

Audio Documentary script

Script: "Defending Gender Inequality Through Sports."

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Lead In: This Audio Documentary is about shedding light on the daily struggles of female athletes in Egypt. The struggles that are related to gender inequality such as being oppressed due to the fact that they are females and not males, as well as praising those who support females and believe that females can achieve what males can .

MUSIC: FADE IN

(NAT SOUND) Down set hut.

This is what every one would assume the beginning of a football game would sound like, yet there is another sound to it

DOWN

SET

HUT

Hut is the Que for footballers that it's the start of the match.

Now it's the Que that what you are about to hear at this part is all football and about gender inequality in Egypt.

MARWA DEIF :(MD)

MD: “ Yes i told Mariam not join the team when she first told me, but now I regret telling her that and I am so glad that she turned out to be stubborn enough and followed her passion, now when i go watch her matches i feel very proud of her and of the athlete she has become. I have told her not to join the team because to me American Football is just that sport in movies where all the players would just keeping hitting and tackling each other, she’s my little girl, you know, i was worried about her, at the end of the day she’s a girl.however when i figured out that its flag football and not tackle football i was kind of a little bit less worried ” (00:13)

That was mariam zaki’s mother Marwa deif response to a previous conflict she had with mariam, which I will be getting back to later. But first I want to clarify the fact that there are two types of football, there is tackle football and there is flag football, there is a huge difference between them both. Tackle football is the one we see in movies, with all the hitting and the aggression, but that is a wrong assumption because there are rules on how to tackle in order to avoid any injuries and to make sure to provide a safe football environment for the athletes. Flag football on the other hand, is the type of football that most female teams around the world play. In flag football the players have a tied belt around their waists that has a flag on both sides, and when the flag is pulled it is equivalent to a tackle and that means that the play is over.

MARIAM ZAKI:(MZ)

MZ: “ I have joined the american football team about a year and a half ago and ever since then this became literally my everything, when I first told my parents I joined the team I got a straight no find yourself another sport. I was told that this is not a sport that a delicate girl should join and that to me was the real reason why I was stubborn to continue and be the best that i can be and to prove them wrong ” (20s)
That was mariam zaki’s first day on the football team yet now she is one of the team’s best players and her parents are her biggest fans.

Before I get into more details i just want to clarify the fact that yes there are American Football Teams in egypt, to be exact there are 16 teams, 8 male teams and 8 female teams. All under the Egyptian Federation of American football, which was founded in december of 2014.

The federation has a rule that clearly states that any male team has to have a female team to be able to compete in the Egyptian Football league.

YOUSSEF NADI: (YN)

YN: "Well for the previous couple of seasons we went from only guys playing football to having three girls teams and this season there was a new rule that every guys team has to have a girls team because in the previous season we have seen that the girls are very capable of playing football, they have shown dedication and commitment ."

After so many years of female oppression, our generation is trying to prove a point, we are trying to prove what we are capable off, what we are made off and the fact that we can conquer anything we set our mind to.

YN: " To me I believe that the girls are trying to prove that they can do what the guys can do and they have taken it upon themselves to show everyone what they can do and to change the idea that they are not physically and mentally strong, I think that the majority of the girls want to play tackle football, I always get asked when are you going to change it from flag football to tackle football, in my opinion I believe that they are trying to confirm the fact that they are strong and that they are capable of accomplishing what they put their minds to"

Before I talk more about female Egyptian athletes, let's go back in time and look at the Egyptian feminist movement which is when we females started gaining some rights. Back in the early twentieth century, women decided to take a stand and be vocal about their demands against the colonial practices. In the 1919 revolution there were women standing alongside men demanding the liberation of Egypt yet women were not granted political rights which resulted them to depend on informal networks of activism.

MUSIC

All parents do care about sports yet Egyptian parents take it to a whole new level, sports are as equally important as education to them. Well allow me to take you back to what I used to hear all my childhood.

MARWA HAMMAD: (MH)

MH: “ Sports to me is equivalent to education, being in sports builds a child’s character. It teaches them how to be responsible, how to work with others, how to be punctual and how to time manage. If there is something that i would never change if i go back in time it will be putting my children into sports ” (9s)

That was my mother Marwa Hammad bragging about all the benefits of sports and how proud she is for putting us into sports when we were children.

Being an athlete is proved to reduce risk of over 20 illnesses, including cardiovascular disease and some cancers. According to Health fitness Revolution studies, sports help with physical development, it builds stronger bones and muscles. Sports also help guide the athletes into living a better life and making better life decisions.

As my mother goes on and on about sports and the benefits that comes with it, she also mentions one problem that really bothers her as a mother of 4 athlete girls, is how men and women are still

treated differently in sports. It is still a belief that is deeply embedded in people's brains that men are better and stronger than women and that women cannot accomplish what men can do.

NAT SOUND: swimming

Even though my Sister Malak is ranked first in Egypt, Middle East , africa and has have records broken with my name. She still faces sexism.

MALAK RABIE: (MR)

MR: " My male friends are still recognized more than i am and are treated by coaches differently than i am. It saddens me that a man is still expected to swim faster than i a m and if i swim as fast as he does or even faster I always get told that i should be very proud of myself because i swam faster than my male friend, everything has to be referred back to them." (22s)

As we move forward in time, the Egyptian community has realized the problem of gender inequality through sports, by creating programs that help work on fixing this issue. Rana Deraz the spokeswoman of the "she got game" program for this year.

RANA DERAZ: (RD)

RD: " the sports for development program is a collaboration between The International Sports Alliance and Aspire Training solution, The International Sports Alliance is a non profit organization based in Holland, its purpose is to empower community sports coaches on how to design and implement sport programs. It's more about gender equality and how to empower girls through sports, the manual that will be used for this year, is called (She Got Game) and each topic has several activities that the coaches can use to tackle certain topics that are very specific to the gender equality issues in Egypt, it tackled gender roles, stereotypes and empowerment of girls through sports." (45s)

For all athlete girls, somewhere behind the athlete you've become and all the hours of practice, and the coaches who have pushed you, is a little girl who fell in love with the game, and never looked back, so play for her.

This audio documentary was produce by Alia Haytham for the audio production course at the American University in Cairo, taught by Professor Kim Fox in the Spring semester 2018. Special thanks to: Marwa deif, Marwa Hammad, Malak Rabie, Youssef El Nadi and Rana deraz.

MUSIC FADE OUT