Stereotypes — Taiwan

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I. Introduction

Stereotypes are very common in many countries. Because they consider that they are better than other people. What can they think so? Is it true? No! We think everyone is equal. No one should be discriminated against.

Taiwan needs to focus on this social issue. If they do not focus on this social issue, it will become worse and worse.

II. Thesis

In Taiwan, stereotypes are very common. The government try to change it, but it still exist.

Stereotypes can be divided into many types. For example, gender stereotype, racial stereotype, and occupation stereotype.

Those are most affected by the media, family, and school education.

1. Gender Stereotype

How does the gender stereotype cause? If the family has a baby that is a girl, she will be dislike. Because in the traditional concept, the early people think boys are better than girls. Some people even abuse the children only increase the burden.

From father's surname is a social custom. The kids’ last name must be same as their fathers. But since the government amended the law, people can decide the kids’ last name. The law sets “children from the father's surname or mother's surname, according to the parents decided” (陳皎眉, 1998). This let women have some rights.

Early time of Taiwan, they did not let women go out to work. They think women should stay home to take care of children and do the houses work. Now the men can be “househusbands” like housewives, but househusbands are men.
Gender stereotype is a preconceived concept. Some people think girls should be tender and not good at sports, and boys should be brave and strong. Simply put, it doesn’t represent all the people that have these features. Some girls are brave than boys, and they can protect boys. Many TV drama programs show us examples. Like, “Secret Garden”, “Office Girls” (Elvelyn, 2011). Actresses help actors solve many problems. They also accompany the actor through a lot of troubles.

Girls are good at sports, too. For example, “today another winning women's movement's Foundation, Tseng Female Athlete of the Year recognition” (中央社記者李宇政, 2011). No matter you are men or women you have your own advantages. We cannot be prejudice to other people’s gender. We cannot restrain others choice with traditional ideas, too. So we do not have to be unequally treatment by our gender.

2. Occupation Stereotype

In tradition concept, men must have possession of some characters. Such as, bravery, actively, independence, rationality. Relatively, women must be gentle, quiet, passive, and dependent. Gradually, these concepts have been integrated into our life. So when people choose occupation, men will choose manly works, and women will choose feminine works.

In the workplace, nurse, secretaries, and kindergarten teachers, are associated with women. Doctors, judges, policemen, and chiefs, are associated with men. These concepts are some examples of occupation stereotypes.

If a person is engaged in an occupation they can’t be accepted, people will gossip about the person and even have suspicions about the person. Because people consider this situation is unusual and abnormal.

A man who is Hu Wenxin, since he chose the occupation of the male nurse, he suffered many stress from society. Male nurse is often mistaken for doctor by patient. “He often spent a lot of time to explain his identity, but he received response was almost curious or do not trust. He often encountered such a state” (洪士峰, 2000). But he “kept many experience
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and accumulated his professional ability. He coped with the peculiar vision of people” (洪士峰, 2000). What kind of job whether you work in, as long as uphold the spirit of hardworking. And adhere to the concept, you will be able to create your own way.

In the workplace, between men and women that they have the same education, and work in the same occupation. But employer pay for women’s salary are less than men’s. Also, employer consider that women’s ability is less than men’s. Result in the glass ceiling, and causes women cannot promote. The glass ceiling means women cannot promote to corporate executives. Not because the ability or experiences are not enough. Because of the gender stereotype, and causes women’s abilities are be suspected. “In AD 1991, men’s average salary is NT$25650, women’s average salary is only NT$17237, the difference between both is NT$8413. Women’s average salary is only 67% of men’s average salary” (Millie, 2009). This phenomenon is not only damages the interests of women but also to unequal treatment of women.

But now the situation has gradually improved according to the information, “in AD 2001, the average salary of men to reach 38,340 dollars, 29,652 dollars for women, women’s average salary is 77% of men, the gap is reduced by one percent” (Millie, 2009). Gradually, our concepts are not affected by the gender stereotype. And everyone has same rights and developing chances.

3. Racial discrimination

Before Han Chinese immigrant to Taiwan, the indigenous lived in Taiwan for a long time. They lived a life of self-sufficiency. They caught fish and hunted animals in the mountains. They grew some vegetables, too. They think there are Gods in nature, so they protect nature. You can know this from their religion. After the Han Chinese immigrant to Taiwan, the local indigenous were bullied by Han Chinese.

Han Chinese rob indigenous’ territories and resources, and they were forced to move out of their homes. In fact, indigenous people have been unequally treated in the past. “Indigenous did not enjoy the benefits
of land development. Because of the position gap between Han Chinese and indigenous cause indigenous suffer more discrimination” (ㄚ狗狗, 2005). We do not have qualification to discriminate indigenous because this land was belong to indigenous. Han-Chinese moved here latter, but we were opinionated to encroach of this land. We think we are the king of this land. A lot of indigenous are hurt by us.

Now the circumstances have improved. The government, in addition to protecting indigenous, also gave them the indemnification. For example, their grades can be added more points. This helps them get into a good school. Ying-jeou Ma said that “We treat you as a person. We give you the opportunity to receive education. But you have to follow our rules.” (馬英九, 2007). We let indigenous learn and give their chances to have jobs. They should follow our rules. Racial discrimination can be fewer and fewer.

Taiwanese and indigenous can live together in peace. You can see some indigenous people in classes. We get along well.

Ⅲ. Conclusion

Stereotypes cause a lot of wrong ideas. Many people are discrimination. Gender stereotype let people think men are stronger than women. Occupation stereotype let the men do not want to be a nurse or some jobs that more women do. Racial stereotype let people discrimination indigenous. The government set many laws to reduce this situation. Although stereotypes are reduces, but they are still being.

Whatever the gender, racial, or occupation. We have to respect for everyone and accept them. We cannot discrimination everyone because we all are equal. When you are in the choice of occupation, “Gender and interest are not necessarily have any connection, as long as you can stick it out. You can be successful by your own way” (馬英九, 2011). No matter what you belong to ethnic group, color, or from which country. You should be proud of yourself. Do not care about what other people think about you. The most important is your mind. If you cannot trust yourself, how people will respect for you?
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Every gender, racial, or occupations need your respect and tolerance. When you want others to respect for you, others want you to respect for them, too. We all are equal.

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