



Invisible woman Ch. 8 and 16
“One size fits men “ and “ It's Not the Disaster that Kills You”

In Depth Dive of Medical Inequality

Medical inequality has become an ongoing issue nationwide. Worldwide, research and equipment in every field are typically focused and more adjusted to the male anatomy, which can be problematic. The male figure is significantly different from the female body. Therefore, different precautions need to be accommodated for each gender, which is the root of the problem. Women's health is being placed in harm due to diagnoses and treatments centered around the study of men's bodies for decades.



Textualized Evidence of Medical Inequality

“ Maternal mortality is on average 2.5 times higher, and this is partly because post conflict and disaster relief efforts too often forget to account for women’s specific healthcare needs” (Perez 297). The text illustrates how much higher maternal mortality was on average through quantities and data being listed in a form that was easier to understand for the audience.

“With our body of medical knowledge being so heavily skewed towards the male body, AI’s diagnose for women-worse, rather than better” (Perez 167). This textual evidence is showing how not only the scientists and workers have an typical focus for men, the medical equipment also prioritize men. Considering this aspect womens treatments are typically are not designated to their specific desires and needs. . This factor can cause health risks towards the woman receiving the medical treatment and diagnosis from the devices as well.



Overall Understanding of The Medical Inequality

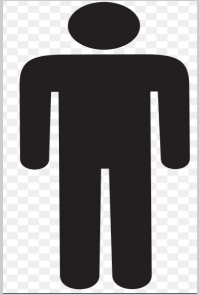
Making audience aware of the problematic subject

Creating and taking actions towards making a plan leading to positive change

Informing the readers to understand in hope of understanding the importance and creating a larger support group to make a difference

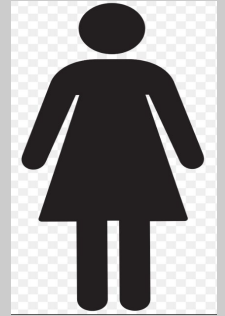
In result will create diverse healthcare and many more things for both genders.





Invisible Women: Chapter 8

One-Size-Fits-Men



- **Men are the standard size, make, and model**
 - > research excluding women (phones, pianos)
 - > not isolated to only women
 - > inaccuracies in image searching
 - > gender associations within job descriptions
- **Artificial intelligence enhancing cultural stereotypes**
 - > “the higher the original bias, the stronger the amplification effect”
 - > James Zou, biomedical science assistant
- **Design of programs**
 - > ability to get jobs
 - > health and safety
 - > making world more unequal



“One-Size-Fits-Men”

Men are the standard size, make, and model:

The “one size fits men” approach emphasizes the issue of supposedly gender neutral items, such as phones and keyboards on pianos, disadvantaging women.

“The average female handspan is between seven and eight inches, which makes the standard forty-eight-inch keyboard something of a challenge. Octaves on a standard keyboard are 7.4 inches wide, and one study found that this keyboard disadvantages 87% of adult female pianists.” (Page 139)

“The average smartphone is now 5.5 inches, and while we’re admittedly all extremely impressed by the size of your screen, it’s a slightly different matter when it comes to fitting into half the population’s hands,” (page 140) and, “The average man can fairly comfortably use his device one-handed – but the average woman’s hand is not much bigger than the handset itself” (Page 140-141).

These issues are very limited considering the other inconveniences women face. For example, the clothing and accessories (purses/handbags) that are designed for women are not suitable for the average smartphone. In women’s pants, there is barely any pocket space, and purses are becoming smaller and smaller. Another issue that is overlooked is the fact that women pay the same prices that men do for these items, whether it be phones, pianos, or pants, and they’re not even made for women to use properly.

“One-size-fits-men”

Artificial intelligence enhancing cultural stereotypes:

The gender data gap has a major influence in our approaching advances with artificial intelligence, from web browser’s algorithms to putting women in serious danger.

“Voice-recognition software in cars, for example, is meant to decrease distractions and make driving safer. But they can have the opposite effect if they don’t work – and often, they don’t work, at least for women. An article on car website Autoblog quoted a woman who had bought a 2012 Ford Focus, only to find that its voice-command system only listened to her husband, even though he was in the passenger seat” (page 143).

There are many other examples mentioned where voice recognition fails for women, and with voice recognition features reaching to the medical field, the data gaps create translation errors potentially leading to miscommunication that could affect patient care.

Web searching is also an issue with artificial intelligence based algorithms. “A 2016 analysis of a popular publicly available dataset based on Google News found that the top occupation linked to women was ‘homemaker’ and the top occupation linked to men was ‘Maestro’. Also included in the top ten gender-linked occupations were philosopher, socialite, captain, receptionist, architect and nanny – I’ll leave it to you to guess which were male and which were female.”(Page 145)

The algorithm issue not only has a serious stereotype, but it also can significantly affect women’s jobs. James Zou (professor of biomedical science at stanford) shows what might happen when searching for a computer programmer, “The algorithm could deem a male programmer’s website more relevant than a female programmer’s – ‘even if the two websites are identical except for the names and gender pronouns’. So a male-biased algorithm trained on corpora marked by a gender data gap could literally do a woman out of a job.” (Page 146)

“One-Size-Fits-Men”

Just by simply searching “men jobs” and “women jobs,” these pictures are examples of what you may find. These images are proof that algorithm based searching is continuing to lead our society to believe in cultural stereotypes of men and women.



