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Examination session (May or November)	May	Year	2013

Diploma Programme subject in which this extended essay is registered: Social Cultural
Anthropology
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Title of the extended essay: 40 years of Title IX

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I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

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Assessment form (for examiner use only)

Criteria	Achievement level					
	Examiner 1	maximum	Examiner 2	maximum	Examiner 3	
A research question	1	2		2		
B introduction	0	2		2		
C investigation	1	4		4		
D knowledge and understanding	0	4		4		
E reasoned argument	1	4		4		
F analysis and evaluation	0	4		4		
G use of subject language	0	4		4		
H conclusion	1	2		2		
I formal presentation	2	4		4		
J abstract	1	2		2		
K holistic judgment	0	4		4		
Total out of 36	7					

40 YEARS OF TITLE IX

By

IB Extended Essay

Word Count: 2150

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Abstract

This project is an exploration into the impacts that Title IX has had in affecting women's sports since its enactment. The investigation will look into women's high school and collegiate athletics and examine the ways they have changed since the enactment on Title IX on June 23, 1972. It will discuss challenges and imbalances that originally faced women's athletics and the ways women's sports have come to coexist with men's sports in the NCAA. It will look beyond the huge growth in the number of women participating in high school and collegiate sports to look at the impacts of Title IX. This investigation will conclude that Title IX has had huge impacts in allowing for the growth and expansion of women's sports.

Introduction

On June 23, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon signed Title IX as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. Title IX is best known for these 37 words, "No person in the United States of America shall, shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance..." While the word 'sport' is not mentioned in the text, Title IX had the greatest impact on playing fields across the country, whether breaking down exclusion barriers, providing funding, invoking confidence or changing societal perceptions of women.

Since its passage in 1972, how has Title IX affected women's high school and collegiate sports?

Changes in Women's Sports

Discrepancies in Opportunity, Facilities & Funding

Prior to the passage of Title IX, opportunities for women in sports were limited, but that did not mean that women did not have a desire to compete. High school and college sports for women took place in loosely organized intramural leagues that lacked the scholarships, coaching, facilities and funding that were found in men's athletics at the time. The Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), founded in 1971, was the first major women's collegiate athletics organization. At its peak the AIAW had about 1000 member schools that participated in 19 sports. The AIAW coordinated rules and officials and crowned national champions, providing stability to women's athletics (Title IX: Implications for Women in Sport). Under the AIAW, women's collegiate athletics were able to expand as with the passage of Title IX women were ready to use their right to play. The AIAW though lacked the funding and media attention found in the men's organization, the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), at the time. By 1983 the AIAW would cease to exist as women's sports were absorbed into the NCAA.

In 1974, two years after the passage of Title IX, Margaret Dunkle conducted the first major investigation into the inequalities in athletics for women in American universities titled "What Constitutes Equality for Women in Sports?" The study, conducted through the Association of American Colleges and Universities detailed major disparities between men's and women's athletics in terms of attention and money. In one example, a school "spent more than \$2,600,000 on men's intercollegiate athletics, but no money whatsoever, on women's intercollegiate athletics." (Dunkle 2). In 1975, The United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare issued regulations detailing terms for compliance with Title IX for high schools and colleges that received federal funding, especially in relation to athletics (Kwak 53). The regulations specified that schools must offer an equal number of varsity sports to both sexes and must also self evaluate and report on the completion of 10 other factors in assessing compliance with accordance to Title IX.

Title IX requires that high schools and colleges offer an equal number of varsity opportunities to both genders, and also an equal allocation of funding, facilities and

scholarships. Allocation of funding and facilities has not always been equal. Two years after the passage of Title IX, in 1974 nineteen members of the Yale women's crew team stripped naked in protest to the women's athletic director, because despite competitive success they were given inferior equipment and did not have access to showers and locker rooms as did the men's crew team. Today both the men's and women's crew team at Yale enjoy the same amenities (Bamberger 53). This is not a unique example as even after Title IX women have had to stand up for their right to equal opportunities and facilities.

Impacts on the NCAA

The Nation Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) originally opposed the law in 1972, believing that the implications would be a detriment to the revenue producing sports of men's football and basketball. At the time the NCAA did not offer women's collegiate sports, but believed the burden on colleges and universities to meet the requirement to provide equal opportunities and funding, would as Texas athletic director Darrell Royal, stated "eliminate, kill or seriously weaken the programs we have in existence" (Wolff 59). In May 1974, Senator John Tower of Texas sponsored an amendment in the U.S. Senate that would exempt revenue sports [football and men's basketball] from Title IX compliance (Kwak 53). The amendment would have meant that universities would be able to offer two fewer women's sports and that, more importantly, the money spent on high cost football programs would not have to be matched in funding women's programs. Though the Tower Amendment failed to pass the United States House of Representatives, it marked the first of a series of challenges over the legality of Title IX. The introduction of the Tower Amendment also led the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to issue regulations specifying terms for compliance with Title IX; these have been instrumental in thwarting lawsuits and legal challenges against Title IX in the years since (Wolff 60).

