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Feminism: Women, Equality and Empowerment in the Community

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Abstract

This study seeks to shed some light on the Moderate democratic feminist movement in order to recognize the approach used by feminists in the west and east to show their rights to men via a content analysis approach. As a result, women still suffering from the social gap that lies between them and men. In conclusion, it is also necessary to get rid of the male culture that is still performing visible and latent functions that lead to undermining the status of women in social life.

Keywords: Feminism, Male, Culture, Equality, Social.

Feminismo: mujeres, igualdad y empoderamiento en la comunidad

Resumen

Este estudio busca arrojar algo de luz sobre el movimiento feminista democrático moderado para reconocer el enfoque utilizado por las feministas en el oeste y el este para mostrar sus derechos a los hombres a través de un enfoque de análisis de contenido. Como resultado, las mujeres aún sufren la brecha social que existe entre ellas y los hombres. En conclusión, también es necesario deshacerse de la

cultura masculina que aún realiza funciones visibles y latentes que conducen a socavar el estatus de la mujer en la vida social.

Palabras clave: Feminismo, Masculino, Cultura, Igualdad, Social.

1. INTRODUCTION

The first wave of feminist movements has failed in its long fight for getting recognition over women's' liberation or even referring to them as feminists. And the second wave of feminism appeared in the seventies of the last century which was represented in the form of United Nations conferences in Mexico City, Copenhagen and Nairobi (1975-1985), after which, the activity of feminists demanding to be liberated from the male dominance and slavery has increased, and demands of new types have risen and they changed from their traditions, and the radical feminist movement arose, which resulted from the women's liberation movement in the sixties of the last century, and demanded liberation from male dominance and from their slavery, and the moderate liberal feminism that is represented by the movement of women's rights in work, education, and inheritance, and the liberated feminism which demanded absolute liberation from the constraints imposed by the society on women just because they are women (ZAYED, 2002).

The democratic feminist movement focused on demanding social justice for women in all aspects compared to men, and it is one of the most prominent movements against all forms of discrimination

against women and political oppression and economic exploitation of her, the democratic feminism gave value and personal experience for women to demand rejection of traditional discrimination under Personal in Politics because systems and social structures, be it regarding family or economy or women, all have political connotations (QUILLEN, 2001).

The Western feminist movement in America focused since its beginning on demanding women's' rights to work and vote, then demanded women's' right in child custody and the right to own property and the right to file a divorce and the right to higher education and professional training and social justice, and that women are not subordinates to men and they must be independent, having their own interests away from men, and that men do not have the right to be the decision-makers and to have control over everything; being that not all men are capable of acting wisely, and many women have demonstrated courage and heroism and the ability to act, thus have saved their husbands and children from many troubles (SHARABI, 1984).

Feminists see that the differences between the position of men and women are due to the socialization process, the prevalent social culture in the Arab society is only the male culture that is based on the domination and centralization of the father and passing this culture to the sons through the process of socialization, which separates the roles of the two sexes, thus, creating difference in Social Gender. The process of socialization is the one responsible for creating inequality for women, by stating their roles as mothers and wives only and

preventing them from taking on roles that are taken by men (MAURA & GORDON, 2015).

The decrease of participation of women in the political and institutional spheres may be due to the use of the concept of sex itself in many writings and speeches, and it is commonly used among the general public, and here lies the woman's role in enhancing the main concepts such as gender and feminism and women's society and the concept of empowerment which refers to self-respect, so the united nations and many organizations have adopted the term social gender in an attempt to reduce the gap between men and women in life and create strong bonds between them, and to limit domestic violence and help women in obtaining their legitimate rights in the workplace in terms of wages and promotion (AZIZI, 2005).

The problem of the study: Despite the achievements made by Arab women in various fields, they still face various challenges that undermine them and their freedom. This is because of the traditional culture prevalent in Arab society, which upholds males and undermines females. And that culture came from the misinterpretation of religion or what some call (masculine interpretations of religion) which are often misinterpretations inherited from the Persian and Ottoman cultures, so women in the Arab world continue to suffer discrimination and exploitation by men. Feminists attribute this to the traditional literal reading that some scholars focus on in interpreting the religious texts, which led to class distinctions between males and females. These women also affirm that by saying (we need to review and re-read the religious texts and interpret the actual meaning

opposed to the literal interpretation), and by that, the problem of the study can be determined by the following main question:

Aspects of the problem of the study: The aspects of the problem of the study can be identified as follows:

- In terms of location: The aspects of the problem of the study are summarized in the male society concept in our society.

