

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN MODERN REVOLUTIONS AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS: ANALYZING THE CRITICAL ROLES WOMEN HAVE PLAYED IN SHAPING MODERN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, FROM SUFFRAGE MOVEMENTS TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND FEMINIST MOVEMENTS.

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Abstract

Women have been very involved in revolutionary changes in the modern political and social world systems and this involvement is often concealed. Women Resistance has been at the center of wave starting from suffrage from the 19th century and civil rights movement as well as other key 20th-century movements up to the contemporary feminism. This paper critically assesses the various roles of women in important movements in the world and it focuses on the identified movement successfully led by Emmeline Pankhurst, Rosa Parks, Angela Davis and nominees the women's rights activist, Gloria Steinem among other other movements. Based on a number of case studies, the paper will show that women's leadership, grassroots mobilization, and ideological initiatives are not only related to the process of democratization of the female subject and gender equality, but they also have refashioned the political and civil communities. In doing so, it brings into focus racial, and colonial aspects of women activism and provides a study for their sustained influence in contemporary revolutions and transformation.

Keywords: women in revolutions, suffrage movement, feminist activism, civil rights, intersectionality, social movements, gender and politics

Introduction

The role women have played in modern society and political revolutions worldwide normally remains overlooked, although they have been very instrumental in shaping them. From the early suffragettes demanding the right to vote to today's #MeToo, Black Lives Matter, and other activist movements, women have continuously protested and had to resist for more of what is considered as entitled male citizenship and achieve fairness and justice. Many of them have gone further and engaged in the fight for women's rights in the widest sense of the word, rights of persons, the poor, and the oppressed as well as the fight for democratic values. Women's involvement in these significant contemporary movements must be discussed in this paper, the historical women's suffrage movements of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the American black and black power movement, the global feminist movements and other recent ignorances such as Me Too, and other anti- authoritarian protests by women. Through the stories of men and women leaders and movements, it provides an understanding on how the women who wanted to change the world used Politics, Organizing and Prophecy to change the world. Further, the paper employs the intersectional approach concerning race, class, and colonialism to explain how women activists and their campaign have evolved and have been influenced by race, class, and colonial impacts.

Objectives

1. To turn attention to the function women have played in some of the biggest political and social movements that took place in the world, including suffragette, civil rights, and feminist movements and fairly presenting both the most famous and those unknown women activists.

2. To study their contribution in the enhancement of rights, policies, and change that women were able to bring about the domination of men and how they transformed the concept of revolution and resistance.

3. In order to comprehend how female actors became involved in movements, and how their race, class, religion, and geographical location shaped their actions and the acknowledgment of their activities.

Objective 1

To turn attention to the function women have played in some of the biggest political and social movements that took place in the world, including suffragette, civil rights, and feminist movements and fairly presenting both the most famous and those unknown women activists.

Throughout past years women have consistently contributed to revolutionary and social justice movements in a substantial manner. The information about their contributions exists outside mainstream historical knowledge systems. Throughout the entire century since women gained voting rights new political changes have occurred under women's control who insist on societal transformations from the MeToo movement to climate justice. Understanding both the difficulties in recognizing and identifying women who have exercised their powerful leadership roles represents the research goal of this study. The integration of visibility and effectiveness operations leads to a more thorough and not biased perspective of current social changes.

Suffrage and Early Women's Rights Movements

The Suffragette movement represents the ultimate example of women's political activism through crossed limits. This research investigates the process by which women in US and UK regions received suffrage entitlement along with its underlying factors since activists viewed it as a civil rights battle. As the leader of Great Britain's Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), Emmeline Pankhurst succeeded in organizing widespread protests together with hunger strikes and civil disobedience actions through thousands of dedicated women participants. This political declaration marked an entirely fresh approach to how women could manifest their political power through actions instead of just words (Purvis, 2002). Through the Seneca Falls convention of 1848 Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton started America's women's rights movement (Flexner & Fitzpatrick, 1996). This movement received support from all classes of women regardless of their formal education status. From their African American heritage Ida B. Wells and Mary Church Terrel alongside other black women actively pursued voting rights for their gender and race. According to Giddings (1984) Wells took a public stand against racial discrimination within the suffrage movement while remaining outside the parade held by suffragettes in Washington D.C. The history demonstrates that participation of women across different racial groups and social sectors was common throughout these social movements despite the fact that they worked against the prevailing system.

Civil Rights and Anti-Colonial Movements

Women actively engaged with civil rights movements which formed during the middle of the twentieth century. People who recognize Rosa Parks from the Montgomery Bus Boycott story should also know about her previous NAACP training and involvement in the Highlander Folk School because these activities occurred before the bus boycott from 1941 to 1955 (Theoharis, 2013). Progressive organizing strategies originated from the collaborative efforts of Ella Baker and other influence-bearing women. The co-founder of the SNCC implemented participatory democracy and shared leadership principles to combat the hegemonic masculinity widespread in other activist organizations according to Payne (1995).

Asian women took a double role by leading and supporting organized colonial defiance just as they did in Africa. Sarojini Naidu represented Indian nationalism through her independent leadership even though she did not deliver anti-British campaigns as forcefully as Gandhi

(Forbes, 1996). Funmilayo Ransome Kuti led Nigerian women in their struggle to remove British colonialism taxation that burdened African women and their defense against all their mistreatment (Denzer, 1992). Through their movements women demonstrated their involvement as agents of independence which led them to adopt feminist principles in their struggle for freedom.

