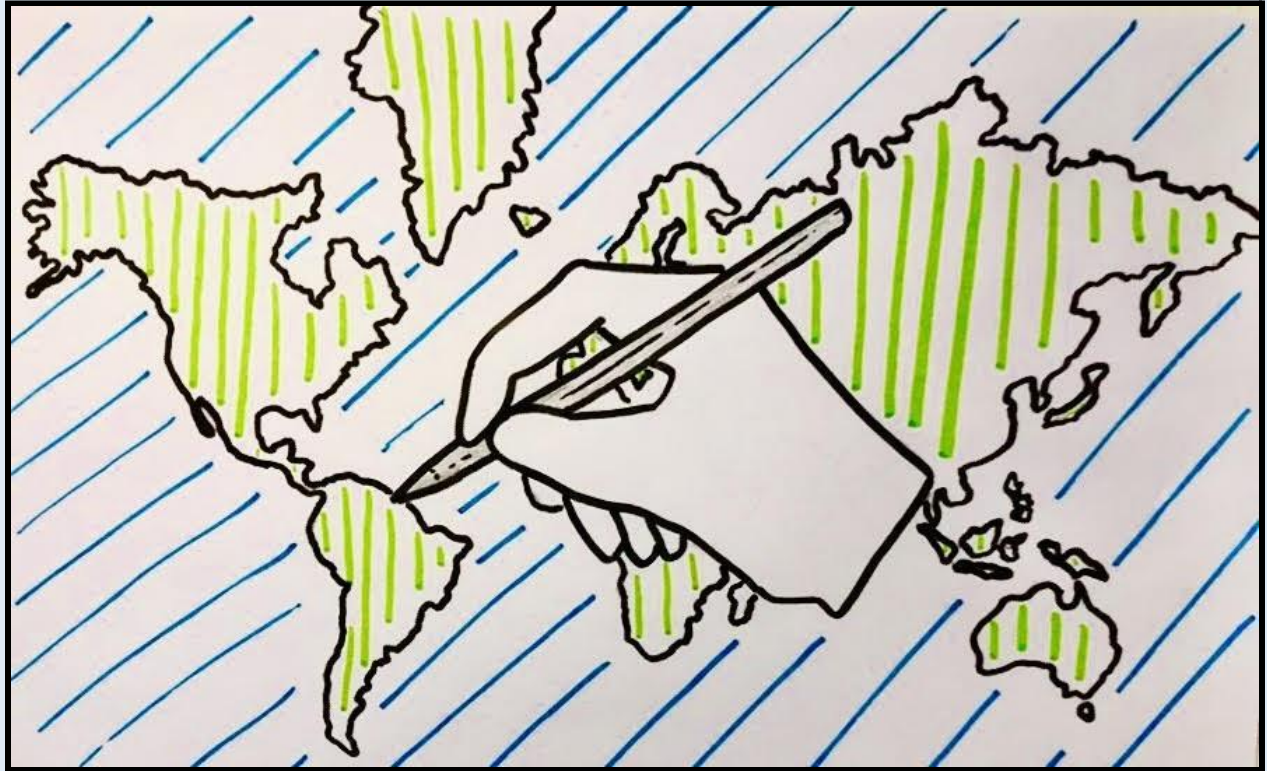


March Article



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Can your employer mandate vaccinations?

By: Kaushya Bhattu



As there is an increase in vaccination sites, some people are eager to take the vaccine, a little hesitant, or completely against it. With these mixed opinions, there is a worry about the safety of workplaces. Can your boss have the right to make vaccinations, in the workplace, mandatory? First of all, employers do have the right to try and increase their vaccine rates in their businesses. In times

before COVID-19, employers can require vaccination in order to employ someone, with a few exceptions such as people with disabilities. But now in times of covid, it becomes a little more difficult to follow these rules. There is a legal uncertainty around vaccine mandates because the Covid-19 vaccines are being given through emergency use authorization, meaning that none of them have been approved through the regular licensing process. This detail could be brought up to the court's attention by anti-vaccine employees. However, courts could reject these claims because there is nothing in them that is directed at employers. Furthermore, at least two lawsuits against vaccination mandates are already underway. The question of "Should bosses mandate vaccinations?" is split, with some people believing that there should not be mandatory vaccination, while others argue that mandatory vaccinations, with a few exceptions, is the best way to make their business safe so it should be legal. As the decision is split, some solutions that could be placed are using "soft" mandates such as requiring employees to either be vaccinated or wear extra protective equipment.

