

Gender Repression in Education: Examining disparities and bias

Although education is used as a tool for those to transcend social and economic barriers, disparities and biases in education persist even though many struggle for educational equity. A phenomenon that has emerged widely among different societies these days has a crucial impact on students—gender repression in education.

Many students of this generation cite two universal experiences: their teacher will group students by gender for class competitions, or they perceive that a teacher treated boys and girls differently.

Gender repression has always been a central topic surrounding discourse around establishing educational systems. An in-depth look at inequality in education reveals that some gender-biased curriculum models and programs as discussed by the National Library of Medicine result in hidden scientific productivity, authorship and peer-review, the burial of many students' talents throughout their career stage, and the lack of representation in specific fields.

Gender splitting has integrated itself into the norms of schools. Many subtle differences in gender management systems in early education silently plant the seeds of inferiority in the psyche of female students so that more imperceptible inequalities are created in the future through the education system.

Megan K. Levering, a student at Northwood High School, said, “During my high school freshman year in Anaheim, California, there were gaps that cannot be neglected between genders in the school dress codes, particularly in how they were enforced. Female students were often reprimanded for wearing leggings and shoulder-revealing shirts, being told to cover up with a sweater, or face consequences. Meanwhile, male students freely wore sagging pants and tank tops without intervention.”

However the issue of gender disparities mentioned by the student is also shown in the data from the United Nation. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, women still account for almost two-thirds of all adults unable to read. Gender bias has never gone away; the implicit bias throughout the educational system seriously affects all genders' development, particularly for women.

Education will influence both the present and the future generation. It is conclusive in determining what this generation is like and who will educate the next generation. However, social stereotypes usually defines STEM disciplines as "rigorous and empowering," so much so that according to the American Association of University

Women by 2023, only 28% of women had worked in STEM-related careers, and the next generation of female students will be less likely to consider a career in STEM because it may be viewed as risky and counterintuitive.

Haobo Sun, a JSerra Catholic High School student, said, "In my cultural education and upbringing, boys are typically encouraged to engage in science and programming extracurricular or competitions during their student years, whereas girls are often guided towards writing and literary activities. This approach not only hinders the talents of many students but also widens the gender gap."

Gender stereotypes in education are eventually going to be broken down since they play a significant role in the education process. A diversified educational environment is better suited to the holistic development of all the students and ensures that their talents are considered to the fullest.

In the classroom, an inattentive act by a teacher may be what fuels gender inequality in education, and these small acts of ignorance can add up in people's lives, becoming everyday influences for generations.

Facebook's COO, Sheryl Sandberg, said that "in the future, there will be no female leaders. There will just be leaders." As gender repression shrinks in the future, the designation of women as "special" will cease to exist, and women's confidence and comfort at schools, in the fields of research and science, and entrepreneurship will change dramatically.

Education plays a decisive factor in the socialization process for growing children. However, educational biases and disparities in education can have a huge impact on student development and the progress of human society. Schools and teachers should minimize gender bias, and students should be taught how to think critically about the ways that their gender might help or harm their chances in professional fields. While both boys and girls are still in school, they should also have a certain degree of mindfulness about how boys are propped up in education and how girls are subtly prevented from achieving those same heights.