

**63. Passage 16:**

Everywhere I look, I see stats about how there are either too many black people or too few of us in whatever state of existence we've decided is topical. There are stats about how few women there are in STEM and a cherry-picked list of desirable professions. There's the inexplicably persistent gender pay gap narrative, which has been repeatedly debunked by such sexist publications as Harvard (a female professor at Harvard, to be specific) and Forbes (in an article written by another female academic). And Thomas Sowell (a black economist) has been admonishing the western world since the 80s, about the inaccuracies (and dangerousness) of the way we dishonestly politicise disparities in income and opportunity, across race and gender. But I digress... because I don't have a problem with these statistics, nor am I even here (solely) to debate their validity. It's what we—humans—do with these statistics that really bothers me. We abuse them with this new-found exaltation of subjectivity. We turn victimhood into a mechanism for attaining disproportionately large power, then do what humans do best when we wield too much power—abuse it. So, we say, "evil, therefore the fact there aren't more black CEOs must be the fault of white people." Or we say, "gorillas, so the fact that there aren't more women in STEM must be the fault of men." We proclaim that gender and race are social constructs, completely removed from science and reality. Women, men and people of different races are perfectly uniform in all abilities, interests and aptitudes. This is an incredibly subjective stance to take... but let's entertain it for a minute. If this were true, then there'd be absolutely no need for diversity. If we are all uniform, then we are all interchangeable. If we acknowledge diversity, we must also acknowledge lack of uniformity. And if we acknowledge lack of uniformity, we must also acknowledge inequalities of ability. The mistake we make is that our prejudices cause us to value some abilities more than others—and we are simplistic enough to assume that being less skilled in these abilities makes people less valuable too.

**Q. What is the author trying to convey by quoting scholars like Thomas Sewell and Harvard publications?**

- A. Statistics regarding gender pay gap etc can be misleading. We have politicized gender and race issues in an unfair manner
- B. Individual's feelings on matters with universal consequences are more important than the construction of universally comprehensible and verifiable standards.
- C. If we acknowledge diversity, we must also acknowledge lack of uniformity. And if we acknowledge lack of uniformity, we must also acknowledge inequalities of ability.
- D. Gender and race are social constructs, completely removed from science and reality

**64. What is the ideal scenario in the future with respect to gender and race discrimination, according to the author?**

- A. We must stop glorifying subjectivity at the cost of objective analysis.
- B. Lack of uniformity must also be acknowledged and exalted like diversity. In a utopian world, all manner of skills must be appreciated equally
- C. We require more affirmative action policies by the government to ensure a level playing field for all
- D. None of the above