

The Discriminatory Portrayal of Disabled Women in Media and its Effects on Employment

Abstract

This paper explores how the portrayal of disabled women in media affects employment. In our current world, the media holds an extortionate amount of influence on what we choose to normalize as a society. The lack of disabled women in all forms of media further marginalizes them from the public leading to low employment rates and discrimination. By examining the amount, type, and context of media exposure for disabled women and measuring the public's response, we were able to get a better understanding of the correlation between exposure and employment. To further address the difficulties in joining the workforce as a disabled woman, we touched on gender inequality even within the disabled community and worldwide statistics. We concluded that in order to move forward we need to normalize both physical and mental disabilities in women to lessen the stigma and discrimination they face in the workforce. This paper is a literature review using scholarly journal articles and statistics from the Americans with Disabilities Act website.

Keywords: disability, disabled women, discrimination, media