EMPOWERING THE PLANET
HOW THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IS VITAL TO INNOVATION

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INTRODUCTION

A Voice for the Voiceless: The Progression of Feminist Science Fiction, is a longitudinal study of feminist science fiction that analyses six representative pieces from the genre across 200 years: Frankenstein (1818), Herland (1915), A Wrinkle in Time novel (1962), The Female Man (1975), A Wrinkle in Time Movie adaptation (2018), and Rupetta (2018).

Studying the chronological growth of feminist science fiction is valuable because it:

- Demonstrates that state of feminism is not stagnant, its definition changes to reflect issues of the time period
- Shows the intersectionality of feminist science fiction
- Suggests psychological empowerment and science are equally important to innovation

If feminist science fiction reflects the needs of society, how can we implement the lessons learned from its progression?

ABSTRACT

Humanity is now in the late Anthropocene, the period in which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. In order to face the devastating challenges of our impact, it is vital that all humans are empowered to work within STEM fields. Feminist science fiction is the reflection of the needs of society, a call to action that cannot be ignored. A Voice for the Voiceless, a longitudinal study of feminist science fiction suggests that psychological empowerment and emotional intelligence should be held at the same level of importance as scientific and technological advancements.

While in of itself, feminist science fiction is empowering, we need to incorporate the lessons learned from this genre into policy in order to combat intersectional issues of today’s society. This research poster utilize the findings in A Voice for the Voiceless as well as other current research surrounding growth mindset theory to show how vital the empowerment of women and girls is to scientific innovation.

CHALLENGES IN S.T.E.M.

- Gender Identity Threat: Explanatory mechanism, based on social identity theory as to why male dominance in STEM negatively affects women’s career confidence and work engagement.

- Double Dominance Theory: The institutional parameters of male dominance can be distinguished in two categories:
  - Numerical: the ratio of men to women in a work environment.
  - Normative: the extent to which a professional culture positively evaluates stereotypically masculine attributes and/or negatively stereotypes women or feminine attributes.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT

- Fixed Mindset: The belief that one’s character, intelligence, and creative ability cannot be significantly changed. Success is the affirmation of an inherent. Avoiding failure at all costs is a way of maintaining the sense of being smart.

- Growth Mindset: The belief that abilities can be developed, that one’s abilities can be improved. Failure is not evidence of unintelligence but a springboard for growth and an opportunity for stretching our existing abilities. People who practice the growth mindset flourish when they are challenging themselves.

REFERENCES


