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Humanities

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Feminist Theory

In the book *Homegoing* written by Yaa Gyasi there are a few ways feminism is in the book as well as a lack of feminism. This book first focuses on two sisters who were separated at birth and it follows their family tree throughout the book. This novel is built around women and they're still seen as unimportant. Why were females so underrated and why are they still underrated? Maybe because they are seen as weak and fragile and unable to do most things, they are just there to bear children and clean. Women can do a lot more than that. They can do anything a man can do, maybe even better.

This book might be fiction but these events happen on a daily basis in other countries. In this book women are mistreated and just seen as maids. They have to stay home, watch the kids, clean, and cook. Women were treated like this back in the day because they didn't have any rights but women are still seen as a lesser value as men. Women never had their voices heard, they couldn't vote, and it was very hard for them to find a job especially if they were a woman of color. Women were just used to make babies and care for their man. "White men get a choice. They get to choose they job, they house. They get to choose to make black babies, then disappear to into thin air, like they wasn't never there to begin with, like these black women they slept with or rapeed done laid on top of themselves and got pregnant. White men get to choose for

black men too. Used to sell 'em; now they just send 'em to prison like my daddy, so they can't be with their kids." They were treated with so much disrespect like they aren't even human. They just knock them up and leave. It already sucked for them to be a woman during that time and then being a women of color made everything harder for them. It's crazy how they got through those hard times. They were so brave to keep fighting for their rights. This book shows many examples of the struggles women of color have had. Whether if it's trying to support a kid on their own, trying to find a job and make a good amount of money or even trying to be treated with respect.

In the book there is a character named, Willie. She goes around town everyday trying to find a job and none of them would take her because she's a woman of color. She finds a job at a club and all she wants to do is perform and they won't let her because she's black and a woman. The owner even said if she was a boy she could. Women always get the short end of the stick everywhere they go. It's frustrating to read stuff like this because even in today's world women aren't equal. Why does her gender and color of skin affect how she's treated? What's the difference between white and black? Male and female? They are all the same. Why does society have to see them and treat them differently then the rest of us? What even is the point of all of this. We don't get anything out of being racist and sexist. Why do people even have the need to be like this and deny someone for a job because of one's gender.

In the beginning of the book the first person we read about, Effia, gets married away to a guy her parents choose. She doesn't get a say on who she wants to marry and she got married away when she was a little kid. Girls get married away when they

first get their period. It should be the girl's choice to who she wants to marry and when. Girls get no say at all and she is forced to please her husband. The worst part is that it's her parents who marry her away. It's not fair for them, they will never have a childhood. Their childhood would be taken away from them because they would be forced to marry at such a young age. This shouldn't be allowed. This is child cruelty but because she's a girl it's okay. When will it be the day where we are respected and seen the same as others. It must be very tiring for these women to be underappreciated. It's also very sad to hear about this stuff happening. It shouldn't be happening anywhere.

There are many differences between the rights of men and women. The man can go and cheat on his wife and it's fine but if the woman does it is considered a disgrace and adultery. This is one of the many examples on how women were treated and seen as back then. This is not fair there was no gender equality back then and there still isn't any gender equality now. Now we are still not entirely equal. For Example, the pay gaps. A woman makes 79 percent of what a white male makes and if you're a woman of color you make around half the amount a white male makes. A woman and a man can have the same degree, the same job, and work the same amount of hours, but men would still make more money because that is how this society works. Why don't we deserve to get paid the same? Just imagine the pay gap back then and in the book. Willie was probably making a few cents while the others made a lot more, maybe she didn't even get paid at all. In the book the women don't see themselves as valuable because their whole life they are told and raised to be nobody.

In conclusion women are still being treated like they're unimportant. Even with things like the Women's march and different feminist movements there are still going to be that group of people who disagree and don't think women deserve rights. There will always be those types of people and we can't do anything about it besides educate them on the rights we deserve. If we stand together we can make a big change and finally get the same rights whether your a girl or a different race or a different religion and many others. It is a challenge but we will keep fighting until we all get the same rights.