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The Problem

Through my observation and experiments I realized a problem that people scorn at the idea of being a bartender. A lot of people don't think bartending could be difficult. Many have failed to recognize the opportunities and joys of visiting a bar. Entertainment is not the only benefit that comes from spending time in a bar. However no one can understand this because often a bar is simply just a bar in another person's eye. Hopefully with information and persuasion many will have gained a deeper understanding about the bar environment and bartenders.

Method

The interest for this study revolves solely around bartenders and their customers. Knowing the unique experience between all types of bartenders is key to understanding bartenders as a whole. You have women bartenders, men bartenders, and then the way each of them view bartending. Some will look at it as a duty since it's their job. Other bartenders will understand that it is their duty but other things can come out of it. In real life and tv bartenders are portrayed as the all knowing, guidance counselor to a confessing drunk person. After understanding bartenders through research, next comes the customers. After all, the people who want to sit at a lounge and drink are the reason that bartenders exist. The way the customer reacts to a bartender is key. It show the relationship dynamic between the two groups. It would be helpful to gather research on

how bartenders feel about their normal customers. Finally, calculating this information the analysis on the dynamic of a bartender and customer can begin.

Background

First and foremost a common ground of understanding must be established. Doing so will help readers understand the issue at hand. The field I researched was a local bar called 'The Grange.' This place has great significance to me for one important reason. While researching I have discovered much about myself and the bar. Its something I would have never realized. For a long time my thoughts about the bar have been simple minded and all wrong. I never understood why people visited the bar often. My initial thought was that the only thing you can do at a bar was to drink and get wasted. I was totally wrong to think that way. There was a lot going on other than just drinking. In one corner there were the regulars, people who were there everyday. Then you have the the first timers, the sports guys, and then some. What stood out the most was the bartender. They are the pillar to the bar. The bartender was like the popular kid in school. Everyone had to know the bartender as they were the people pouring your drinks and serving you. A lot of people come to the bar for many reasons. One of them being to drink and get some things off their chest as the bartender listens. For those reason I would compare bartenders to therapist. A bartender's job is to serve drinks, although they do many other things such as entertaining, giving advice, lending an ear, etc. The job can be challenging depending on many reasons. One of them being the type of customers that comes in. Sometime you have rowdy customer who might like to start problems. Which is sometimes a problem for a bartender, as they are the ones who will most likely get in between the fight. After all there suppose to

maintain a good vibe. In an article “Woman Behind Bars” shows exactly what women bartenders experience. “ When asked what she sees as the largest obstacle to her doing her job, she doesn't think gender. She thinks height, referencing jumping into the middle of two 1.8-metre blokes about to tear each other's heads off.” (**The Age 2018**) Women are left to watch and babysit grown men that are wild and chaotic due to their intoxication. Now not all things are terrible for women bartenders. Woman bartenders can get a tip out of someone easier than a male bartender. “As females working in bars, turning on the charm can be the difference between a hefty paycheck and making last week’s groceries stretch.”(**Cassie Daigle 2016**) While it may be easier for women to get tips studies from 2014 by the EPI (**Economic Policy Institute**) show that women bartenders hourly salary is \$12.17 compared to \$13.88 for their male counterparts. In some places it sad that women are paid differently than men. Bartending is not an easy job. A lot of responsibility comes with it.

Literal Review

Basically walking into the bar culture, and seeing the bartender work swiftly and hard opened my eyes. At a bar you have men who come there normal but when they have a few sips of liquor they can become a problem. Bar fights are bound to happen when you have a bunch of men that can’t control themselves. In the end it is always up to the bartender to break it up and that should not be the case. The dynamic of a woman bartender and their counterpart is huge. Everyone is more inclined to tip a woman faster than they will tip a man. Some don't really have to try hard. Putting on a little charm and extra smiling, will probably do the trick. As for men, they might get tip just for doing their job. It is sad that in order for woman to get a good tip it depends more heavily on looks and attractiveness rather than how well the job is done. So

women have to work extra hard in the bar community. One thing that should be taken from this information is equality. It is clear that there a different experience for bartenders of each gender. In some ways each gender negative and perks when it comes to bartending.

Objective

The claims I make are very true and I stand by it. Bartending is overall a time consuming job. It requires patients, courage, and energy. No matter the gender, it will always be challenging. When I first arrived at the bar I thought pouring drinks were easy. Pouring a drink is not the bartenders only job. There is so much detail and skill within that job. From this I want readers to understand that with everything, not only bartending, there is more than meets the eye. It was foolish of me to feel bartending was a low ranking job. I have not only felt this way about bartending. Doing this research, I hope to make the readers realize that it is never right to judge something or someone when you know nothing about it. Anything that is being studied won't be understood until there a more deep observation that takes place.

Solution

Summed up, the problem I came across was how myself and so many people overlooked the duties of a bartender. No one realizes how much effort is needed to be a successful bartender. This job requires skill in communication, listening skills, great at giving advice, etc. Due to the fact that people scorn at bartending, it hinders them from seeing what good can come from it. I believe if people understood the importance of bartending, awareness can come from that. Then all the issues and concerns related to bartending can be addressed on a proper scale.

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