- In terms of topics: The problem of the study is determined by the identification of the appropriate method for re-reading texts and male interpretations in society.

Objectives of the study: The study aims at the following:

- To recognize the reality of the democratic feminist movement and its most important pioneers.

- Identify the method used by women to justify their demands.

- Identify the most prominent feminist demands.

- To identify the impact of male culture on women (WENDY, 2010).

The importance of the study and its justifications:

The importance of the study lies in the fact that it is looking at a large stratum of the society, the stratum of women, the first partner for the stratum of men in the house, work, and in society as a whole, that is why this study was made to research feminism and its objectives and to encourage feminists in marginalized areas to overcome obstacles that limit their access to social justice as a gender, not as a sex. There is no difference between them and men, women are humans just like men and can make a difference in all places. And that is by following

the ideas advocated by feminist writers and by identifying the methodology used by these writers in interpreting the texts.

Study Questions: The study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are the main ideas the feminists advocate for?

2. How do feminists seek to dispose of male's dominance?

3. What are the most prominent feminists' demands as a social class?

4. What approach do women use to convince people of their rights?

2. METHODOLOGY

The content analysis methodology for feminist speech was adopted as the most appropriate method for such studies. Study tool: The study tool was in books, articles and published research related to the subject of the study.

Badawi defines feminism as "The belief in the inevitability of women acquiring the same rights as men" (JUDITH & MARGARET, 2003: 10). Feminism is a set of intellectual and philosophical perceptions to identify the roots of discrimination between men and women and their causes in order to improve the status of women and increase their opportunities in all areas of social life, these are based on facts and statistics on the status of women in the world, and identifies the discrimination against them in terms of distribution of wealth and

positions, and even the basic needs of life, such as food, education, housing and others. Feminism as a movement believes in gender equality and seeks to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

A feminist approach is only a tool for disseminating knowledge and raising women's' awareness through various campaigns that illustrate women's' degradation and discrimination in order to destabilize patriarchal resistance (KHAMESH, 2004). Feminism is also an intellectual, cognitive and cultural consciousness, different from womanism, which is increasing awareness of one's sex and the biological characteristics of women, feminism is a political practice reflected in the second phase of women's liberation movement in the 1970s in Britain and the United States of America by drawing attention to the new type of knowledge about women's issues, feminism is a social movement aimed at ending the oppression of women by men (HATEM, 2003).

3. DISCUSSION

MAYO (2015) states that women must be aware of the challenges that they face and must work to remove those obstacles and develop a more equitable gender system that includes new roles for women and new relationships between men and women. This system takes upon itself the independence of women Abilities. And feminism is defined as urging women to innovate and develop themselves so that

women can refine their political and social talents and thus removing obstacles and joining men in society.

Social scientists differed in their definition of a social movement. Gold defined it as the continuous efforts of a group of individuals aimed at achieving the common interests of all its members. Herbert Plummer defines it as the efforts aimed at changing the characteristics of stable social relationships in a particular society, which often takes the form of an automatic reaction and irregular feelings to gradually turn into new forms of collective behavior and transforms into a social movement that seeks to change prevailing social patterns into more suitable patterns (HELMI, 1999).

The concept of social justice is a modern concept that has emerged since the beginning of the industrial revolution and with the emergence of socialism in the industrial countries of Europe, and then spread to the rest of the world. It was sometimes referred to as social democracy. The concept of social justice varies according to different economic and social doctrines. Social justice can be defined as equality of opportunities for individuals in society, that is to say, to provide a climate that allows every citizen and group to have the same opportunity as others, so that everyone feels that he or she receives their fair share of goods and services, as well as their right to public jobs and to decide which society they live in (SHERINE, 2002).

Economists often use close terms to the term social justice, such as the term redistribution of wealth and income, and they talk about it through specific institutions such as social security, insurance, and social welfare. Social justice is a system prepared by the country

aimed at correcting the negative effects of income concentration in the hands of some social groups because of the priority of distribution of wealth, in order to achieve harmonious economic equality (LIZ REDFORD, HOWELL & KATE, 2014). And it can be said that social justice is: The solidarity and support of individuals and groups, them being rulers or ruled, to take positive attitudes towards others, such as taking care of orphans, and the dissemination of science with deep emotional motivation that stems from the origin of the Islamic faith, so that the individuals in the community can live. And the group lives with the support of the individual, where everyone cooperates to find the best society and to prevent individuals from getting harmed (SALEH, 2014).

