

The Relationship Between Women's Liberation and Democratic Freedom

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The concepts of women liberation and democratic freedom are not inconceivable because both work towards the goals of securing basic human rights and giving way to social justice. The liberation of women aims to achieve equality of women in every feature of society and the democratic freedom helps to spread to the citizens of their country the principle of equitable chances in influencing their government and society. This essay will portray how the two movements are linked to each other in the argument that women liberation needs to be fought regardless of the cost to ensure the complete enforcement of democratic freedom.

Since time immemorial women liberation movements have been inspired by the need to achieve basic rights of women, such as the right to vote free from violence, the right to work and to live in freedom and without discrimination. McLaren (2002) states that the liberation movements constituted by women were as a result of collective social and political marginalization of women. These movements have led to democracy of societies as women are now able to participate in societal life because of the awareness of their rights, and they engage in these activities as they find it quite easy to break the patriarchal systems restricting their activities. It does not merely only benefit women but the entire society because it increases the number of people who can take part in making a political, social and economic choice (McLaren, 2002).

Women liberation is also closely related to other general democratic freedoms, including the freedom to express and the freedom to get education. To a large extent, women in most societies have lacked access to education, which restricts their capability to enjoy the workforce and contribute to the development of the society. Since the liberation movements of women have struggled to get equal access to education opportunities, they have also led to

the overall democratization of knowledge and ideas (Tobin, 2011). Moreover, the struggle over freedom of expression of women- be it political participation, expressing themselves in arts or engaging in public discourse is insured of all voices being listened in a democracy, which is one value of democratic freedom (Fraser, 2009). In addition, women liberation movements have acculturated great influences on democratic governance. With women having a right to vote and be included in politics, women have assisted in formulating policies that resonate with the needs and wishes of a greater proportion of the society. These involve development of policies in healthcare, education and rights at work, without which an inclusive and democratic society cannot be created (Krook, 2010). Through the achievement of women political participation, the liberation movements of women have enhanced and intensified the practices of democracy and increased the ranking of the democratic institutions (Krook, 2010).

Nevertheless, there are still some issues concerning the complete attainment of both the objectives of the women liberation movement and democratic freedom. In most regions of the globe, women have still been largely denied political representation, economic empowerment and individual rights (Charlesworth and Chinkin, 2000). All these challenges underline the fact that feminist activism is still needed, and that there is the need to further democratize societies in a manner that guarantees the full involvement of all citizens irrespective of their gender in society (Charlesworth and Chinkin, 2000).

To sum it up, the correlation between the women liberation and democratic freedom is deep and symbiotic. The liberation movements by women are not only crucial to ensuring gender equality but also democracy in general. By promoting the rights of women, the movements will help in ensuring that they achieve a more just, inclusive, and democratic society where the freedoms of every person will be upheld and safeguarded.

References

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