

Gender and Video Games: How Often Non-Males are Mistreated, a Community Story

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What is a Video Game?

- According to Dictionary.com, one of their definitions states that a video game is “any of various games played using a microchip-controlled device, as an arcade machine or handheld toy.”
- Basically, think if a board game was more responsive and through a electrical screen, often through a TV screen (or these days, a computer monitor).
- Here are examples of video game consoles of the past and present, from left to right: the Gameboy, Wii, PlayStation 2, Xbox 360, Nintendo Switch.



What is a Gamer???

- Referring to Dictionary.com once more, it lists a gamer as “a person who plays games, especially computer or video games.”
- I feel due to slang, a gamer, as a term, has been used to describe someone who has more of an interest towards playing video games and at minimum, keeping up to date on their favorites or willing to try out a variety in some way.
- To have an easier time imagining a gamer, think of a sports fan who is *super* into it or a sports fan who is casual about it but still occasionally checks on their favorite team(s).

- Now with that out of the way, let's move on to....

The Identity of a Gamer

- Gamers within and outside of the gender binary of every race have always existed throughout the years of video games as a whole, however, despite this fact, there is often push back when they show their presence online.
- In *New York Times*, Ms. Gordon speaks on the matter, stating, “because straight white men have ‘created the identity of the gamer as this exclusive property.’ When women, people of color or L.G.B.T.Q. people try to break into the industry, she said, the ‘toxic geek masculinity’ pushes back in ways that often lead to sexual abuse and bullying.”

Mistreatment of Gamers

- According to the website Gamedeveloper, reached out to 301 gamers to see what kinds of harassments they've faced.
 - Some general ones included swearing, sexual harassment and other behaviors, such as homophobic, racist, toxic masculinity comments, etc.
- The *BBC* also reported on a matter, a streamer called Jasmine Jada, where she suffered from sexual harassment where men talked to each other to take guesses on what she's wearing.
- I, myself, an assigned female at birth woman, has faced sexual harassment, an example being on a online game called Maplestory, where a male player insulted me and another woman in the party by claiming men were smarter and girls were dumb, so we disbanded and looked for more respectful players to do party quests with.

How Can this Behavior Cease and be Corrected?

- Firstly, coming out and reporting about it tends help stop the issue or at least bring awareness to it for others.
- Secondly, as Ms. Thorne said from an NYTimes article, “When there’s a ton of call-outs, it’s a problem with the industry.”
- Systemic sexism, racism, harassment and such needs to be called out and corrected. The industry as a whole needs to change for the better.
- Those who refuse to realize how awful of a behavior this is, will be removed from said space, not being welcomed to it at all.
- Thus, try to be an ear out, give support if you hear mistreatment, report it if the person refuses to respect those harmed as a person.

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