

Power, Privilege, and Oppression

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PRIVILEGE

Privilege is defined as having an advantage

- It has constructed society in a way that only people belonging to a "dominant" group will benefit

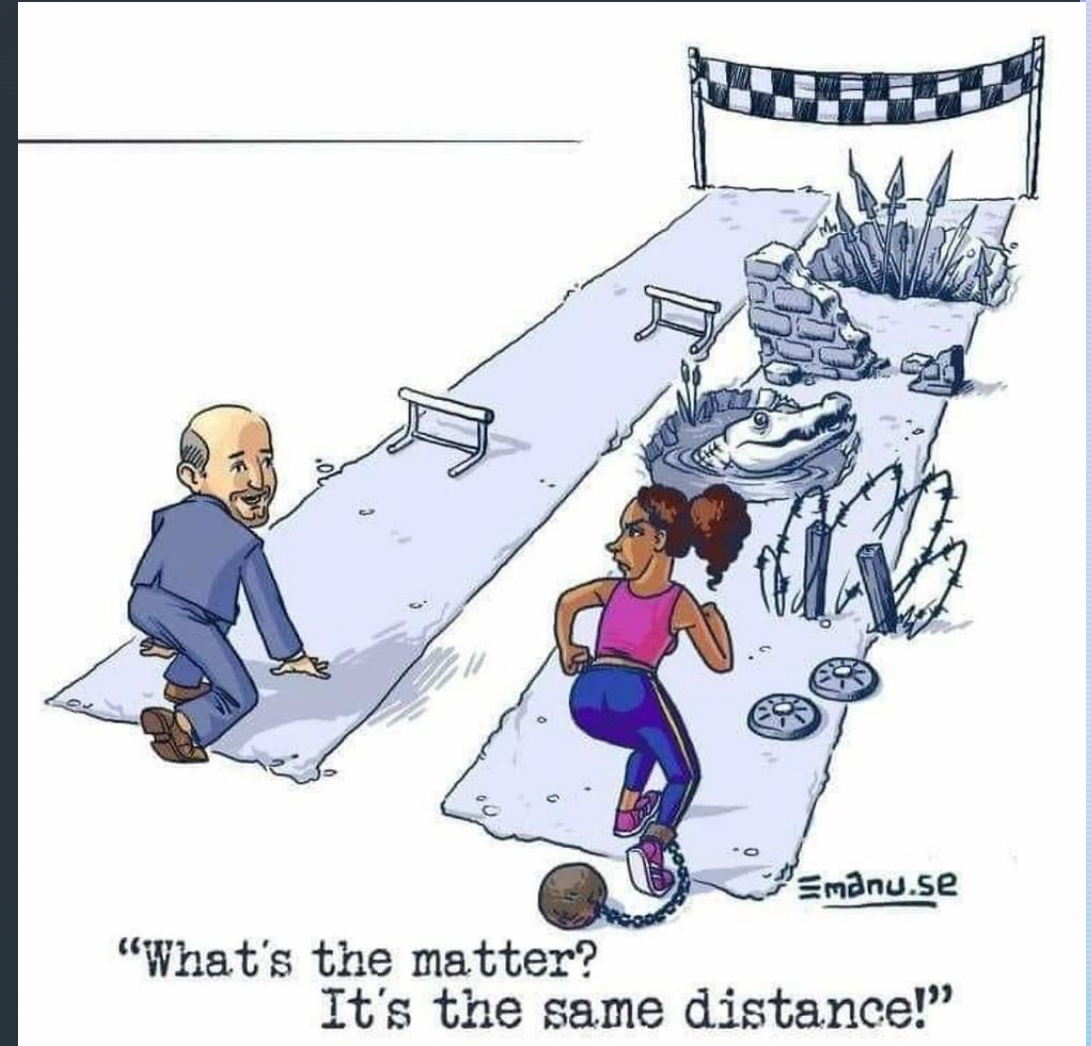
Dominant groups:

