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The Intersection of Race and Gender: How

Women of Colour
experience Double
Discrimination.

Outline

(1) Introduction

(2) Thesis Statement

Race and gender, when put together,

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cause double the discrimination, and in the discourse to follow, it will be evident how women of color struggle with it the most!

(3) From a historical perspective, it can be seen that Africans were always being marginalized.

a. Martin Luther King — "I have a dream".

(4) On the basis of racism, women have also suffered from being given access to proper resources and basic human rights.

a. Black-rights activist, Nelson Mandela's efforts for the racially discriminated people.

(5) Treated like an inferior race

e.g. The Rosa Parks incident.

(6) Prevalence of Islamophobia, specially in the West, making living of hard for the Muslims settled there.

a. Being called a "terrorist" for growing a beard or wearing a hijab.

b. Socially isolated from social

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gatherings from fear of their "extremist" mindset.

(7) Banning the hijab and niqab for women settled in the West.

a. France passed a law on the banning of hijab and niqab — women being jailed for disobeying the law.

b. University students not being allowed to sit in their lectures with their heads covered.

c. Excluded from participating in sports championships and other scholarships — in case they break the law.

(8) Extreme terrorism on the basis of color — reported in the United States specially.

a. "Black Lives Matter" slogans raised during 2020, amidst the onset of racially-targeted crimes.

(9) Although women — the gender — regardless of their color, also face gender inequality and sexism in sectors like jobs, access to education,

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and other privileges. This shows how being a woman is a misery at times. Yet, the skin color greatly determines the level of discrimination

a. For example, glass ceiling is a very prevalent concept in today's world. Yet, black women or women of color struggle with being left to mostly desk-jobs and low-income jobs.

(10)

Conclusion

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Someone rightfully said that "The greatest hurdle in bringing harmony amongst the individuals is the existing prevalence of discrimination". And there is factually no lie in this, either.

Communities belonging to different races, castes, religions, belief systems, class, can come together and coexist peacefully.

But the innate superiority complex and persistent racial and gender discrimination has made that hard to achieve. Since the start of time, men of all races, lived together: hunted for food and supplies and provided for their families.

Women brought up the children and tended to the house chores.

But what with industrialization and modernization, man got his hands on things that were alot more luxurious and

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comfortable than their day-to-day struggles. In the race for luxuries and modernity, people became greedy and developed a superiority complex on the basis of wealth, resources and colour. The "colored" part of the world struggled with manual labour and slavery a lot more as compared to the rest, and hence always looked down upon and considered inferior. Till date, the colored races are still not treated indifferently: rather, the biasness in jobs, opportunities and other fields is still very much evident. Additionally, the women suffer more as they are already considered the weaker and less-able gender. Naturally, it became double discrimination for them in every regard. Race and

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gender, when put together, cause double the discrimination, and in the discourse to follow, it will be evident how women of color struggle with it the most.

If we look into the history, one thing is very clear: the Africans were always being marginalized. Africans, or "Black people" as they are often called, have struggled with racism and extremism for the longest time. They were treated as outcasts, or as people who were less capable than the rest. They were not given their due to human rights or even an access to sufficient resources for their survival. For example, during the 1950's and the 1960's, the Black community in the United States was

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being targetted actively. At that time, mutual efforts were being made by the victimized community's activists to stir up a way out. In the midst of all this, Martin Luther King, an American civil rights activist, gave his famous speech "I have a dream". Martin's speech held such a profound weight and impact that it managed to help him advocate for Black people's rights amongst extreme violence and racism. This is because his speech entailed a vision of great harmony amongst people of races: where everyone gets their access to their due economic, social and civil rights. Where women and children of the targetted race are

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safe and their men kept away from being victimized. Hence, racial or gender discrimination, as it can be seen, is not a modern-day issue but a rather deep-rooted ill in the society.

Similar to this, women have also been discriminated in regards to being given opportunities or getting their needs fulfilled. Many women are single mothers or in some cases, have an unemployed husband, which births the dire need for money.

But women of color and of a different race struggle alot more with getting their hands on to a secure job as they are often not paid sufficiently. Other than that, many of them are often deprived of their basic

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needs essential for survival.

This makes co-existing even harder.

Nelson Mandela, another Black social rights activist, spoke about this discrimination and went to great lengths to give the minority their due rights.

His impact was so immense, he still managed to sustain it even after he got imprisoned.

But this struggle for vocal and life-freedom highlights the lengths the Black community has went to in order to achieve a world without discrimination and any extremism. But all in vain.

