

THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND THEIR RIGHTS IN THE BRANCHES OF SOCIETY

Narimanova Jamola Yuldashbayevna

English teacher at Uzbekistan State World Languages University, Tashkent city, Uzbekistan

Abstract

As we know, woman passed through many problems, obstacles and barriers to become an important member in the society. In the past, woman did not have any kinds of rights, she was isolated, neglected and mistreated by man. This article gives essential information and produces a number of key findings: recent research and statistics that confirm a significant development of woman participation in different fields such as social growth, cultural upheavals in addition to the political and social structures.

Keywords: Status and rights of women, social, political, educational branches of society.

After a long suffering and discrimination of woman to find limited recognized place in the society, she is nowadays playing an important role in society as a politician, socialist and economist. Those achievements emerged by the coming of feminism which granted woman's rights. This article studies woman suffering, dehumanization and segregation by man. It deals also with the efforts of Feminism to change woman's oppression in the entire world and to ask for her equal rights and existence in all the domains.

Women constitute slightly more than half of the world population. Their role in the social, political and economic development of societies is also more than half as compared to that of men by virtue of their dual roles in the productive and reproductive spheres. They are an important part in the balance of power in the societies in all over the world. Nowadays, all the decisions made in the world (economical, social, political, educational and artistic) are made by both man and woman in an equal way but this was not the reality years before. Woman through all this time tried to look for her rights by all the means and thanks to the idea of Feminism that helped her to be a partner in all the domains of society. The social and the political rights for woman were always in the top of Feminism demands. Woman proves that her efficiency in the society is equal to man throughout her role in all fields as well as at home. This paper deals with the most important political, social and economical participations of women in her society, taking into consideration the most common obstacles and barriers that stand in her roads in addition to representing bibliographies of famous woman leaders.

Women and Society: The role of Women is important in our society in which man is still dominating and playing the most important roles. In the last few years, Women position in society has been greatly overseen in comparison to their profile in the past; when they were seen just as housewives and their only role is taking care of children and obeying man orders. Moreover, they were not allowed to do any kinds of jobs out their homes like voting, studying or writing.

A Century before, women started to think about the importance of their roles in society. In all over the world and by all the means, women wanted to change their situation or traditional place in the society this lead to series of strikes marches that aimed to prove their equality to men. During the first and second world war, woman participation in the society emerged because she replaced man who went to the war inside and outside the house. In addition, she worked double shift to earn more money for helping her family.

Women and Education. Women were kept away from learning and education because knowledge would make them question the obligatory power of the conventions and beliefs, which held them in their place; and it, would show them how to achieve their freedom, and might even encourage them to assume leadership. Therefore, Feminist researchers and writers emphasize on the importance of education in woman's life like Marry Wollstonecraft who paved the way to other Feminists to look for equal opportunities for both girls and boys in learning. Educating men and women is a key to economic and social growth and sustainable development in all countries. Raising the education levels and literacy rates of women is one of the most effective investments for increasing female productivity as well as enhancing the well-being of families and children. In some areas where women are becoming more educated than men, the challenge is making better use of women's qualifications. In developing countries, reducing gender inequality in literacy and in primary and secondary education is essential to reducing poverty and accelerating economic development. In all over the world governments started to realize the importance and the necessity of educating females not only for her benefits but also for the development of society in all the domains. They started to encourage parents to let their children especially girls to study to decrease the level of literacy. Recently, the African countries started to help children to enter the school especially children from the rural areas. In sub-Saharan Africa in 2005, the World Bank found that 83.6 girls for every 100 boys were enrolled in primary schools. Primary school enrollment figures do not tell the whole story because the gender gap in higher levels is more dramatic where there is more boys than girls, which results the lack of leadership capacities.

Catherine Beecher was among the famous feminists who were asking for the education of woman. She added to her work in schools a general propaganda for woman's education, and she devised large plans for its development. In 1852, she organized the American Woman's Educational Association to help American women to have education, honorable position, and remunerative employment. She was able to affect the opinions American girls and raising their awareness in the importance of education¹⁴. Finally, Education should be considered as important as voting and working and should be in the priority of all the governments because teaching fits them to be good mothers and helpful citizens. By improving the educational capacities of women, they would be able to form the characters of girls and boys; and by building their personalities, they are building better societies.