- Cis-men
- Whites
- Hetero- sexual
- Christians
- Ablebodied

- Always ongoing and will continue to change. every aspect of every life every day

- "privilege is something we do not need to think about when we have it"

(Sensoy, O., & DiAngelo, 2017, p 87)





- It is hard for those who belong to the dominant group to see the oppression happening because it is not something commonly discussed in an educational setting
- "Abnormal" is deemed as anything other. Anything outside of a dominant group is at a disadvantage

THINK:

"if the water is moving *against* you rather than with you, the amount of effort it takes to move forward is enormous.... If the current is *with* you, swimming is almost effortless" (Sensoy, O., & DiAngelo, 2017, p 80)

POWER

Power in the context of privilege and oppression

- Privilege gives power
- Power is the capacity or ability to direct or influence the behavior of others or the course of events
- "Only men could actually grant suffrage to women because only men held the institutional positions of power necessary to do so." (Sensoy, O., & DiAngelo, 2017, p 62)
- African American people did not have the institutional positions of power required to free themselves from slavery.



OPPRESSION



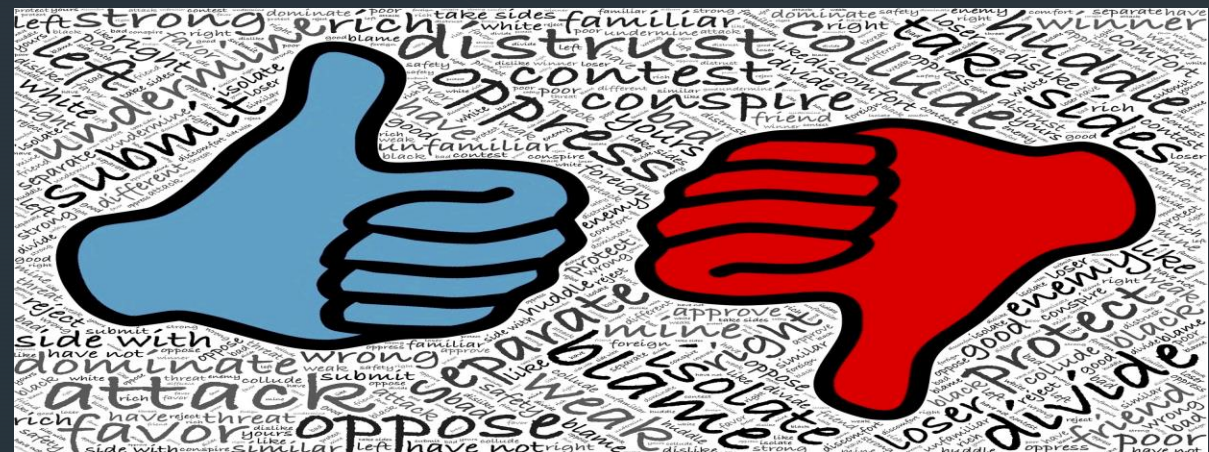
Oppression is the prejudice and discrimination of one social group against another, backed by institutional power.

Oppression typically occurs when one group is able to enforce its prejudice and discrimination throughout society. (Sensoy, O., & DiAngelo, 2017, p 61)

Oppression is big in gender and gender roles. Some examples of oppression here are:

- gender discrimination in education
- child marriage and pregnancy
- sexual violence - unrecognized domestic work

<https://youtu.be/GvcQaTbR4dU>



References

sensoy, O., & DiAngelo, R. (2017). *Is everyone really equal?* (2nd ed.). Teachers' College Press.

Shaw, R. (2014, June 1). Oppression- Source of Power. In *Perkins School for the Blind Learning* . Retrieved from <https://www.perkinselearning.org/activity/oppression-source-power>

BuzzFeed Video, December 9, 2014, *Students Learn A Powerful Lesson About Privilege*[Video], YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KlmvmuxzYE&t=30s>