Picture source: <https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/08/its-going-to-be-the-vaccination-stupid.html>

Only Fans from a Women empowerment perspective:

By: Ayemhenre Isikhuemhen



Only Fans is a platform for content creators to have a private subscription based community of fans. It would be after Covid-19 when the use and knowledge of this generally unknown platform would become widespread and revolve around explicit content sharing accounts. Notably these explicit nature accounts are able to maintain huge profit, possibly could make a decent living. It's no secret most of these accounts are owned by women. One could say that this actually empowered women in the explicit content industry, afterall you are practically monetizing the friendzone but these women have full control over the rights of their content and avoid getting ripped off by unfair contracts from bigger corporations. Now that only fans have become the platform where anyone sells their brand these companies have now lost their significance in an industry dominated by big companies. With a freed up industry, and in the covid world where most individuals are more connected with the online world, and are struggling to stay afloat, Onlyfans has become an appealing platform to many. Despite the great monetary benefits and the viability of only fans, it is easy to forget we live in a hypocritical world that shames anyone with connection to the explicit content industry, oftentimes hindering people in pursuing other job opportunities, especially women. Unfortunately, a single mother who was a content creator of Onlyfans, would eventually have her sons kicked out their Catholic as a result of fellow parents complaining, the very irony being that one of those parents must have been subscribed to this single mother in order to know what she was doing. This is a clear of discrimination of these content creators, and otherwise a long term consequences of Onlyfans. When also considering if Onlyfans empower women, it also important to consider it a bit more fundamentally, that in reality women involved in explicit content industry are simply devalued in the eyes of the audience, or worst of all only associate's women more so with intercourse than independent thought combining that with society that will continue to discriminate against these people it is safe to say that Onlyfans only temporarily empower women. One could say that there are better ways for women to be empowered, say perhaps in higher education. Afterall, higher education allows for better career and job opportunities, and Women with higher education are generally respected for their independent intellectual ability, which is a good thing. Unfortunately, just like Only Fans the benefits simply are not sunshine and rainbows this is because unlike Onlyfans, Education is less accessible, expensive, and is controlled by student loan contracts. It's very possible that some women even do only fans in order to fund their education. I consider it a failure for a century old institution to be less accessible and an online content sharing platform when providing opportunities, though that is not to discredit efforts like online and community college to do so, but it may not be enough to allow women and everyone able to access higher education. I think

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real women empowerment and ultimately humanities empowerment should come from a system that is able to promote education, and thinking rather than a congested, old, and limited education system to provide opportunities.

Fun Fact: Athena is a notable figure for female empowerment as she portrays an intellectual and decisive person, with individual characteristics, and virtues. Often counter to common and regressive thoughts about women.

Picture source: Adobe Sparks

Women in STEM

By: Sanjita Suryadevara:



Our world is changing rapidly in light of new sciences and technologies. This innovation is interlinked with the evolution of humanity as a society. But when we look at who is at the face of this rapid revolution, we see a lack of diversity. The need for this diversity transpires just the necessity for equal opportunity but also plays a vital role in ensuring that our fleeting modernization benefits everyone it touches. One minority that the STEM revolution should pay more attention to is women. Gender inequality has been a great barrier to the betterment of our communities through technology. The lack of women representation has barred them from getting their share of the profit.

