

The Effects of Power and Dominance on Gender

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For much of history, there has not been much of a balance of power between men and women. Men were always the dominant gender with high-paying jobs and women primarily stayed in the home and did all the household chores. However, the many marches and protests women have had throughout history have contributed to them becoming just as dominant as men, if not more dominant. Women now hold more administrative and higher-tier jobs that were once occupied by men, rather than the secretary and teacher positions that most of society saw them as. Although it seems there are no significant issues regarding men and women being equally dominant, that is not the case. Many men view themselves as the most authoritative and in-charge gender, which results in asserting their authority toward women, in which violence follows. Also, there are many people out there (primarily men) that feel women only belong in a domestic setting and do not fit in outside the home. In this paper, I will go through the issues of gender dominance and what can be done to make more people aware of the potential women have. I will also mention the views children have on the personalities of both genders, and their thoughts on which gender has more power. Lastly, I will talk about the different ways women have progressed in recent times, including the acceptance of lesbians for who they are and the support women get that are getting them high-level jobs and more respect.

One issue women face is that they are made to feel like the less superior gender. At times, men do not want them at events where nearly all the attendees are men (i.e., parties, conferences, banquets, etc.). These men feel women would not understand the concepts or ideas they bring up at the functions, and women would get in the way and not understand the dialogue of

conversations. For instance, Ellen Pao mentions that she and her female colleagues testified when they did not get invited to a business dinner with former vice president Al Gore. She says, “it was said that if there were women there, the conversation would be tempered, and it was because women kill the buzz.” (West, 2017). Regarding this situation, I feel that if a significant dinner or conference is featuring a prominent political figure, men do not want a substantial female presence to spoil the mood. Men that have this persona feel women do not have the necessary background or knowledge of politics. Moreover, if men catch women saying the wrong thing, even if it is a minor slip up, it will make their uncertainties make the men look bad. Many men have a personality of dominance, meaning they feel whatever they say is right and they have every authority to tell women (and less superior men) what to do. There needs to be work done to show men how women are allowed to have a voice and they should be included in the same events if they are interested in them. Women deserve to go to these events because they have every right to be interested in politics and they may end up sharing intellectual thoughts with the prominent leader at the event.

Not only are men dominant in not letting women attend the same events they go to, but their personalities also show off their dominant personality. For one thing, men feel they are the ones that need to control the conversation. According to Julia Wood, “research indicates that men are more likely to interrupt to control the conversation by challenging other speakers or wresting the talk from them.” (Wood, 2015, p. 115). I do not have this type of personality nor do I see this often in real-life, but I see it all the time in TV and movies, particularly in adult-oriented programs. If men hear an incorrect fact or something that displeases them, they will interrupt whoever they are talking to and set them straight. It can be extremely frustrating

for the individual the man is talking to because they interpret the constant interruptions as putting words in their mouth. Another poignant issue that Julia Wood mentions, “compared with women’s language, men’s is typically more forceful and authoritative.” (Wood, 2015, p. 115). This ideology is more typical of men with lower and middle socioeconomic backgrounds. Generally, men are more demanding and forceful during more serious conversations, especially ones that involve finances. Men want to be correct about everything in conversations with women and do not want to hear disagreements or “no” for an answer. They want to show off their dominance and show their female counterparts who the boss is. Unfortunately, the dominant-male persona does contribute to high tensions between men and women, some of which are physical.

As tough as it is for me to say, men with demanding and controlling personalities tend to get physical and violent if things do not go their way. Even worse, women end up being the victims of violence. Violence against women is a severe issue and is something that happens more often than you think. Many beautiful and innocent women fall victim to getting beaten up and harassed by men for not going along or disagreeing with what he said, or turning down plans he had in mind. In 1991, an international group of men formed the White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) to help end men’s violence against women. Since its inception, “the WRC continues in resolute, steadfast pursuit of its mission to persuade men to take responsibility for ending men’s violence against women.” (Wood, 2015, p. 87). Thanks to the aid of the WRC, the support of the organization with its workshops can spread awareness about women’s violence and the damages it can cause. Despite all the success of the organization, violence against women continues to be a significant issue that leads to tragic injuries and deaths on a regular basis. If more men are

made aware of the WRC's efforts, they will see violence is never the answer and the more proper ways they should treat their lady.