The United Nations Human Development Report for the year (2011) states that despite the progress made by Arab women in previous years, they continue to suffer from low educational attainment and low participation in the labor force, where the region's average is still half the world's average. The Gender Index, which was developed in (2010) to analyze the rate of participation of women in the labor force and in the political field, and their educational achievement and reproductive rights, indicated that Yemen ranked last in the world rank (146), Sudan ranked (128) out of countries that recorded the weakest performance regarding justice between the genders. UAE tops the list of Arab countries at the rank (38) thanks to the development of the health and education sector, followed by Bahrain (44th) and Tunisia (SHOOTING, 1999).

Al-Ozizi referred to the concept of the Patriarchate as a system of social systems and practices in which men dominate, oppress and exploit women. This social system facilitates the dominance of men over women, which is demonstrated in the patriarchal rule exercised by the husband over his wife and children and everyone in the family (SWIRSKY & ANGELONE, 2015).

4. CONCLUSIONS

Feminism in the West began to set goals in the 1970s to participate in all works and to obtain all rights. As a result of these demands, women participated in international conferences and international symposia, and their voices rose above all, and the results of these demands were often positive and men participated with them from all over the world in these demands.

However, feminism in the Arab society remains low in economic and political participation. Sharabi explained that this is due to family upbringing in Arab society, The Arab family contribute to the spread of cruel treatment of children, especially females, in the belief that the severe control of individuals leads to the formation of right behavior in children, masculinity and cruel treatment lead the children to feel fear and injustice and that they live in a society that does not respect them and undermines their dignity and humanity, the Arab family, as Sharabi sees, treats its children in a cruel manner,

where disciplining children by using corporal punishment is viewed as an acceptable method and an important method of raising children.

The Arab family also discriminates when dealing with males and females, it distributes roles in the family on the basis of sex rather than gender, the girl does all the housework, while for the male, domestic work reduces his status which prevents cooperation and helping girls in the housework. This leads to discrimination and the feelings of injustice for the female, and the family, especially the father, encourages the males to impose their opinion and control over the girls even if they are younger than them. This undoubtedly leads to feelings of social injustice in the Arab family.

In comparison, for feminism in Europe and America, we see that these countries have shown high indicators of women's participation in social life in the field of work and politics, the reason for that might be the democratic treatment of children from when they are still young, and the lack of discrimination between males and females in roles in the Western family which has contributed to the increase of Western women working in various jobs. And that upbringing built a strong personality for women and made them able to defend their rights in front of everyone. The financial independence for women, and their political participation at the highest levels in official and non-official state institutions have strengthened their status. In contrast, Arab women are still in conflict with their desires, hobbies and goals, and with the male culture that is dominating the reality despite the change in the family-style and teaching the couples. Sharabi emphasizes the importance of the family in preserving and controlling its members.

The family is only a small society, through which the society makes its members, the values and relations prevailing in the family are a reflection of the values and relations prevailing in society as a whole, it produces only the self that society agrees to and agrees with.

It is clear to us from the above the importance of the role played by the family to keep their children from deviation by following the right way in raising children away from the fluctuation between cruel treatment and soft treatment and neglect, balancing the control of children is a prerequisite for keeping them from deviation, the family can take part in stimulating the deviation of children through the inability of parents to control their behavior in front of children, which is passed along to children. Aggressive behavior is learned by children from parents in the early stages of their life.

Based on the above, the study recommends the need to raise awareness amongst women in society about the importance of their economic and political participation, and their independence from men. It is also necessary to get rid of the male culture that is still performing visible and latent functions that lead to undermining the status of women in social life. And that educated men from academics and scientists should motivate women to attain those rights, and end the discrimination between the sexes, and replace the concept of sex with the concept of gender in schools and universities. Men should participate with women in feminist conferences and seminars that contribute to the family and social stability, as men's awareness of these issues contributes to social balance and the reduction of family problems such as divorce and separation. Finally, the study

recommends further research in this field so that researchers can identify the factors of the lessened equality and the lack of attaining rights for women in all aspects of life that the researcher may not have reached.

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