

Reproductive Justice and Women in Medicine

Helen Dobbelmann



RIGHT-LIMITING POLICIES

POLITICAL ACTIONS SUCH AS THE OVERTURNING OF ROE V WADE HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR WOMEN TO GET THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE THEY NEED. THE STIGMATIZATION OF ABORTION NOT ONLY LIMITS ACCESS TO SAFE ABORTIONS BUT ALSO ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL, PELVIC EXAMS, AND CANCER SCREENINGS.



IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSIBLE CARE

- ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND CAN SAVE LIVES. WOMEN WHO NEED AND CANNOT GET ONE SAFELY MAY GET ONE IN AN UNSAFE WAY AND POTENTIALLY THREATEN THEIR LIVES.
- IT IS ALSO EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WOMEN HAVE ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL BECAUSE, UNLIKE WHAT SOME MAY THINK, IT IS FOR MORE THAN JUST PREVENTING PREGNANCY. BIRTH CONTROL CAN AID IN MAKING PERIOD CRAMPS MORE MANAGEABLE, BALANCING HORMONES, AND CONTROLLING ACNE.
- LASTLY, ACCESS TO DOCTORS WHO CAN PERFORM PELVIC EXAMS AND SCREEN FOR CERVICAL CANCER CAN HELP IN PREVENTING OR TREATING LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES.
- ALL OF THESE SERVICES CAN BE ACCESSED AT PLACES SUCH AS PLANNED PARENTHOOD, BUT FUNDING TO THESE ORGANIZATIONS IS LIMITED WHEN POLICIES ARE PUT IN PLACE TO STOP ABORTIONS.



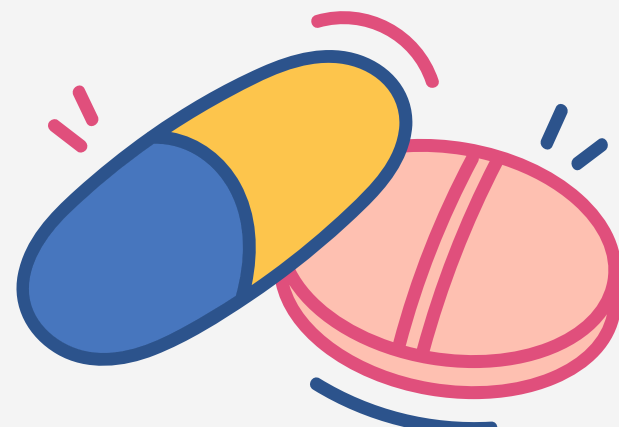
WOMEN IN MEDICAL SCHOOL

WOMEN ARE MORE INCREASINGLY APPLYING AND GETTING ACCEPTED. THIS IS NOT ONLY HAPPENING IN THE USA, BUT ALSO AROUND THE WORLD AS SEEN IN “INDIAN WOMEN IN MEDICINE: AN ENQUIRY SINCE 1880.” ALTHOUGH, THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT MANY WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD DO NOT END UP GOING INTO MEDICINE AFTER FINISHING MEDICAL SCHOOL. THE LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AS WELL AS THE MAJORITY OF DOCTORS ARE STILL MALE DOMINATED



WOMEN IN THE FIELD

THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WOMEN BECOMING DOCTORS IN THE PAST FEW DECADES. WOMEN HAVE BEEN BECOMING MORE PROMINENT IN SURGERY, AS WELL AS GENERAL MEDICINE. HOWEVER, MEN STILL DOMINATE THE MEDICAL FIELD AND THE POSITIONS OF POWER. WOMEN SEEM TO DOMINATE CERTAIN SPECIALTIES THAT ARE TARGETED TOWARD HELPING OTHER WOMEN.



SPECIALTIES

WOMEN ARE BEGINNING TO DOMINATE SPECIALTIES THAT ARE TARGETED TOWARD HELPING OTHER WOMEN. SOME OF THESE INCLUDE GYNOCLOGY, NEONATAL CARE, AND FEMALE UROLOGY (WOMEN DOCTORS IN FEMALE UROLOGY: CURRENT STATUS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE WORKFORCE)

FUTURE

I BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR WOMEN. I THINK THAT WOMEN WILL CONTINUE TO ENTER THE MEDICAL FIELD AND WORK TOWARD MORE POSITIONS OF POWER. I THINK THAT SINCE THIS IS SUCH A SERIOUS ISSUE THAT AFFECTS EVERY WOMAN, IT IS WORTH EVERYONE JOINING TOGETHER AND FIGHTING FOR.



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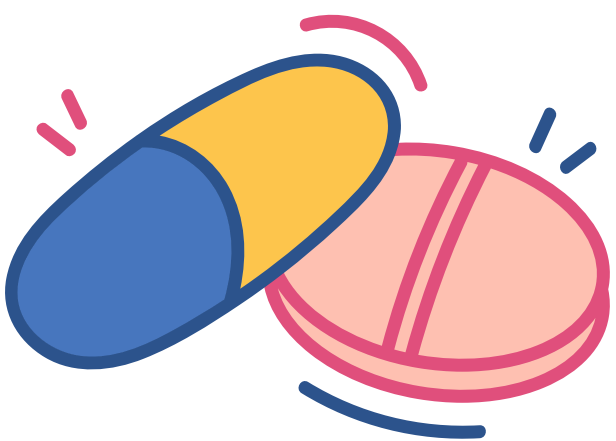


FOR THIS PROJECT, I DECIDED TO WRITE A POEM. I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED READING POETRY, AND I TRY TO WRITE SOME WHENEVER I CAN. I WROTE THIS POEM FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A WOMAN WHO JUST WANTS TO FEEL LIKE SHE HAS THE RIGHT TO HER OWN BODY. THIS PERSPECTIVE IS MY PERSPECTIVE AND IS THE REASON I CHOSE THIS TOPIC.



WHY MUST WE FIGHT FOR CONTROL OVER OUR OWN BODIES?

IT IS EXHAUSTING, AND WE STILL DON'T HAVE RIGHTS TO OUR WOMANLY AUTONOMY.



MUST MEN CONTROL EVERYTHING?

IS IT SO MUCH TO ASK TO HAVE A SAY IN WHEN WE REPRODUCE?

WHY DO MEN GET TO DECIDE? WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO?

EVERY PERSON DESERVES THE RIGHT TO THEIR OWN BODY.
EVERY PERSON SHOULD GET THE QUALITY HEALTH CARE THEY DESERVE.

THOUSANDS OF WOMEN STRUGGLE DAY AND NIGHT,
BECAUSE OUR CRIES FOR EQUALITY ARE NEVER HEARD

SO, WE JOIN TOGETHER AND FIGHT, WE TRAIN EVEN HARDER
WE MAKE A CHANGE AND PAVE THE WAY FOR OUR FUTURE DAUGHTERS.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT AND RAISE UP OUR VOICE.
SO OUR DAUGHTERS CAN GROW UP WITH THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

