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Examining Gender in the United States and South Korea

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Gracie Wells

South Korea

April 15, 2023

Examining Gender in The United States and South Korea

One thing that surprised me after doing this interview was that South Korea, which is technologically and economically similar to the United States, still has many practices segregated by gender. It was nice to hear that women in South Korea are finding this separation to be a problem. Another difference I noted was that Koreans market their culture heavily as a commodity for outsiders to purchase or experience. In the case of the Hanbok rentals, they use this idea of a discount entrance fee and fun experience to get more people to visit historic places and raise money. I found it nice to know that even though we are both from different cultures we have similar views on gender equality. It was nice to hear that we share some of the same struggles regarding finding our place in society.

I came to South Korea knowing there was a divide between men and women in the workforce. However, now I see through the politics and protests that it is a bigger problem here than I thought. This divide is not only affecting the workplace but also birthrates in the country. Women seem to either be waiting longer to have kids or not want to have them at all. I recently saw online that there is a movement going around where women are avoiding sex, having children, and having relationships. The country seems to be scrambling to find a solution to its falling birthrate. When looking at this I see similarities to America in the sense that when birthrates began to fall for us that is when the government turned over RoeVsWade. While South

Korea's case is different in that they aren't even getting pregnant in the first place I still worry about what measures will be taken when the government thinks they must take a heavy-handed approach.