



VIDEO

The Office of the Status of Women. *Inequity in the Classroom / En toute égalité*. Montréal, Québec: Concordia University, 1992, \$80.00, ISBN 0-88947-042-1.

Inequity in the Classroom/En toute égalité consists of a videotape and training manual designed to help professors and adult educators recognize and deal with subtle, inadvertent forms of discrimination in the classroom. The unique feature of this audio-visual package is that it concentrates primarily on "the chilly climate" for women in higher education. Since sexism is so intertwined with our notions of sexuality, it is one of the most difficult discriminatory practices to address. To its credit, *Inequity in the Classroom* responds to the question, how does differential treatment of men and women adversely affect student learning?

The videotape (VHS) (English version: 26 min. 41 sec.; French version: 26 min. 48 sec.) can be used separately or in combination with the manual. It features student testimonials, dramatizations of sexist classroom interactions, and thought-provoking analysis of equity issues by university professors and renowned North American scholars. Although the focus is primarily on classroom interactions, issues such as curriculum, grading, academic freedom, and the dynamics of power and knowledge are also addressed.

The manual (English version: 131 pages; French version: 135 pages) complements but is different from the videotape. It consists of a training manual for a one-day workshop together with supportive materials that define and highlight the consequences of, and alternatives to inequity in the classroom. Accompanying "Fact Sheets" provide written information on sexism, ethnocultural discrimination, racism, heterosexism, stereotypes, non-verbal behaviour, language, and other forms of discrimination in the curriculum and in the classroom. In addition, an annotated bibliography and a selected bibliography provide further information on each topic.

Because most professors were themselves educated in an androcentric and eurocentric tradition, the need for inclusive teaching strategies is at the forefront of educational reform. To this end, *Inequity in the Classroom* is a particularly valuable resource. Designed to inform rather than to provoke controversy, it provides a non-threatening, research-based forum for consciousness raising. Importantly, both the videotape and the manual provide teachers with concrete strategies for making their classroom environment more inclusive. It should be noted,

however, that while the video tackles the complex issue of sexism in an objective and thorough manner, other forms of discrimination are not examined. To discuss issues such as racism, ageism, and homophobia, for example, one needs to make use of the manual and its Fact Sheets.

In May 1993, *Inequity in the Classroom* received official recognition for its excellence in content and presentation when it was awarded the ADATE Prize for the video and special mention for the manual by L'Association pour la Développement et L'Application de la Technologie en Éducation in Québec City. The need for and timeliness of this topic are also reflected in the demand for this audiovisual package. More than 850 copies have already been purchased by college and university libraries around the world. Clearly, *Inequity in the classroom* is a valuable yet affordable (\$80 for both the videotape and the manual) resource for both secondary and postsecondary institutions.

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