

Adarsh Sekar is a student at UCSC pursuing his Bachelors in Computer Science. He enjoys producing music and skateboarding in his free time.

When addressing the notion of toxic masculinity and oppression of women, we must equally focus on the unnoticed aspects of our society if we truly want to bring change. Yes, it is important to run campaigns to raise awareness against sexual harassment and gender based violence, but to make a real impact we must also address the smaller things that we all seem to ignore that pervades through our everyday lives. We should be addressing why stay-at-home moms are so common. Why are young boys being told that acting like a girl is demeaning? Why are men viewed as the family leaders, when in fact most women run the household?

These are the areas that lead to the bigger problems, because we're so casually throwing around the idea that women are less than men, and that when we grow up, it turns into a much deeper oppression of half the world population. Why doesn't anyone question why all the aunties go to the kitchen when they come over, whereas all the uncles sit in the living room? These are ideas and beliefs that have been so ingrained in our brains as natural that I believe that these are the concepts that we must try to change first. None of us are perfect, and I myself have partaken in fueling these ideas at times. However, we must all work together in ending these harmful social and cultural norms if we truly want women to be standing on the same stage as men.