

Sex discrimination is common in most areas around the world. A large reason for this sex discrimination to exist is because of the history of society. However, the recognition of sex discrimination is fairly new. Discrimination has not always been considered discrimination; it used to be considered “the way things are”, until activists began to fight for rights for African-Americans, women, homosexuals, and many more. The one place where sex discrimination has been somewhat recently exposed is within schools.

Sex discrimination within schools has been overlooked for many years. Some explanations for this derive from our textbook examples, “math and science are unfeminine.” (Gender, 2008) This statement portrays that just because an individual is female, she is not good at math and science, or should not pursue math and science. In addition, “poetry is for girls,” sends a message to boys to not do poetry because it is feminine. (Gender, 2008) These two examples may be viewed as how we socialize children, but it is still sexual discrimination, since the only difference between the two individuals is their sex and attributes are attached or detached for that sole reason.

In the last 40 years, sex discrimination has been an important issue within American society. In 1972, an amendment was signed into law called Title IX, which had origins dating back to 1965. (Frost, 2005) The amendment, Title IX, focuses on eliminating sex discrimination within federal funded schools. (Frost, 2005) This accounts for all sex discrimination throughout all aspects of federal funded schools like classroom attention, sport programs, and additional school activities, which have been brought to court in many years since the amendment was signed into law.

The most recent publicized account was a Supreme Court case in 2004, *Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education*. (Frost, 2005) However, sex discrimination within federally funded schools probably goes without investigation majority of the time. The reason for this assumption is based on the requirements to file sex discrimination. "...Title IX authorized suits only for back pay or for an Injunction ordering an end to the illegal activity. These remedies are useless to most students, who receive no pay in the first place and who will have typically graduated and cut their ties to a school by the time a lawsuit can result in an injunction..." (Women's, 1992)

Therefore, sex discrimination is in many schools and gets overlooked knowingly and unknowingly everyday. Sex discrimination is within school programs, athletics, and everyday classroom activities in all levels of education, merely because it has almost always been present throughout history. Awareness of sex discrimination and actions to prevent sex discrimination prevail as the only real solution for the elimination of sex discrimination within schools. Regrettably, our society and schools may be taking some actions, but lacking everyday awareness throughout all ages.

Overall, sex discrimination is a difficult issue to overcome. Several factors are involved and the most difficult factor is changing personal attitudes of individuals. Although legislations have been passed and it is now illegal to discriminate because of sex, it is still done. Eliminating sex discrimination within our society is possible, but a long road to travel. Personally, I feel we are just getting started.

## **References**

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