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The Media's Toxic View On Woman

Plato's Cave and Miss Representation are two different stories that have a lot in common. Show us the world in a new way a lot of people have never seen before, but when we try to tell others it doesn't work. Plato's Cave are similar to the themes in Miss Representation, because media limits content so teenage girls see skinny models not ones of all sizes, we see woman who stay home and men who work because the men want it that way, and we see controlling wives and stupid husbands. These things are a bad message for young girls and it needs to be stopped.

Miss Representation Discussion

Miss Representation, a film made in 2011, talks about how women are shown in the media, as object not people. It's truly disgusting how little woman in power or woman as main characters there are. And also how many women are in a political potision. In this film it states, "Women make up 17% of congress." which is not a lot at all. It also says, "67 countries in the world have had female presidents or prime ministers. The United States is not one of them. Cuba, China, Iraq and Afghanistan have more women in government than the US does." All of these states that we think we're better then have adapted to women rights better then we have. It also states, "Only 16% of protagonists in film are female. Only 7% of film directors and 10% of writers are female." That is even less then the women in political careers. According to the film

"Between 1937 and 2005 there were only 13 female protagonists in animated movies. The female characters in G rated movies are just as likely to wear revealing clothing as in R rated movies." G rated films are meant for families and for children not for revealing clothes. It also talks about how young girls are affected by the models they see. It also states "53% of 12 year old girls feel unhappy with their bodies, 78% of 17 year old girls feel unhappy with their bodies and 65% of women and girls have an eating disorder." These numbers are very high in my eyes woman should feel good about themselves not having to be unhappy with their bodies.

Plato's Cave Discussion

`Plato's Cave is a story that was told to Plato by his teacher Socrates and this story was about men who were restrained with chains to only look at the walls of the cave they were chained to, behind the men was a fire that burned because of that they could see the reflection of the people who passed by them. So all they could see was the shadows that the restrainer allowed them to see. One day one of the men was let free and experienced the world outside of the cave for the first time. Later he came back to the cave to tell his friends what he had saw he began yelling to them but they could not understand him and could not see that it was him because they couldn't turn around. I perceived this story as the people are the men who are restrained, the media is the restrainers and the chains. Some people get released into the media and see what goes on but a lot of us are still stuck in those chains only seeing what the media allows us to see.

Thin Models

Having only thin models being shown to us makes young girls think that they should also look like that. This quote states "Feminists concerned about objectification. Psychologists worried about unattainable beauty benchmarks. Whingey mothers confident that the industry will

somehow convince their daughters to spread their legs." (News Website). A lot of women nowadays are being treated as objects and they think they can dress them however they want but that is not a good message for the young girls who are watching them. In this article it said, "Be between the ages of 18 and 30 (yes, it's okay to be a little "older"), Be healthy and in great shape, Have a slim build, yet be slightly more voluptuous than a typical runway model (34-24-34, give or take an inch, is the industry standard), Be between 5'8'' and 6'0"(The Balance Careers Website). This article is all about how to become a Victoria's Secret model. It is unreal what they want a woman to look like in order to model for them I know about 3 women in my lifetime who were 5'8 or above and to be that skinny. And they don't really want them if they're over 30 that is a young age. And the young children who only see these body types they don't necessarily know there is other body types much like in Plato's Cave when the men who can only see the cave wall don't know there is a whole world outside because nobody told them they didn't get to explore it same as these girls.

Stay at Home Women and Working Husbands

The percentage of women being stay at home parents is higher than the percentage of men being stay at home parents. So why is that? In the 1950s it was because the men wanted the woman to stay home with the children it was their "place", which is shown in a popular television show at that time called I love Lucy. In this show, Lucy stayed at home and cooked and cleaned for her husband while wearing pearls and a face full of makeup while he worked all day and expected to come home to dinner being made and the house cleaned. Well that's not always how it is anymore but a lot of people and the media think it is. This article stated, "As Michelle Haimoff pointed out recently in the Christian Science Monitor, in TV's five top rated

shows: "The Big Bang Theory, Modern Family, Two Broke Girls, Two and a Half Men, and

How I Met Your Mother—the majority of the male characters are professionally accomplished,

while the female characters are almost all unemployed or financially struggling" (Role Reboot

Website). Shows we love that show us bad views on people. It's like women didn't fight for

years for equality now that they get it it's still a world where we see all this on television. It's

time for a change. "There are some TV shows with working women and some, like Up All

Night, that feature stay-at-home dads, but not among the top ranked. We aren't really on a first

TV-name basis with working women anymore. Remember Claire Huxtable? Murphy Brown?

Mary Tyler Moore? Roseanne? Kate and Allie? Women like these are hard to find on television

today." (Role Reboot Website). This quote shows you the actors and actresses we like to see

people like to see Roseanne and on tv especially on her show but we also like to see strong

female leads. But on the other hand we also view this as the traditional family and we want to

keep that the way it is but we don't have to completely change is just balance it, show as much of

this as you show of woman being in power. This is also a lot like Plato's Cave in the first scene

the men were all in restraints and because of that they could only see the cave wall, when one

man gets released he comes back to try to tell his friends what he saw, the people who want to

keep it the old way how they may have grown up are the men chained to the wall, where as

though the people who want a change are the man who came back, we try so hard to tell the

person it's okay there is a way to change this and you could have a whole new life but they can't

hear us or choose to ignore us because there happy. But even so we should have more of each

side in the media not just one. We need to stop moving backwards in time and start moving

forward again.

Controlling Wives and Dumb Husbands

There is so much on television nowadays so why do we like to cling to the stereotypes such as the controlling wife and the dumb husband? We see shows like Family Guy, The Simpsons, and Married With Children portrays this stereotype. So why do people still watch them? Maybe because they're funny, maybe because we like them still. Or maybe because we don't want to give up our old ways when the men were "in charge" "And as much as we love sharing classic movies with our kids, they tend to have plenty of old-fashioned gender roles. Before you push play, be sure you're ready to have a conversation with your kids -- both girls and boys -- about the messages these films are sending."(Common Sense Media Website). This quote really brings this to light because we really love still watching these shows but why and is it good for children to see them. I think we like to see them to think of the good times, and I think showing them to children is okay but when doing so you must remember to talk with them about it and explain to them they don't have to be like that they can be whatever they want to be. Much like in Plato's Cave with the men who never experienced the world outside the children don't know this isn't the way we live anymore they have never seen this before it's brand new to them so when showing them explain it to them also.

In the stories Miss Representation and Plato's Cave the themes really went hand and hand. Which also can be connected to young girls in today's world such as just having thin models, television shows about only men working, and women staying home, and shows about women who control their dumb husbands is a toxic message for young girls.

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