

Il giornalino del Centro Nanà

The subtle consequence of the gender issue nowadays

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One of the most important themes addressed by the European Youth Agenda is the gender issue, an important matter which concerns equality and equal opportunities. All around the world, since the beginning of time, women have had to face all kinds of discrimination: they have been denied the right to study, the right to choose freely about their life and their bodies and many others. Although it may seem that nowadays the gender issue has a weaker impact on women, it is important to acknowledge that it has become more subtle and difficult to intercept but it still continues to keep women in a condition of inferiority.

Today the effects of gender issues in Europe regards one aspect in particular that is generally underestimated :



he the different retribution for males and females working in the same sector. data collected by ISTAT (National Institute of Statistics) clearly shows that in Italy the hourly salary is 15,2 euros for women and 16,2 euros for men and the pay differential is even higher when we look at data regarding managerial roles (27,3%).



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This proves the exisytance of a persisting stigma about the inferiority of women when it comes to both physical and mental ability ;what is most interesting about this type of discrimination is that this stigma is resistant in culturally elevated environments, showing the true depth of a prejudice that is far away to be eliminated even in those countries where the equality of men and women is stated by law. In this age women can complete their studies and aspire to managerial roles in every job sector, they can have financial independence but on the other hand, beyond the unequal retribution, there are many obstacles women have to face: the constant attempt to control their bodies through the stiffening of laws concerning themes such as abort and surrogate motherhood , the persistent stigma concerning women' sexual custom and the many obstacles that make it



difficult to self-determine themselves in the private and collective context. As a society we have made great progress in supporting the emancipation of women but we have in front of us a long and still complex road and the key to the complete inclusion of women is to listen more to what women have to say and to modify the education system in order to educate the young generation, to the values of equality.