In this image you can see proof of the “one size fits men” approach. Both men pictured are comfortably holding their phone in one hand leaving their other hand free, while both women are holding their phone with both hands.



Invisible Women: Chapter 16

“It’s Not the Disaster that Kills You”

Main Points:

“While men and women suffer from the same trauma, women also suffer from female specific injustices.”

“Domestic violence against women increases when conflict breaks out.”

Homelessness:

- Many women rather live a rough life than go through the dangers of homeless shelters.

Menstrual Products:

- Hygiene kits never come with enough support for entire family.
- Rags, pieces of moss, pieces of mattress to replace products, and 50% of women suffer from untreated UTIs.
- Shelters can request free condoms from the NHS but not period products...

Detention Centers:

- There have been instances where guards take pictures of women sleeping, coming out of the showers, and bathrooms.
- In 2008, 17 year old Somali was SA by two policemen when she left her cell to use the bathroom.



“It’s Not the Disaster that Kills You”

Female refugees in accommodation in Germany:

- No separate bathrooms, showers, and sleeping areas.
- Women get rashes from keeping their Hijab on for weeks.
- Remote toilets with no lightning - women all go together.
- Pregnant women avoid eating and drinking.

Hurricane Katrina:

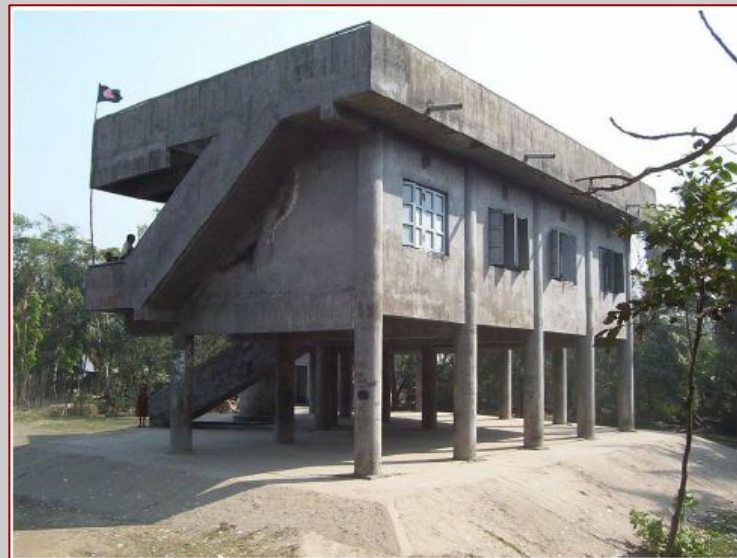
- Housed in Superdome - lurid stories of violence, rape, beatings.
- Local SA centers were shut down - no reports.
- “You could hear people screaming and hollering for people to help them, ‘Please don’t do this to me, please somebody help me.’”
- “They said things didn’t happen. They happened. People were getting raped. You could hear people, women, screaming. Because there’s no lights, so it’s dark, you know. I guess they were just grabbing people, doing whatever they wanted to do.”

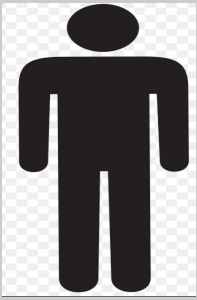


“It’s Not the Disaster that Kills You”

Natural Disasters:

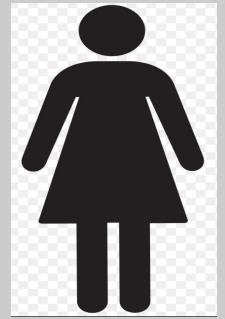
- Indian men are more likely to survive earthquakes at night as they sleep on their rooftops during warm weather, impossible behavior for women.
- In Bangladesh, women aren't taught to swim or climb trees.
- Women aren't allowed to leave their house without a male relative. When dangers hit, women lose survival time waiting for a man to escort them.
- It also takes longer for them to even know there is danger coming as men hear it in public and women are usually at home.
- Shelters are built for men as it's just a large box with no privacy and one bucket.





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- Each chapter emphasizes the inconveniences women face daily
- Explicitly details those inconveniences from a minor level to a severe level
- Both chapters illustrate how societal structures consistently fail to account for women's needs, reinforcing gender inequalities.
- Both chapters discuss the consequences of male-default thinking in systems and designs.
- Both highlight how male-centered norms lead to physical dangers for women, from unsafe tools to overlooked disaster vulnerabilities.

Questions ?

- **Does anyone have any questions?**
- **What could be done to improve this presentation?**
- **What was the best part of the presentation ?**
- **What surprised you most?**