Men who use too much dominance in their lives can hurt those who they use it on, including their family members. Families, especially ones with young children, should not have a father who is too commanding and does not treat his kids or wife with proper respect. In a quote by Sam, "I think families were stronger when the man was the head and the woman knew who to follow. Families can't work if both spouses want to lead. There can be only one leader." (Wood, 2015, p. 90). I agree with Sam's point that families should have one spouse be the leader, but the family should have the philosophy of a democracy, not a dictatorship. A democracy-style family allows the leader in charge to get everyone's opinions on different family decisions, such as what to have for dinner and planning a vacation. These types of families are usually happier and more positive than ones that are dictatorship-style. Unfortunately, though, not every family has this mentality. Some fathers feel they can get whatever they want by being tough, dominant and violent toward their wives and children. In a statement on the WRC's website, "many men have come to believe that violence against a woman, child or another man is an acceptable way to control another person. By remaining silent about these things, we allow other men to poison our working and learning environments." (Wood, 2015, p. 88). Violence is unacceptable to use on anyone because of the consequences it causes. We need to find ways to show men the damages that are a result of using violence on others, including any injuries or relationships that get terminated. If they are aware of how much they hurt their loved ones, it will open their eyes and hopefully reduce the violence significantly, or all together.

Men with dominant egos learn how to be controlling not as an adult, but at an early age and acquire all the characteristics that they feel a tough guy should have. According to Jackson Katz, “one of the most important places [boys] learn [how to be tough] is through the powerful, pervasive media system that provides a steady stream of images that define manhood as connected with dominance, power and control.” (Jhally, 1999). A lot of young boys that see films with lots of action and violence in them interpret a message that this how I am supposed to act. Films such as *Warrior*, *Die Hard*, *Mad Max* and *The Matrix* have tons of violence and action in them that reach the eyes of boys and encourage them to act tough. However, boys will soon find out that the toughness of the men portrayed in those movies is not the right they are supposed to act. If they play around with their friends and act out scenes from those movies, someone will end up getting injured as a result. Boys need to wait until they are mature enough to understand the effects of these films so do not show off their violent skills to any of their family and friends. Jackson Katz also brings up how “a major consequence in our society is the growing connection between being a man and being violent.” (Jhally, 1999). Many children who grow up in a household with a father who is violent, will most likely end up as a violent perpetrator as well, possibly as early by the time they hit their teens. That is such a tough statement to fathom. I feel that kids (especially boys) living with violent fathers must be required in school to learn about the proper etiquette of daily life and being with girls. This setup will allow boys to see the proper way they should behave, and to avoid following in their father’s footsteps.

From an early age, children see gender representations in the media and decide for themselves which gender is the most dominant and why. If you grab a group of children, most of

them will say that men (their fathers) are the dominant gender. According to a Freudian theory, “from an early age, children of both sexes focus on the penis... Freud theorized that girls regard their mothers as responsible for their ‘lack’ of penises, whereas boys view their fathers as having the power to castrate him. Both children see the father and the penis as power.” (Wood, 2015, p. 143). I feel that children associate the penis as the more dominant genital because you can see the penis on a man’s body without any clothes. However, for women, their vaginas are inside their bodies, which is why children do not see them as dominant. I do not see a connection with genitalia toward power and dominance. Children see men demonstrating a commanding persona, whether in the media or with their fathers, which is where they develop this ideology. In a study done by Children Now, the group noticed that boys saw many male characters on TV as violent and angry (*MediaSmarts* - Men and Masculinity, n.d.). Boys do not get exposed to media content with these representations on a regular basis, but when they do, they will tell their parents what they saw, and it will not go over well with them. Many young children see shows with violent male characters in them, such as *Family Guy* and *Archer*, and see the behavior of the characters and feel this is how men should behave. We need to be extra careful with exposing these types of shows to young boys so they do not receive the wrong message about how men should act. If we are successful and not letting young children, especially boys see these violent characters and false representations, they will understand from their own experiences and lessons from their parents that dominance is not the right path to go down.

