

Treatment of Women

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Often times people say that everyone is created equal in all manners of life. But is this really true? Are all people throughout the world really being treated the same as everyone else? Perhaps this is just something that people tells themselves so they feel more comfortable with either how they are living, how they are being treated, or even how they are treating other people.

For many centuries woman have often been seen as less than men in many issues. The over all social treatment of women is generally less respectful than that of men. Women in China are forced to work in places with lower working conditions than those of men because they believe that men should receive the better end of things in life. Many male dominated societies have more often than not believed that women are worth less and are unable to do the same work as men. Because of this many women have been denied education and working opportunities and have received severe abusive punishments for attempting to complete the same tasks as men.

In America many believe that this view point is no longer applicable in their own home because it is not as dominant or seen as much as it is in other areas that have developed differently than America has. In places including China, Afghanistan, Iraq, and others treating women differently and as less than men is seen as cultural and normal to many people. No matter where a person lives or what type of employment they may have women are still more likely to be abused and are still being looked at as worth less than men and as incapable of doing the same jobs.

Abuse and Maltreatment of Women

When most people think of abuse, they often only think of the physical side of things such as being hit and receiving a bruise or other type of mark or deformity. There

are many people that don't realize the many different kinds of abuse such as: physical, emotional, domestic violence, sexual assault or harassment, and even neglect. Boys who witness their fathers' violence are 10 times more likely to engage in spouse abuse in later adulthood than boys from non-violent homes.

The most common abuse of women is sexual assault. In America 1 in 6 women will be raped in their lifetime as compared to 1 in 33 men. (Rainn, 2010) Throughout the world an average of 1 in 3 women will experience some nature of sexual abuse. In the National Violence Against Women Survey, approximately 25% of women said they were raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, or date in their lifetimes. The survey estimates that more than 300,000 intimate partner rapes occur each year against women 18 and older. When many rapists are interviewed and asked why they feel the inclination to rape someone they most often reply that they feel women are easy to control and therefore should be controlled in all ways possible. One of the major sexual abuse factors in young girl's lives in places such as Asia and China is trafficking. Many males in these places will kidnap women and sell them to other people to be used for sex or other such abuse. In China, Africa, and Asia about four million women are trafficked annually mostly to other countries. On top of that an estimated one million children are kidnapped and entered into the sex trade every year.

Emotional abuse is the next most common offense against women. (Department of Justice) There are many different aspects that can come into play in this form of abuse. It could be as simple as calling someone ugly or as drastic as forcing women in China to get abortions because of the law stating that they may only have one child. Domestic abuse is physical fighting between two adults. In Zimbabwe, Domestic violence cases

make up for about 60% of all the deaths of women in a year's span. (Zimbabwe Women's resources, 2011) Only about half of domestic violence incidents are reported to police. Because of the high death rates caused by domestic violence African-American women are more likely than others to report their victimization to police.

Throughout the world domestic violence is one of the main causes of losing a loved one, especially women and children. Another common form of abuse is physical abuse. In China, when a girl was about three or four years of age, the mother would take the young girl's toes and tie them to the bottom of their soles so it would make the size of the child's feet smaller. With this women with bound feet were actually preferred in marriage than women without. (Nosotro, 2009) Every woman in her life will experience abuse of some sort at least once and most often that abuse is done by men.

Educational Opportunities for Women

In the past 500 years women have received more opportunities to obtain an education but many are still denied the right to learn. In Afghanistan women are refused education and women with an education are looked down upon in society. Only about 27% of women are fully educated and very few even know how to read.

In China, there is a very rich, very precise, educational background dating back more than 3,000 years ago, however, women were not included in this education until about the past 60 years. Because of the Confucian ideology, females in China had an oppressed social status. This same ideology prevents women from gaining the same, highly progressed education that men receive. This is more proof of the mistreatment and discrimination of women in China. (Liu, Carpenter 2011) Even today China is facing

many of these educational barriers and discriminative actions. One of the main points made in *Waiting for Superman* is that the future of our world and our children's future is dependant on what they learn in a classroom. (Weber, 2010) Now days you can't even get a job if you don't have a high school diploma or GED. Education has become the main factor in who is successful in life and who isn't. Without a proper education women will never receive good jobs or be able to raise children on their own if the need arrives.

Working Women

Businesses always make the claim that women are equal to men in the work place and will receive the same treatment. In reality, women receive less respect, money, and advancement opportunities than men. A woman's median weekly earnings in 2005 were \$585 for full-time wage and salary workers, but the median weekly earnings for men in 2005 were \$722. (Women's Bureau, 2005) In many working areas women are paid less than men but have more demanding jobs. The average man makes about \$3 an hour more than the average woman. Along with this the unemployment rate of women is also a significant amount higher than men. In 2005 65,757,000 women were employed, while 6,531,000 women were unemployed. 75,973,000 men were employed, while 2,059,000 were unemployed. (Women's Bureau, 2005)

The *dagongmei*, or working class, from china is women, most often young girls that leave rural areas to go to urban areas to find work. These women will work long 12 hour days in factories with harsh conditions for minimum wage. However, there is a law prohibiting young girls in China to permanently leave their homes or villages if they are born in the countryside. Because of this, these young girls only work at these factories for about 5 years and then are expected to return home and be married. (Project Muse, 2007)

There are many different views about education in different areas but in most places women are denied the same education as men.

For the past while women have never received the same treatment as men. The Abuse rates of women are three times higher than that of men. People still follow the popular belief that women will never be capable of doing the same things as men but in many cases, they do more demanding tasks than men do for a lower wage. The education given to women in many countries still doesn't match that of men and probably never will for at least another 50 years. No matter what way you look at it women are treated as less important to society than men are.

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