Women and Health: The bases of any successful country are the availability of all forms of comfortable life like education, work and health. The importance of health can be in the first range. Feminism from the beginning was calling for the importance of taking care of woman not just by giving her jobs or letting her vote but also by giving her health a priority since she has the most sensitive and fragile body structure in addition the pregnancy and other mother activities. In order to give cost-effective and high-quality health care, governments need to adopt a gender point of view based on the physical differences of men and women but also other social and cultural factors. The costs of preventing and treating disease and ill health in men and women differ over their lifetimes. Gender-specific diseases and reproduction needs should be in the top of health care policy in all over the world.

According to the World Health Organization Health (WHO) the biological, social and environmental factors interact and affect the health of women and men. There is insufficient knowledge of the prevalence and incidence of physical and psychological risk factors related to women's work patterns in combining two jobs and being generally underpaid. In addition to specific work issues, the health consequences of discrimination and violence against women need special attention. In this context, National Health, Education and Criminal Justice Sectors should consider health issues a priority in their policy formulation.

Women are more interested in health more than men are. Usually we find that feminists are always calling for the importance of creating now and helpful methods for health not only for woman or children but also for all members of society.

When speaking about woman representation in the political fields one can say that it improving in comparison with the last years. Woman now is occupying all the domains and all the positions especially in politics. She is now a president, minister, diplomatic and parliament member. Although 40

to 50% of party members are women, they hold only about 10% of the leadership positions within those parties. Ensuring women's equal participation in the decision-making structures of parties is essential for promoting gender equality within them. This why nowadays many international organizations like Woman Rights Organization, United Nations Development Programmers (UNDP) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in additions to many national and local institutions in all the world are trying to give woman opportunities to show her abilities to effect and change the political fields.

When speaking about woman's role and position in any country we will find that woman is always in the second position after man. Decades before, woman was not allowed to participate in any social, political and religious ceremonies in her society and she was under the total control of man (as father, husband and brother). In all the means, woman was just a servant in the house; her only job was only to clean, cook and arise children. Today, she is an important member in her society not just as a wife or mother but also as a leader, minister and as a president.

Status of Woman in Politics: The modern global conversation around women's rights and political participation has been taking place for almost 40 years. Recently many countries started to adopt new working programs in which they included both man and woman workers. In that period, people started to think differently and they begin to delete all forms of discrimination against woman.

According to Maurice Duverger:

“The equality of men and women in the matter of political rights is established by a large number of constitutions, codes and laws. Few indeed are the modern countries that have not proclaimed it...Many nations, which have adopted the system of representative government at a later juncture, and whose customs and traditions maintain women in a secondary and subordinate position”

Those new activities and programs of woman participation in the political field allowed her to play variety of roles: as voter, political party member, candidate and office holder...; more importantly, woman nowadays is more involved in politics in comparison with her involvement years before.

Equality between women and men in politics in many countries in the world has grown substantially in the past fifty years. More women were elected in national parliaments than ever before and a record number of women hold executive positions within their nations" government.

However, there is still a huge gender gap in political representation in many countries and woman is still struggling to find a place in her country especially in politics. Some researchers argue that women engage, overall, less than men in politics and political activity, others argue that woman effectiveness in politics is noticeable and can be classified among the first ranges of political leaders in any country in the world. In any institution in the world nowadays, we find that women have the right to join a political party and seek elected office in their own right. Where data are collected, the number of women candidates for national office seems to be increasing.

In conclusion, during a long period in history, woman was not considered as equal citizens, they suffered from bad treatments, discrimination and racism under man domination and rules. In spite these problems, they could challenge them and prove themselves over the society. Woman in the past was living unequal and unfair life. She was prevented from doing any political, social and economical activities and her only job is being a housewife who takes care of home and children. At that time, woman was under the control of man who dominates all the fields in which he represents the symbol of power. After all those problems, suffering and misery woman in the entire world started to find ways to improve herself and to change her position in life. They tried also to join their efforts, dreams and wishes to form a universal idea that speaks about all women in any place in the world this leads to the appearance of Feminism.

By the coming of Feminism, woman was able take back her rights in addition to changing her negative image. Feminism proves that woman is capable to play important roles the same as man. Moreover, the most important goals of Feminism were giving woman her total freedom in addition to equal opportunities in the representation of the political and social events. This modest work tries to give an

over view of Feminism and how it developed from being an idea or a belief to becoming a theory with standard goals and principles. The first chapter of this work was theoretical, in which we presented the definition of Feminism in addition to its origin and its different types. It presents also some famous waves of Feminism in which it tackled the famous leaders of each one of them and more importantly, it gives its principles and goals.

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