this website.

Goldberg, S. (2016, August 23). Gender in the classroom. Retrieved from <https://www.todaysparent.com/kids/school-age/gender-in-the-classroom/> This article discussed the ways that gender bias is represented in the classroom.

Jakiela, P., & Hares, S. (2019, June 17). Mind the Gap: 5 Facts About The Gender Gap in Education. Retrieved from <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/mind-gap-5-facts-about-gender-gap-education>

Lynch, M. (2018, September 3). 3 Signs of Gender Discrimination in the Classroom You Need to Know. Retrieved from <https://www.theedadvocate.org/3-signs-gender-discrimination-classroom-need-know/> This article discusses statistics and facts of the gender gap in education. From the article I found the quote on the first slide.

Lynch, M. (2018, September 3). 3 Signs of Gender Discrimination in the Classroom You Need to Know. Retrieved from <https://www.theedadvocate.org/3-signs-gender-discrimination-classroom-need-know/> This article provided information on the cultural stereotypes in our society that influence gender inequality in educational settings.

Nesterova, Y., & Unesco. (2018, November 2). Gender Inequality in Universities. Retrieved from <https://impakter.com/gender-inequality-universities/> This article discusses the gender inequality women face in Universities. It provided information on how women face hegemonic masculinity and patriarchy. It also mentions benevolent sexism and how it affects women.

Singh, N. (2018, July 11). Gender stereotypes are promoted by parents and teachers, says Stanford University study. Retrieved from <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/gender-stereotypes-are-promoted-by-parents-and-teachers-says-stanford-university-study-1282888-2018-07-11> This article I found great images to use and discussed more about cultural stereotypes that affect gender inequality in schools.