One attribute of male dominance that young boys are likely to see while they grow up is touching. Boys will see masculine guys touch others (primarily girls) on TV and movies to assert their dominance and feel they are allowed to do so, too. As Julia Wood points out, “boys

are more likely to learn to associate touching with control and power and not expect nurturing touches from others.” (Wood, 2015, p. 130). I see this attribute many times on TV and movies, where the controlling male character regularly (and inappropriately) touches his girlfriend and when she touches him to stop, he gets livid toward her. Not only is this an example of mistreatment of women, but it is also sexual harassment and something no boy should ever do to their future girlfriend or wife when they get older. Men who have this characteristic feel they no one can top their authority and do not want nurturing touches to reduce their dominance and masculinity. Julia Wood also says, “because men are generally larger and stronger than women, they tend to have more physical confidence and to be more willing to use physical force than women. Some men are unaware of how imposing their strength is, especially in relation to others who are less so.” (Wood, 2015, p. 130). A lot of men are bulked up and extremely muscular, are not afraid to use physical force, whether it is to protect or, God forbid, assault their wife or girlfriend. Many guys that have these characteristics feel that if someone messes with them, they have every right to use violence to show them who the boss is. Physical assault and violence injures and kills people every year from people (especially men) engaging in erratic behaviors. Young boys should know early on that violence is never the answer to problems and it can hurt lives and relationships. As boys get older, they have every right to beef themselves up and have a muscular appearance, but that does not mean they can use violence on others when they say or do something they do not appreciate. They need to know that appearance does not necessarily matter, the thing that does matter is their true inner feelings at the bottom of their hearts.

Often, the toys boys play with offers them a piece of how they should look when they get older. When boys grow up, one toy, in particular, they like to play with each other are action figures. The figurines made for boys are usually of their favorite superheroes and movie characters, including Spider-Man, Super Man and Luke Skywalker. The problem with the toys, though, is that “action figures socialize boys at an early age to understand that the ripped look is the current body ideal for masculinity.” (Wood, 2015, p. 132). Boys see how the action figures look and feel the need to look the same way they do. At a young age, boys crave role models. They look up to people that are older than them, and they want to behave and have the same appearance as the person they aspire. The appearance of action figures are not the only styles of appearance young boys aspire to become someday. Many actors who have full and buff bodies, including Mark Wahlberg and Ryan Reynolds, inspire boys to look just like them when they get older. What boys need to know about their appearances, is that they should not overwork themselves to strive for the same appearance as their favorite actor or action figure. They should just be themselves, and if they get big and strong one day, that would be great, if not, that is fine, too.

Another issue of male dominance is the language we use to describe jobs and other words that have “man” in them. Male generic language is language that gets used to include men and women but technically refers only to men. According to Julia Wood, “examples of male generic language are nouns such as *congressman*, *spokesman*, *mailman*, and *mankind*... Some people think that there is no problem with male generic language and that using inclusive language is just about political correctness.” (Wood, 2015, p. 103). Male generic language, in my opinion, should not get used when referring to women because it is politically incorrect to refer to them

with a male generic term. When the male generic terms get used when referring to women, it may take a downfall on their personality because it shows them that men are the more dominant and capable gender for the respective position. The design of the words came at a time where nearly all the workers of each term were men, but now the rise of women in these positions, we can take “man” out and put “person” or “woman” in its place. Now, the terms are *congresswoman, spokeswoman, mailwoman* and *womankind*, all of which are politically correct. Reducing the use of using male generic terms toward women can show them that can be more inclusive and accepting in society. It will also make them feel more confident and proud as an individual and worker, and when “woman” replaces “man” in a given term, it will only make them stronger.

