Stephanie Diaz

Prof Guthrie

English 1101-D362

04/14/15

Feminism

“We’ve chosen the path to equality, don’t let them turn us around” said Geraldine Ferraro. Feminism is a crucial aspect in life that women face in life. I agree with this because women till this day don’t have a voice in society. We still fight to establish equal social, political, economic and personal rights for women. We’ve organized feminist campaigns and movements urging to be heard. We continue to see discrimination on a basis of gender, books also include many gender bias. Like some texts refer female and male humans as “man” instead of saying humans or people in which gives an impression that women are invisible. Three main issues women continue to face is equality in workplace, exploitation within the media world, and violence against women.

Women continue to fight for equality in a workplace as man. Gender equality is attained when females and males are able to receive the same resources, rewards and opportunity. Gender inequality is very relevant especially in the work place. The phrase “The Glass Ceiling” for example. The glass ceiling is an unfair barrier to advancements towards a professional workplace. Mostly women undergo this type of harassment. Women are usually categorized for certain type of jobs, even the highest paid women in majority of industries rarely can lead to the most robust top management jobs. Society controls women to feel as if they are not worthy enough to take a role on leadership even in the real estate business. According to Catherine Hill, women in 2013 working full time jobs get paid only 78 percent of what men are paid. Women in each state experience this pay gap, especially women of color. “Asian American women have the lowest paying gap compared to white man, they have a 90 percent gap” (Hill). As women we have to able to take responsibility of our professional developments and not depend on the traditional management.

Women face many issues of exploitation within the media world. “There are thousands of prime examples of women being exploited in the media. Just tune into your local music channel and you will see an array of music videos portraying women as objects of desire, or even as accessories and trophies for the men to show off to others” said Bridie Wilkie. One thing to notice is the way the media portray women to the youth. Disney; most Disney movies have a female role in which she undergoes a harsh reality. What people didn’t notice is every women basically wasn’t complete without a man or the man would get a women at the end like a trophy. Every princess “needed” a prince and every prince was “given” a women. Handing women out like objects and creatures who can’t be self-completed without a man in their life. In today’s media society we more or less down grade our women in an “okay” manner. I say this because of our generations oddly sex obsession. We trend to treat women more like sexually objects rather than actually human beings, especially in the hip-hop community. Nearly half of the population in America, it is more likely for women (prefer Latino, African American) to drop out of college and pursue a career in modeling or stripping.

Understand modeling is a great career, however you must recognize the harsh reality modeling does to women of all races. Rule number one: You must be drop dead gorgeous. It is very rare to see a model agent tell a model she’s perfect, why? They constantly belittle you to make sure you improve to their standards. You could have a petite small body; yet still will encourage to almost force you get skinner. “Whether it is the controversial standard set by society or by the industry itself, an agencies expectation is that although these girls will grow into their womanly bodies they are expected to still have the waist size of a little girl- a ridiculous standard for models”(Gouma). This is why most women become anorexic, pushing your emotions to make you feel unsatisfying with the way you look. If you have a heavy body your automatically unfit for the job. They train you to hate the way you look so you would feel obligated to change it immediately. They disgust they hate with harsh comments and call it motivation. One thing to note is it’s always a “man” giving these suggestions. However, in this new era most heavy people go into promotion modeling pictures to stripping.

Stripping, created to for the one sole purpose. The arousal of a man. Modeling and stripping trend to coexist together. As I said in the beginning now or days women are treated more like sexual objects. Because stripping became so popular and competitive women turn to harmful surgical injections to enhance their physical features. Women are7 more accepting to this type of treatment because it’s where the money seems to come from now. The average stripper makes 80,000 a year, imagine the high popular strip club salary. In the media world women are secretly belittled and harnessed until they are perfect enough in a “mans” eyes.

We continue to face violence against women. Many women in relationships are often manipulated or abused domestically with none or little control. “In UK, 89 per cent of regular domestic violence victims are women, and two women a week are killed by a male partner or former partner” (Holly and Rhiannon). Marital rape is forced intercourse that is undesired by the intimate partner. Many women undergo this kind of violence, and even though it’s illegal in the United States it is still legal in many other countries. Women often feel pressured into having sexual intercourse with their spouse because they are married, but it is not right for them to feel like this, it should be a mutual feeling otherwise its considered rape. This is also a very underreported crime because females because they feel as if marital rape is not rape or afraid to be domestically abused by their partner. According to the U.S government one in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime. Women human rights are also violated when we are abused psychologically, even if its not physical or sexual abuse, verbal abuse can be just as bad. We are often called out of our name or given a negative judgment and threats that scares women on speaking up. Some men feel as if their women are their property and try to control them or try to intimidate them. It’s sad to say that many women still undergo this kind of violence, and don’t seek help because they’re afraid. The U.S congress has helped by passing the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. These kinds of women rights should expand around the world globally to stop the violence against women.

As you can see, feminism should be more relevant to society to undergo equal rights. Women issues we continue to face is equality in workplace, exploitation within the media world, and violence against women. Females don’t get enough positive publicity in the media world. For example, Kim Kardashian is a model, entrepreneur, fashion designer and television producer and stars in a reality show but yet everyone just seems to just remember her from her previous sex tape. Women need to fight for their rights, we need to be heard! We don’t have enough female leadership, we still haven’t had a female president in the United States. We need to strike for more and not let society determine what we’re capable of.

References

"Feminist.com:::Activism." Feminist.com:::Activism. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2015.

"New Statesman." The Five Main Issues Facing Modern Feminism. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2015.

Elerick, George. "Feminism Is About Equality, Not a Particular Gender: An Interview With Inga Schowengerdt." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2015.

Faludi, Susan. Backlash: The Undeclared War against Women. London: Chatto & Windus, 1992. Print.

Wilkie, Bridie. "Exploitation of Women in the Media." *- Home*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Apr. 2015.

Cosslett, Rhiannon, and Holly Baxter. "New Statesman." *The Five Main Issues Facing Modern Feminism*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Apr. 2015.