In addition to this, as if racial discrimination was not doing enough, the women of colour were also being treated like an inferior. What with reduced

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access to opportunities and resources, they were also being targeted for, first, being a woman, and second, for being a woman of colour.

The biggest example of this is the Rosa Parks incident where a black woman was asked by the bus driver to get up and give up her seat for a white woman.

When she refused, the driver stopped the bus and ordered her to get off.

Another noteworthy point in this story is that at the time this story took place, the trend was that Black people were supposed to sit in the back of every public transport, leaving the front seats for the white or as they said, the "superior" race. This in itself depicts

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the extent of discrimination that women, **because** their race and gender, had to deal with. This also strongly highlights the fact that the African community settled in foreign countries have been marginalized in various regards, as well as for the longest time.

But just like the Africans, a huge majority of the muslim community, settled outside of their home country, also get subjected to discrimination and in some cases, abuse.

The prevalence of Islamophobia, specially in the West, has made living hard for the muslim population settled there. The first and foremost thing is the misunderstood concept that

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"Every Muslim is a terrorist".
Widely popularized after the
9/11 attacks, it has made
survival hard for many of
the Muslim immigrants.

Although men are discriminated
on the basis of their Muslim-
beard and prayers, it is
the women that are being
marginalized the most.

Often judged for covering
their heads, or in some
cases, their faces, women
are kept out of many
discussions and opportunities from
fear of not being "liberal"
enough for the task. This
is mainly due to the
stigma the West has
attached to Muslim women
covering women covering them-
selves and as they say,
"Not allowed to wear
anything modern or dress

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however they want to".
Even though there should be a freedom to dress however a person deems fit, that, sadly, is a concept still alien to the modern world.

Additionally, in several places around the world, there have been bans on the wearing of hijab and niqab for Muslim women.

France, for instance, has passed a law on the banning of covering of the heads or the faces, for the women.

University going female students are not allowed to sit in class in case they are covering either of the aforementioned places.

Muslim women were also being faced with sexist and extremist jokes if they were in their traditional attire.

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Furthermore, muslim women were also being excluded from participating in sports and other championships, if they broke the law. A recent incident ^{was} reported where the French government banned the muslim women, who were in their semi-finals in an Olympic sport, from participating if they continued to do so with their heads or faces covered. This created a great unrest for the women as they weren't being given their due freedom to follow their beliefs and dress accordingly. Moreover, if any of the muslim women were caught breaking the law, they were captured and sent straight to jail. This extreme stance on a mere

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clothing style is a point of concern for many and shows how women of color or South Asian and Middle-Eastern women struggle for liberty and their due freedom to live.

Although women, irregardless of race, suffer too, it cannot be denied that women of colour suffer more. In many cases, one can see that opportunities and privileges are mostly concentrated in the hands of men in the society. Prevalence of gender inequality, biasness, gender gap and concepts like glass ceiling show that we live in a society where women are less favored over men. Yet, there is no denying the fact that even in this

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regard, women of colour face
also more hurdles. As can
be seen, it is the
Muslim women whose dressing
is being controlled, not the
rest. It is colored women
that face and bear the
racial slurs, not the rest.
It is the Africans and
the Black women that
are left to do the manual
labour and desk jobs, not
the rest. So even though
gender is a dividing
factor, the races and
colors is what even sets
the women apart from
other women. Men may
be marginalized on the
racial basis, but it ends
there for them. They still
somehow hold the upper hand
in the society when it
comes to power, authority.

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and equality.

It is fairly evident from the discussion above that women of colour face double the discrimination.

In every retrospect, be that the history or the modern era, women have struggled to get their due right and social standing. They are still, in many places around the world, considered the weaker and the less capable gender. This is not just marginalizing them, but also depriving them of their due social status, respect, freedom and rights and opportunities. In the modern world, what with the advancements in many things like health, technology, education, artificial intelligence etc; one would expect the societal norms and

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beliefs to progress as well. But all in vain. From pillar to post, wherever one goes, inequality exists: be that ~~on~~ a very micro level as well. One needs to progress and with the passage of time, create a world where everyone can stand shoulder-to-shoulder, without any existing differences between them all. Women should be given their due equal rights and freedom just like men. Women of different races must be treated indifferently and not marginalized in any regard during any walk of life. For a society to grow, it is not only the materialistic things that matter, but also the basic values and

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norms that one needs to
and must hang on to, and
never let go.