Along with male generic language, another term that is an issue for men and women is “girlie man,” one that Arnold Schwarzenegger created. According to Schwarzenegger himself, “‘girlie man’ lacks ‘guts’ because he is beholden to special interests. His ‘girliness’ is a kind of ‘wimpiness’ - a lack of guts, a lack of strength, and an inability to speak with an independent mind, and get things accomplished.” (Grossman and McClain, 2004). The term “girlie man” not only reflects poorly on men but women, too, because it suggests women lack guts and strength and cannot get anything accomplished. “Girlie man” is a derogatory and offensive term, and should not put folks from both genders in a downward spiral. Men and women each have the guts and strength to be successful in all the accomplishments they make, regardless of the given environment. On the same token, women excelling in the Olympics shows proof to men that they are not ineffective and can be successful in sports, just as they are. At the 2004 Summer Olympics, “the U.S. women’s teams brought home more gold medals from Athens than the

men's teams - showing their strength, speed, courage, and stamina in the process." (Grossman and McClain, 2004). Women have come a long way in pretty much every category: sports, politics, business, administration, you name it. They will continue to show men and the rest of society the courage and power they have to be successful in whatever position they hold. Opportunity will continue to knock on the doors of women all across the globe for everything and anything they wish to become.

Women of the LGBTQ community are another group that is more accepting by society nowadays and have just as much courage as women who are straight. However, not all lesbians get looked upon with favor and some people still view them with the same traditional stereotypes. For example, "women athletes sometimes feel special pressure to look and act feminine... if they don't look ultrafeminine, others assume they are lesbians." (Wood, 2015, p. 157). Many women, even men, too, expect other women to have feminine personalities, such as wearing makeup and having the right outfit on to make them look pretty (i.e., dresses, skirts, hairstyle, etc.). Women who are not lesbians feel the need to make themselves look extra beautiful so they do not end up looking like one. This ideology shows that looking like a lesbian does not fit into being the correct feminine individual, and suggests the LGBTQ community is inferior to other women who are heterosexual. Women who are lesbians should not have to be downplayed as someone of lower status just because a woman who is straight feels pressured to look extra beautiful. Lesbians also have beauty in the same way other women do, but they have more courage than them because of them being able to be brave and open about who they are. Sometimes, we do not fully understand the strength women of the LGBTQ community have to be open about who they are as a human being. It takes a lot of guts and courage for these

exceptional individuals to discuss their true identity, so we should give them the utmost respect and support them every step of the way.

The personality of lesbians plays a role back to the stereotypes to how people perceive lesbians to be. The same thought process also goes for how society views gay men. As Julia Wood discusses, “gay men are often socially ostracized because they are perceived as feminine, and lesbians may be scorned because they are perceived as masculine.” (Wood, 2015, p. 161). Gay men representations include feminine personalities by wearing bright-colored clothes, talking in a high voice and referring to women for honesty and advice. On the flip side, the representations of lesbians include a deeper voice, short haircuts and dressing in masculine clothes such as overalls and work boots. One could argue that someone who is gay a woman in a man’s body, and a lesbian is a man in a woman’s body, both of which are not true. Gays and lesbians choose to live not based on gender, but who they are as a person. They seek to live out their inter and intrapersonal skills and find people of their nature to develop a quality relationship with them, the same way a straight man and woman do. Unfortunately, gays and lesbians get often ridiculed with derogatory terms, such as “fag” and “dike,” that showcase them as less superior than straight individuals. Those terms can hurt their personalities and ruin their self-esteem so they should be not implied to them at all costs given any circumstance. Over the years, gays and lesbians have won the support of folks in society by being more accepting in all they do and the decisions they make, including marriage. I am glad they are not as many instances of gay hate as there used to be, and that more marriages have involved both members of the same sex.

