

Zeast 0:01

“So growing up with an older brother, there’s been massive differences between the way that he was raised, what he was allowed to do and then what I was allowed to do. When I asked ‘Why is it this way?’ There was never any proper explanation – just ‘he’s a boy, you’re a girl’, and then that I think just reinforces the fact that women are lesser.”

0:23

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY – Raising Our Children the Same
Community Voices from the ‘Let’s Take the Lead’ Project
Boronia Multicultural Services

Rugmini 0:26

“Irrespective of, you know your gender your sexuality or ethnicity, whatever variables you can consider, Y’know everyone needs to have equal access and opportunity.”

Vikashan 0:39

“There’s a lot of pressure from our families, our cultures and also in the society that we live in to show up in various ways. And I think, equal opportunity means that we have the same opportunity to do the things that we want to do.”

Zeast 0:56

“To me equal opportunity means treating boys and girls the same as they are growing up and what you expect of the boys you also expect of the girls.”

Poompa 1:03

“Equal Opportunity to me, myself as a woman, I would love freedom. How we have to dress, what we have to do, I don’t like to be told on.”

Dr Latifi 1:16

[In Farsi] “We should provide equal opportunity for children as it is their right.”

Renu 1:21

“Doesn’t mean that what the man does, the woman can’t do or what the woman does the man can’t do. It’s the choice.”

Sharmila 1:30

“For us, it means that we all pitch in to do housework. So my husband cooks, I should do more yard work, [Laughs] I don’t. That my son does some of the laundry, he helps pack up the kitchen. That my daughter learns how to do gardening and that my husband sees being a father just as important as it is having a job.”

Rugmini 1:48

“They still bring some of those unconscious disparity notions into their upbringing and I think there’s a need for all of us, younger and older parents, to sort-of unlearn those things.”

Zeast 2:02

“Because my parents would say “we trust you, but we don’t trust the world. We don’t trust the guys out there.” But its like, did he ever get taught not to be that type of guy? Whereas I’m being taught to, you know, not do this, not wear that, not go out here, not go there.”

Dr Latifi 2:17

[In Farsi] “Religion and logic suggests that gender should not be the basis for receiving an advantage. As such, we should not discriminate based on gender in our work, treatment and interactions with others.”

Swamiji 2:36

“Our culture, especially the Hindu culture that I’m from, we highly respect a lady. We start off teaching the children ‘Mata, Pita, Guru, Daivam’. ‘Mata’ – ‘Mother’. So the first person that you respect and worship is your mother. Because obviously mother is the one that nourishes us and brings us to this world.”

Vikashan 2:57

“My advice for parents, carers, other leaders would be to go and have conversations with people from different cultures about what it means to be a man and a woman in their culture. Have conversations with people with a different gender identity and expression. You can share your own perspective but you can also learn.”

Zeast 3:16

“I think parents within my community, needs to stop focusing on marriage so much for young women because that’s not our whole lives. There’s so much more than marriage. What about my career? What about what I’m gonna do for myself?”

Poompa 3:32

“It’s about the children being happy. When a parent realizes that their children’s happiness is the most important thing, then there would be no bar for them.”

Swamiji 3:44

“It’s not about the male being dominant or the female being dominant. In whatever field they’re in, we should bring out the best out of them, so they can give the best to the family, and to the society and the world.”

Zeast 3:56

“If you’re raised with a mindset that women have to simply listen to what men say and not question anything, it’s really gonna reflect further in your future, your marriage and your workplace and everything. So, raising girls with a mindset that we are equal, we do have rights, all of that, it’s definitely going to help our future relationships, our careers, everything. “