

Gender Discrimination in the Workplace and Society

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Imagine that a person has blue eyes. Since their eyes are blue, everyone that has “normal” eyes gets 130% more pay than you do, have more opportunity to climb the corporate ladder, and more respect in society. Truth be told, I’m not talking about people with blue eyes. I’m talking about women. They have all of the conditions above, and more, such as being sexualized in society. No person of any gender should be discriminated against for any reason.

Since women have equal minds as men, why should they be paid on average 77% of what men get (The Just Life)? Discrimination based on gender or sex is a common civil rights violation, but why? Gender discrimination in the workplace is still a major problem in the workplace even though laws like Title VII or the Equal Pay Act were passed to target the issue. Gender discrimination at work happens when an individual is treated unjustly or differently on based off of their gender and may affect anything from hiring decisions to promotions. (Gender Discrimination). For example, if there was a woman and a man are both up for a promotion and the woman has more experience, but the woman was in a serious relationship and was considering having a child and the man got hired so the company didn’t have to pay for her leave would be putting her at a disadvantage.

Women are also sexualized in society. In 2006 the American Psychological Association (APA) did a study to define sexualization and they found that any one of these four components of sexualization sets it apart from healthy sexuality: a person's value comes only from his or her appeal or behavior, to the exclusion of other characteristics; a person is held to a standard that equates physical attractiveness (narrowly defined) with being sexy; a person is made into a thing for others' sexual use, rather than seen as a person with the capacity for independent action and decision making; and/or sexuality is inappropriately imposed upon a person (The Sexualization of Women and Girls). When this happens in the real world, it is almost always a woman that is being sexualized. In fact, studies have shown that people remember women for their body parts, while men get remembered by their whole body (Stephanie Pappas). It isn’t right for women to be sexualized, because when we do we are hurting them. When women feel objectified, their self esteem is lowered (Stephanie Pappas). When people sexualize and objectify women, it is like we are bullying them, except there isn’t much they can do about it because of how society makes women seem more like sex objects and not people.

I propose that if you see any unfairness in a workplace, you talk to your superiors to make it stop, and if you see a book or magazine that makes women look like sex objects, you don’t buy it. There are already laws in place that try to even the playing field, but there are still things that anybody can do. If you see anybody being treated unfairly in a workplace situation, first, you should report it to your superiors, and if that doesn’t fix it, you should report it to your local government branch that deals with workplace

sexism. Also, the factor that objectifies women the most is media. If you consider buying something that sexualizes women, consider what it does to women and don't buy it.

In conclusion, two big problems for women today are the objectification and workplace discrimination that takes place every day. The media objectifies women every day, but nobody should feel objectified or discriminated against for any reason.