Along with gay representations in society improving over the past few decades, the media representations of gays are also improving in portraying the personalities of gay individuals. That is not to say it is all perfect, but for the most part, it has gotten better. A reason why the shows have had an improvement over the years is that they are popular with fans. “The popularity of shows such as *Will & Grace*; *La Vie, la vie...*; and *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* demonstrates that networks are willing to feature queer characters as long as the shows draw high ratings and generate profits for advertisers.” (*MediaSmarts*, *Queer Representations in Film and Television*, n.d.). These shows each do not overdo it on the stereotypes of gays and lesbians, which makes them all successful among viewers. People focus more on the content and dialogue of the shows, rather than the stereotypes and misconceptions. As long as shows do not let the stereotypes distort our perceptions of gays and lesbians, they will continue to be successful and avoid controversies. In addition to better representations in the media, with all the same-sex marriages and civil rights progress they have made, society has gotten used to the existence of gays and lesbians, as well as them becoming more appealing as a consumer market (Sender, 2006). I have noticed over the years the emergence of gay actors and actresses (i.e., Neil Patrick Harris, Jane Lynch, Rosie O’Donnell), as well as professional sports players that have come out of the closet (i.e., Michael Sam, Jason Collins, Billie Jean King). Even TV personalities such as Anderson Cooper, Sam Champion and Ellen DeGeneres have had successful careers and did not bother anyone by who they are. From the 1990s until now, we continue to see an emergence of gays and lesbians open up about their personality and identity. Many people feel influenced by their peers who have come out, which makes it less stressful and intimidating for them to come

out, as well. If we continue to provide support to gays and lesbians in all they do and want to accomplish, they will fit right into our society with no one looking the other way at them.

Although women continue to have better representations of themselves through the media than they used to, there is still the issue of the gender gap that continues to affect women. The gender gap involves the differences between many attributes, including status and employment between men and women. Many folks see women of lower status, especially if they have small children and are stay-at-home mothers. On the flip side, men who work full-time jobs and make five or six figures usually have higher status and authority than women who mainly do domestic work. The gender gap can cause women to have lower self-esteem and not look at themselves as successful. As Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg points out, “[women] internalize the negative messages [they] get throughout [their] lives, the messages that say it’s wrong to be outspoken, aggressive, more powerful than men. [Women] lower [their] own expectations of what [they] can achieve.” (Kristof, 2013). Women who either have a tough male boss or a husband who has a higher-tier position and controlling personality, are afraid to express their opinions or concerns to them because they feel they will get turned down since they are women. Some women think in these circumstances that since they are not as dominant as men, so they feel whatever they say to men will have little to no meaning. The gender gap causes women to have lower expectations for themselves and feel they will not accomplish the same achievements as their male counterparts. Women have the brains and capabilities to be as successful as men, but many of them do not realize that this ideology exists. If women continue to downplay themselves, the gender gap will progress further and not end anytime soon.

In workplace and education environments, women are not as likely as men to have confidence in the work they accomplish. Sheryl Sandberg talks about the issue by saying, “women systematically underestimate their own abilities.” (Sandberg, 2010). As she talks about in her TED Talk, after college students complete exams, women are more likely to say that did not do well on a specific section of the test, let alone the entire test in general. On the flip side, men are likely to say they did well and aced the exam from start to finish. When men and women end up doing well on the same test or another project, men say they did well because “they are awesome,” and women say “they had help along the way or they got lucky.” (Sandberg, 2010). The gender gap plays a role in this situation because some women feel they are not as intelligent as men are. These women see men as the dominant gender because of their successes and them being able to make it to higher jobs at the top of the corporate ladder. What makes this ideology poignant is that we do not have many women that are corporate executives or heads of companies. As a result, women do not feel influenced or motivated to work for high-level jobs as men do. Women need to realize that the times have changed and there is more opportunity for them in today’s society than there was for their mothers and grandmothers. Even though it may not be easy for them if they go into a business with a dominant male presence, there are ways they can show for themselves how much of a positive impact they can have. Women such as Sheryl Sandberg and Oprah Winfrey are influential leaders women can look up to on how to be successful and how to land on a superior job. By influencing more women to believe in themselves and have the right levels of confidence, there will be more female workers in corporate positions who can lead the company they work for down the right path just as well as men have done for years.