In retrospect it was these original challenges to the legitimacy of Title IX that led to supporters of the measure taking action to strengthen and ensure that Title IX would be in effect to promote equal opportunities for women in sport. In 1981, the NCAA began crowning women's Division I champions in several sports which led to the

eventual end of the AIAW (Kwak 54). The NCAA's original prediction that Title IX would cause major damage and threaten the existence of revenue sports has been proved false as today the NCAA offers championships to both men and women in 19 Division I sports and football and basketball continue to thrive. In major universities, today, it is often the profits from major men's sports that go to help fund all of the varsity sports at the school. While, the continuing existence of only predominantly male revenue sports leads to the conclusion that while opportunities may be equal, but there is an imbalance in the amount of attention paid to certain sports. Title IX called for equal opportunity to play but a law cannot regulate interest and despite the huge growth in women's sports in the last 40 years under Title IX, interest in men's sports far outweighs that for women's sports.

Growth in Participation

The strongest evidence of the effects of Title IX in women's sports comes from looking at the number of women who have participated in high school and collegiate sports in the last 40 years and who continue to play today. Before Title IX was enacted the low numbers of women in competitive athletics bred a stereotype that women were not interested in sports; in fact women were just waiting for the opportunity to play. In 1970, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations fewer than 1 in 27 high school age girls participated in a competitive sport; today that number is 1 in 3 (Sandoz 5). In the 1971-1972 school year, only 294,015 girls played a varsity sport compared 3,666,917 boys. By 2001-2002 boys high school varsity sports had gained approximately another 300,000 participants while girls participation had jumped to 2,806,998 (Blumenthal 122). While boy's sports have continued to grow, it is in girl's sports that there has been a huge jump in participation in years since Title IX passed. While the gains have been huge and remarkable there is still more room to grow. According to U.S. Department of Education, approximately 744,000 bachelors degrees were awarded to women in the 2001-2002 school year, about 200,000 more than were awarded to men, and yet in the same year according to the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), 212,140 men participated in college sports while only 155,513 women did (Blumenthal 122). With these enrollment numbers it appears as if women

should have at least an equal number of participants in collegiate athletics. The discrepancy could be the result of a lack of opportunities for women. Some believe that even despite the growth as a result of Title IX, that athletics opportunities are still not equal. In the 2009 video produced by Bowling Green State University, Title IX: Implications for Women in Sport and Education, Jocelyn Sanders stated, "unfortunately because of discrimination and barriers that continue to constrain women's opportunities in sports far too many young women are denied the opportunities given to their male peers."

Beyond Sports

The huge rise of women participating in sports in the last 40 years under Title IX has led to a shift in how society as perceives women. Since the mid 1800s, women and girls have been fighting for a chance to play but were confined by the limits of "ladylike" behavior, because a women in an athletic uniform creates 'a disturbance in the social order' (Sandoz 4). Athletics encourage and contain elements of aggression, achievement, self-confidence, leadership, competitiveness, strength, pain and swiftness, none of which corresponded with the previously accepted female role of wife and mother. In some ways the growth of women's high school and collegiate sports has led the way in dismissing some of these long-held views that limit the role of women in sport, and society. "Today, things have changed...and they haven't. The media continues to shape women athlete's truths to fit the long-outworn femininity frame, sending a very ambiguous message about the status of women and their relationship to competition and athleticism" (Sandoz 6). While men and boys are often glorified for their gutsy hard work and commitment to winning, the media is more comfortable painting our female athletic stars as "the sweet girl next door" than the motivated, tough people they are. Title IX was never intended to regulate how society thinks of women in sport, only to ensure they are given an equal opportunity to compete.

The impacts of Title IX in women's sports are undeniable. but beyond that how has Title IX influenced education. In 1979, seven years after the passage of Title IX women's enrollment in undergraduate universities first outnumbered that of men and by 1982 women were earning more bachelors degrees (Kwak 54). This increase in women

pursuing higher education can be seen not only as a reflection of increased opportunities but also that with the enactment of Title IX women gained a sense of confidence to pursue an opportunity in education because they were supported by the law.

The summer of 2012 marked 40 years under Title IX; today girls and women across the country populate teams at every competitive level. The Olympics have often been an opportunity for women to shine and gain attention and acclaim in athletics. The 2012 London Games proved no exception, for the first time the U.S. Olympic team featured more women than men, 269 to 261. United States Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun said the greater number of female athletes is "a true testament to the impact of Title IX, which in its 40-year history has increased sport opportunities for millions of females across the United States." Not only has Title IX helped create athletics opportunities here at home but also around the world. While Title IX cannot directly regulate equal opportunities for women in sport in other countries, the United States has helped lead the way in creating a culture around the globe in which women's athletics are accepted. The 2012 London Olympics was the first time that all countries competing in the games sent at least one female athlete. Women from Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Brunei competed in London in 5 sports, a landmark achievement for countries that have traditionally oppressed and denied women's rights.

Conclusion

Title IX has helped female athletes to overcome large discrepancies in opportunities, facilities and funding, through mandating that schools offer and provide for an equal number of varsity sports to both genders. Title IX has changed the culture in the NCAA to allow the acceptance and coexistence of successful men's and women's athletics. It has created opportunities for huge expansion in the participation levels of female athletes in high school and college sport, yet there is still more room to grow. Beyond the playing fields, Title IX has played a hand in altering the societal stereotype of women and creating a culture not only in the U.S. but around the world of accepting women's sports. In 40 years, Title IX has made huge gains in fulfilling the promise that "no person...shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination" in high school and college athletics.

In the perusal of equality in athletics, participation is not the only measuring stick. Today huge imbalances remain in collegiate athletics in the amount of fan and media attention that is paid to men's sports versus women's. Can Title IX really affect the levels of interest in sports? And how has Title IX impacted men's sports? This is not the end of the answer for there are more doors to open and explore.

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