

Feminism as a Movement for Personal and Social Benefit

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The term feminism has been considered as a women right's movement, yet it is more than that. Feminism, in its crudest form, aims at solving inequality and enhancing the notion that from each other men and women must have equal resources, opportunities, and rights. Nevertheless, a feminist issue is not restricted to equality between genders but it provides both personal and societal advantages to any member of the society and especially women. Through the genesis of feminism and feminism influence on individuals and society, we are able to discern the reasons as to why it remains a strong change agent in the contemporary society.

In the past, feminist movement was formed as a reaction to the systematic oppression of women particularly in political, social, and economic life (Tong, 2009). The aim of the feminism movement is to provide a break of patriarchal spaces where women are restricted in their rights and opportunities. To illustrate this, the suffrage of women, enabling them to make votes even in areas where it did not benefit an individual personally or socially, was one of the accomplishments of the feminist movement. Personally, voting rights made women more active politically and therefore provided them with a voice to affect those policies that directly impacted them. At a societal level, the political involvement of women resulted to policies that are more inclusive thereby creating a more democratic and equal society (Whlehan, 2010).

The aspect of feminism can also be used in dealing with the concept of gender-based violence. Kelly (2009) argues that feminist movements have played significant roles in the struggle against normalization of gendered violence and support structures and legal representation of survivors. Feminist activism has led to society at large appreciating the significance of female safety, not only in the domestic front, but also in the public front. This

is good both to women personally since they are assured of secure offices and to society as it makes it a fairer place to all. In addition, women empowerment in the economic front is another important advantage of feminism. Feminism has brought major change in the work place by breaking the gender stereotypes and enforcing equality between men and women in terms of pay and opportunities. The involvement of women into the workforce has positively influenced the economies of a country as well as providing women with increased financial autonomy (Ferber and Kimmel, 2008). This economic empowerment enables the women to make choices that contribute to their personal autonomy and well being.

The relevance of feminism has not diminished due to the tremendous gains, but has on the contrary remained pertinent since most of the inequalities that still affect women are yet to be overcome. The contemporary feminist movements, including the #MeToo movement, still deal with the problem of harassment and discrimination still disproportionately targeted at women (Banet-Weiser, 2018). These continued battles of sex equality have shown the necessity of feminism as not only a movement to secure the rights of women, but also as an essential tool of self- and social wellbeing.

In conclusion, feminism is a social movement, which has both personal and social functions. It has empowered people, bettered the structures of the society as well as improved equality. Feminism continues to play a major role in positively transforming the society and this is beneficial to both the individual and the society at large since gender inequality is a systemic phenomenon. In addition, feminism not only questions status quo but encourages diversity culture of inclusivity as well as respect. It goes on to state that intersections between racial, social, and sexual orientations need to be acknowledged and handled as they combine with gender to present distinct discrimination and disadvantages. Feminism promotes a fairer society whereby people are treated as individuals regardless of their gender, or other

influences since all the discriminated groups are promoted and brought together by advocating their rights. This grander dream of equality makes sure that the evolution of societies proceeds in an inclusive manner and is beneficial to everyone, as the notion that the only way that the social transformation will be achieved is when every person is granted a chance to flourish.

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