The gender gap is not limited to the differences in status and employment that men and women have; there is also a gap in how much money they both bring to the table. According to the Democratic Policy and Communications Center, “women make \$434,000 less than men on average over the course of their careers.” (Berman, 2013). As I mentioned earlier, one issue about the gap is that not many women are working in higher-tier positions. Most female workers work in traditional middle-class settings, such as schools, hospitals and offices. However, the number of female workers working in upper-class and higher-tier positions is on the rise, which is an encouraging sign that women will earn more in those positions than they make in lower-tier jobs. Also, when women take time off from work to look after their young kids until they are old enough, they will not make any earnings until they return. These two issues show how the gap in wages is still an issue today and will be in the years to come. Since there are many women work full-time jobs and have small children, they feel that the company they work should cover their household expenses (i.e., babysitting) or reimburse them later on. Not all companies are required to follow the policy, but doing so would help to families in that situation. Single parent Dawn Bovasso points in an article she wrote, “changing this policy universally will benefit all families, particularly as they’re becoming more varied - divorced couples, couples with two working parents stretched too thin, parents with life stress that sometimes just needs extra help - and that would be a game-changer for all families.” (Bovasso, 2016). I feel that parents in need of wanting to have their expenses covered by their company for going away on business-related trips should be allowed to do so. Families who have incomes on the lower side should not have to worry about the expenses that go into business trips: babysitting, transportation, hotel and so

on. For families to be happier, companies need to be considerate to their employers if they are afraid the costs of their trips will be too much for them to afford.

When it comes to running for Congress, women are not as likely to do so as men. But there is one area of campaigning that women do just as well as men in: fundraising. Women want to do everything they can to get the candidate they are supporting elected into the office they are running for. If they are successful in doing so, it could make them more apt to run themselves to express the issues they want to get fixed. Alisa Chang points out, “the thinking is, if women get more confident at fundraising, they'll run more often, and that means more women in seats of power. All they need is a little bit of nudging.” (Chang, 2014). In the 2016 U.S. presidential election, the Democratic candidate, Hillary Clinton, became the first female candidate to run for president. Seeing Hillary run for president can inspire women wanting more democracy in our society to run for a governmental office. Women are passionate about the issues they want to get changed so they would be strong and effective leaders in the positions they hold. When going out to fundraise for the candidates, they are supporting; women will be persuasive by letting everyone they talk to know how much of an impact the candidate will be. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York is one of the top female fundraisers in the Senate. She talks about her fundraising experiences: “I was embarrassed to ask people for money, and at one point something straightforward occurred to me - it wasn't about me. It's not about whether I win or lose. It's whether the issues that I'm fighting for, whether we achieve them.” (Chang, 2014). For women fighting to get candidates elected, they feel that they get to the point where it does not necessarily mean about the money, it is more about whether they raise enough awareness of what the candidate can accomplish. More recognition can allow more people to see the potential the

candidate has, as well as the knowledge the women have through campaigning and fundraising. If women continue to shine in the political spotlight, more of them can find their way into offices once occupied entirely by men, and they will get to show everyone how dominant and conscientious they can be.

The courage and dominance women have today has skyrocketed to levels nowhere than it was back in the 1960s. Many women were excluded from many money-making jobs excluding teacher and secretary, while other women were homemakers and in charge of cleaning the house and preparing the meals. Along with a lack of women in higher-tier positions, there were also not that many female athletes. Since its inception until 1967, the Boston Marathon did not allow women to run in the race. In that year's marathon, Kathrine Switzer, a 20-year-old woman from Syracuse University ran in the race, having the crowd cheer for her as she ran in a chilly rain. Not everyone was excited to have a woman compete in the Boston Marathon. As Kathrine was running, the race director came up to her and yelled at her to get out of the race. Afterward, Kathrine's boyfriend, Tom Miller, came and pushed the director out of the way, so she finishes the race with everyone else. The move by Tom showed that he wanted her to continue and finish the race and not let anyone stop her because she is a woman. After four hours and 20 minutes since she started, Kathrine Switzer became the first woman to complete the Boston Marathon. Her triumphant finish received a lot of cheer from all the fans who saw her complete the race. Kathrine talks about the experience by saying, "I started the marathon as a girl, and finished as a grown woman." (Goodman, 2013 - *Awakening*). Having shown the world what she accomplished on that cold and rainy April day, Kathrine inspired many female runners and athletes to compete in marathons and other running events. In the years following 1967, the

number of female participants on competitive sports teams increased to high levels. In 1972, Title IX was passed to grant women the same opportunities as men to play sports and compete in athletic events. It is amazing how women can not only show the world they can be productive in the workforce like men have been since day one, but they also have the same abilities to succeed in athletics in nearly every sport and being able to start at a very young age.

