Disagree: Women will have a higher status in society than men within 50 years

Word Count: 392

Social status is largely defined as who receives greater respect and admiration from others. In order to have a superior status in society, an individual or group would need to dominate a variety of domains, including politics, industry, and income, thereby garnering greater respect and value. I argue that women will not have a higher status in society than men within 50 years because of existing imbalances in political power, deficiencies in the number of female CEOs, and the current gender pay gap.

Political power plays a large role in determining who has greater status in society. A political role itself generally leads to having greater value and respect in society. In addition, an individual now has the power to enact legislation further supporting their group. According to a study of trends since 1960, women will not achieve equal numbers in government until 2117, which is well after 50 years from today. Therefore, women will not dominate men in the political realm within 50 years, and thus will not have a superior status within this time.

If women were to have a superior status than men, they would need to hold the majority of C-suite positions, as higher position in a company translates to greater respect and therefore status. Women currently hold 6.4% of CEO roles in Fortune 500 companies. This discrepancy has not improved over the past decade, and is attributed by many to internal biases during the selection of CEOs, which are not easy to overcome. It is therefore unlikely that this amount will surpass 50% within the next 50 years, preventing women from achieving superior status.

Women would also need to dominate in the area of income, as greater income often translates to respect received. Women earned 83% of what men earned in 2015, and experts claim that with the current levels of progress, the gender pay gap will not close for over 200 years. It follows then that women will not achieve greater status than men within the next 50 years.

Status encompasses having domination in a variety of realms, including politics, industry, and income. I argue that women will not have a higher status in society than men within the next 50 years. This is due to the current shortage of females in government, the low number of females in CEO roles, and the gender pay gap.

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7 Ibid.