

New Jersey Women's Voices Interview Project

Interviewer: Luxy Ramos

1. Background Information:

Name: Debbie McClain
Age: 52
Education level: Some College
Current Profession: Marketing
Marital status: Married
Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian
Hometown: Atlantic City, NJ
Political affiliation: None
Religion: Brought up Protestant, attended Catholic schools
Relationship to me: Friend/Former co-worker
Do you have children? No
In what format did the interview take place? Face-to-face.

2. Questions about feminism: What do you know about feminism?

Debbie: Feminism is a negative innuendo defining women who have a voice. Except for white male men, everyone else is a minority. There should not be any minorities. We are all equal.

a. Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

Debbie: No. There should be no categorization to a woman who exercises her rights.

i.) If you wouldn't call yourself a feminist, is there another term that better describes you?

Debbie: I would describe myself as a woman with intellect, who makes informed decisions.

b. Do you think being a feminist means giving up romance and chivalry?

Debbie: Absolutely not! Romance and chivalry have nothing to do with women who fight for their rights.

c. In your opinion, what has been the greatest obstacle that the feminist movement has overcome? Has the feminist movement hurt women or men in any way? Please explain.

Debbie: The feminist movement gave women the confidence to not live their lives within the roles that had, for so many years, been defined for them. As for hurting women or men, it probably hurt men more than it did women. Men must now compete with women for jobs and feel threatened by successful women. There was also a spike in the number of broken homes and divorces due to women's liberation.

d. What would equality for men and women entail? Can men and women ever achieve true equality? How so or why not?

Debbie: Equality for men and women would entail an open mind by both. Men and women will never achieve true equality. It is naïve to think that could ever be possible.

3. Questions about Work and Family: How does society view housewives?

Debbie: Society views housewives as subservient. It is a stereotype that men have for women who are supposed to stay home and take on wifely and motherly duties.

If you had or have the option of being a housewife, would you consider it? Why or why not?

Debbie: Yes, I would consider being a housewife if given the opportunity, because it is a privilege to be able to raise children without daycare.

a. When you were growing up, did a specific person in your household make the majority of the decisions or otherwise run the household? Do you think the person's gender influenced when or what types of decisions she or he made?

Debbie: My father made most household decisions. I definitely think his gender had an influence on the decisions he made.

b. Do you think women in male-dominated professions must diminish their feminine traits in order to gain respect from their peers? Please explain.

Debbie: Respect is earned. Although women do not have to stop being women, there needs to be some assimilation in order to succeed.

c. Now that the United States has elected a Black male president, do you think the country will elect a female president in the near future? Please explain.

Debbie: Absolutely! We would already have a female president if the right woman had run against President Obama. Women are perfectly capable of running for office and successfully leading our country, the key is the **right** woman.

d. What would you consider to be the most challenging aspect of being a female? Do you think males share this struggle? What advice do you have for young people today?

Debbie: The most challenging aspect of being female is breaking the stereotypes and roles that define us. Convincing others that we are not ruled by emotion, that we can be a success while also raising a family, or that raising a family doesn't even have to be part of the equation. I don't think men share this struggle! Young people need to live their lives how they want, without worrying about what others may think about the choices they make, whether they be choices about career or family.