For women working at home, they do all the work around the home from the time they get up in the morning until they go to bed at night. These women do everything from taking care of the kids, doing laundry, preparing meals and washing the dishes. While women are working away at home, their husbands are also working full-time and commute to and from their jobs every weekday. A lot of these men feel that being a homemaker is not as much work as they think, so when they get home from work, they usually have dinner, watch TV and go to bed, leaving their wives hanging with late-night cleaning and doing the dinner dishes. A lot of homemakers get frustrated by this situation because they work a lot around the house all the day, and expect their husbands to still help in some ways, generally with chores that do not require much strength. To come up with an agreement on how the household chores should get divided among spouses, some wives came up with agreements for their husbands to help even the chores. Author Alix Shulman and her husband came up with a marriage agreement for both of them to have equal duties when doing chores at home. About her agreement, she says, “we agreed to use 50/50 as the basis for dividing up all of the domestic chores and pleasures.” (Goodman, 2013 - *Changing the World*). The agreement Alix and her husband is a standard I feel all couples should use because it evenly divides the work between a husband and wife, so they do not argue over who does the most or least work. In my family, my mom and dad do not argue about

household chores, and they equally do the same amount of housework, even though my dad does work a full-time job. If my mom had a busy day doing shopping and errands, my dad would offer to help with any chores that need to get done. On weekends, when my dad is home, he will make breakfast, do the dishes, laundry and cleaning. He will also do work outside the home on weekends, including mowing the lawn, doing pool maintenance and trimming the bushes. The ways wives and husbands are changing the dynamics of household chores shows that both sides are capable of doing the same amount of work without any fuss. With more men partaking in household chores, there will be less tension in families and everything will get accomplished.

Household chores can get tricky at times. There is one chore that is undoubtedly the hardest of them all: parenting. Women who stay at home know all the nuts and bolts into taking care of their kids, but men working full-time may not fully understand what goes on and may end up doing not as much work as the women do. As Sheryl Sandberg says about this issue, “we need to live in a world where men do half and women do half, and parenting is not a full-time job for women and a part-time job for a man.” (Goodman, 2013 - *Charting a New Course*).

Even though men do help out with taking care of the kids, it is not enough then what their wives would like it to be. Men should take care of their children just as much as women are doing, and not only do things with them when they feel like it. If men do not do enough parenting work, their kids will not develop a strong relationship with their dad, and even not have a proper male role model. It is essential for fathers who are fortunate to have kids to spend time with them and give them support every step of the way. Kids who grow up in happy and loving families tend to grow up to very successful individuals. If all families could give their children the right support into their daily routine, each generation could show success and pride to the world around them.

Each person will grow up knowing the proper attributes of showing respect and how to help others when they need it.

Even though men have been the dominant gender for as long as we know, women are beginning to come around and become equally dominant as men. Women now work in higher positions that only men used to work in, and have unlocked more opportunities for themselves than they have in any generation. Despite that women continue to progress in society, the media still do not portray women as being as successful as they are. Having these representations can lead to women having issues with their confidence and self-esteem. The media need to focus on improving the stereotypes of making women more successful and confident in themselves and making men less dominant in their personalities and attitudes. Making the stereotypes more suitable will not only benefit adults but children, as well. Kids will see the misinterpreted stereotypes, and think the way they see it is the correct way to act or behave. We need to find ways to fix the stereotypes as soon as possible, so they are up-to-date and accurate to today's standards. With more and more people seeing women as successors and leaders, the gender gap will hopefully end sooner rather than later. We continue to progress with proper gender representations, and it will continue to make our world a happier and better place.

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