The status of women in Ancient Greece was not much different then how women in other cultures were treated for hundreds of years. The women were given little to no rights, in comparison to the males of their time, being unable to own land, vote, or inherit. Many of times women would only have education to help them be a homemaker and mother after being married off by their fathers. By law, women were essentially “owned” by their husbands and the men that “owned” them could get away with pretty much anything, even murder. Men were allowed to engage in sexual relations with anyone they wanted, however if a wife was caught having sexual relations with another man, many of times the husband would murder his wife with little fear of being prosecuted for the crime. Most women were kept away in the houses and would only tend to the children and house chores, and many of the time it was a disgrace to mention women’s names out in public.

Males were very obviously the dominant gender in Ancient Greece and because of pressure to carry on the family name, many of times baby girls were abandoned by their families and when kept, most were married off by the age of 13 or 14. Women were married off at such a young age because they were considered to be “more fertile” than mature women and the men of Ancient Greece wanted to ensure to birth of as many male children as possible. In school, girls were taught how to take care of the household and how to “please” their husbands. Most women did not have jobs outside of the home and the few jobs that were available to women were as prostitutes.

However, Ancient Greece did not treat all of its women horribly. Many women in Sparta were allowed to drink wine, train with the men, and even own land. Women in mythology were also highly worshipped, however many of the times the goddesses were seen as the “troublemakers” in the myths (mainly Here and Aphrodite). In Greek literature, many of the women are portrayed as not being able to do anything without a man, or simply overlooked. However, in Homers “Odyssey”, Penelope is portrayed; at least in my opinion; as a strong women who refused to be owned by another, which can be seen as a surprised compared to other Greek literature during the time. Women during Ancient Greece certainly showed a lot of strength to put up with how they were treated, but women’s rights have certainly come a long way from that time.

<https://www.ancient.eu/article/927/women-in-ancient-greece/>

<http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/staff/resources/background/bg18/home.html>

<http://webpage.pace.edu/nreagin/f2004ws267/annacho/finalhistory.html>

“Women in Ancient Greece.” *Ancient History Encyclopedia*, www.ancient.eu/article/927/women-in-ancient-greece/.

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