The scarcity of women in STEM has been a long withstanding issue. Without women involved in scientific innovations, how relevant can the innovations be when they don't consider the needs of half the population they are targeting? A simple example is the innovation of the seatbelt. When the seatbelt was first invented, it was modeled based on only the physical attributes of men. Several women and children fell victim to car accidents because their physicality had not been considered in the new safety measure. A recent incident that can be observed is when Fitbit faced criticism for limiting its period tracker to 10 days. This tracker was only based on the premise of basic science, which taught us that the period in an average menstrual cycle lasts no longer than a week. If only the innovators who developed this feature had consulted more women, they would have realized that this wasn't necessarily accurate. Without women being more present at the roots of such game-changing and life-improving innovations, the branches of STEM and progress can only reach so far.

Many social stereotypes have kept women from seeking STEM careers. It can begin as early as at birth, with gender stereotypes that subtly relate girls with "softer" subjects (such as social sciences/humanities). By the time they reach school, this relation can turn into a lack of confidence in their STEM skills. Even when girls pass the social barricades presented at a young age, the gap only widens as they get older. Systemic challenges are aplenty in the STEM field. Since far fewer women teach STEM-related subjects, female college students lack professional mentorship in the university setting. In the workforce, male-dominated fields often present a closed culture where women struggle to gain recognition or promotion.

There has definitely been a shift in women's representation in STEM. The issues of gender stereotypes are beginning to be addressed in classrooms with STEM programs that are fully inclusive and aiming to dismantle biases. Academia and private industry are also focusing to be a part of the solution by actively diversifying their workforce by engaging talented women to positions of leadership. Women now make up 56% of undergraduate students, including those

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in STEM fields. Although the progress is applaudable, there is still a long way we need to go. Women make up only 28% of the workforce in STEM. The gender gaps are particularly disparate in some of the fastest-growing and highest-paid jobs of the future, such as computer science and engineering. Giving women equal opportunities to pursue, thrive, and revolutionize STEM careers helps narrow the gender pay gap, enhances women's economic security, and prevents biases in these fields and the products and services they produce. It's time to recognize not only what we are innovating, but who we are doing it for.

Picture Source:

<http://wwwf.imperial.ac.uk/blog/imperial-medicine/2019/03/20/how-can-we-build-a-better-balance-of-women-in-stem/>

Crime rates In COVID

By: Amruta Aradwad



It might be surprising to think that the crime rates must have decreased to the pandemic, well in some cases, yes but in some no. At the end of 2020, Chicago police reported more than 750 murders, a jump of more than 50% compared with 2019. By mid-December, Los Angeles saw a 30% increase over the previous year with 322 homicides. There were 437 homicides in New York City by Dec. 20, nearly 40% more than the previous year. It had really been a weird year- the pandemic and an alarming increase in these crime rates. But more and more new victims have been targeted due to issues like racism or xenophobia. Hoping all will cease down in some time, we can continue to cope up with these problems. Will they/it though?

Picture source: <http://cdn.statcdn.com/Infographic/images/normal/23905.jpeg>

Latest Ebola Connection With the One 5-years ago

By: Avyukth Bhattu



With a new strand of Ebola coming out publicly, States are monitoring people in close proximity. Especially in states like Washington, Oregon, and Ohio. Scientists are becoming skeptical and are exploring if the new strand is coming from the man who had survived the first Ebola outbreak five years ago. Researchers are taking the samples of the Ebola strand from the current outbreak and comparing them to the ones in the past to see if

there is a resemblance between the two. From the samples taken there was a similar feature in each one of them from the previous outbreak, but are still doing more tests and taking more samples because only nine were originally taken from current patients. There is news that the virus could be sexually transmitted but there isn't a 100 percent certainty because the virus could be anywhere on the body, but what makes it terrifying is there isn't a known way the virus could be transmitted.

Picture Source:

<https://katu.com/news/local/four-people-in-oregon-being-monitored-for-ebola-after-visiting-west-africa>