The Feminist Movement and Intersectionality

During 1960s and 1970s most women focused their activism on achieving legal equality and abortion rights and employment equality. Black feminists bell hooks and Audre Lorde expanded the understanding of feminist issues through their detailed material presentations which exceeded what white middle-class activists Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinam achieved. (hooks, 1981).

Similar to Chicana other Indigenous women including Dolores Huerta and Winona LaDuke joined environmentalism, labor rights and decolonization within the core of feminism. Moraga and Anzaldúa stated 'feminism' encompassed diverse dimensions which differed according to place yet refused to be tied to gender identity alone (Moraga & Anzaldúa, 1981).

Contemporary Activism and Grassroots Leadership

Many global movements currently guide the world through women power during the twenty-first century. Womens rights faced widespread exposure through MeToo after Tarana Burke first launched her campaign in 2006 (Burke, 2018). Women like Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg prove that female agents of change persist in every world circumstance by advocating education for girls under Taliban terror and climate action.

People now recognize the emergence of the new radical abolitionist organizations Black Lives Matter which was established by three Black women Patrisse Cullors Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi.

Objective 2

To study their contribution in the enhancement of rights, policies, and change that women were able to bring about the domination of men and how they transformed the concept of revolution and resistance.

Women's activism serves as a change-making tool which strengths activism goals of defined movements while simultaneously reshaping societal perspectives of activism and revolution. The goal focuses on tracking women's political and social operational processes while investigating both their results and their empowerment matters as well as the alterations in state legislation along with policy shift and public awareness. The establishment of women rights caused fundamental changes in both political frameworks and democratic perspectives and public relationship systems and legislative frameworks. Their actions have created permanent modifications in how movements work together and function.

Legislative and Institutional Impacts

законодавitive changes made by female activists represent a central impact of their activism. Women gained their right to vote in America when the 19th amendment was approved for the constitution on August 18, 1920 (Flexner & Fitzpatrick, 1996). Through the leadership of Suffragettes headed by Emmeline Pankhurst women eventually gained suffrage in the United Kingdom first in 1918 through the Representation of the People Act and then achieved universal suffrage in 1928 (Purvis, 2002).

American women compelled civil rights advancements along with black people integration through the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with Fannie Lou Hamer and Diane Nash leading among many others who fought on behalf of black voting rights and discriminatory black laws elimination. The reorder of societal institutions during this period brought substantial legal and social system reforms to the USA especially within its southern states.

Indian women leaders Aruna Asaf Ali and Sarojini Naidu fought for the nation in multiple campaigns starting from the Quit India Movement (Forbes, 1996) which enabled India to include gender equality provisions in its constitution. Such examples show how feminist action influenced national legislative developments and administrative decisions following both colonial rule and democratic governance.

Reframing Resistance and Leadership

Women have transformed traditional meanings of revolutionary movements through their own understanding of resistance. Historically resistance maintained its definition through armed combat led by men. Through nonviolent demonstration and community activism combined with their moral leadership stance women brought forward new resistance methods.

Strategist of American civil rights movement Ella Baker implemented grassroots organizing strategies that led to democratic collective leadership structure to change the male-dominated path of progress (Ransby, 2003). The participatory democracy principles she developed became essential for Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter movements established by Garza in 2014.

Women from rural areas across the globe transformed environmental activism when they led the Chipko Movement of India in the 1970s through their feminine and local rights advocacy (Shiva, 1988). Through different forms of resistance the knowledge of revolution grew to extend beyond violent battle into protecting nature and ethno-cultural justice.

Challenging Patriarchal Structures

Women have made specific efforts to transform patriarchal systems which operate both within personal interactions and political movements. The fight against various forms of oppression in society required institutions to take considerable time before they focused on gender oppression within their own structures. Women demanded involvement in movement activities which led to leadership opportunities while asserting institutional recognition thus redefining the culture of participating groups.

White middle-class feminism became the subject of criticism from Black and Chicana feminists throughout the U.S.'s second feminist movement wave. The voices of colored women and lesbians said to the world before white feminism that feminism needed intersectional theory which addresses multi-level discrimination against women of different racial identities and sexual orientations and economic statuses (Moraga & Anzaldúa, 1981). As a consequence of these arguments new emancipative feminist theories and practices emerged to bring about social justice worldwide.

Transforming Public Discourse and Media

The public and media spheres received transformative changes due to women's increasing activism. Gloria Steinem co-launched Ms. Magazine in 1972 which served as the central feminist publication for rights to birth control and gender equality at work (Steinem, 1984). The publication created substantial influence that made women's problems reach mainstream audiences to affect successive generations of both readers and legal policymakers.

Throughout the last few decades these organizations have worked to increase women's digital media presence. Through the MeToo campaign which Tarana Burke started and spread across social media the extent of sexual harassment became apparent causing institutions to develop policies against harassment (Burke, 2018). The campaign engaged several local branches which motivated different countries to make changes to their legal and corporate practices toward women's violent incidents.

Cultural and Educational Reforms

The main goal of this research work demonstrates how women advocacy groups now focus their activities on cultural and educational spheres. Feminist research has introduced both gender and intersectional analysis to the curriculum of classrooms located in institutional universities worldwide. Women activists such as bell hooks describe education as an

emancipatory space where students learn through critical teaching methods that resist domination (hooks, 1994).

Gender quotas in political institutions of Rwanda Norway and India along with other countries have expanded due to feminist activists who maintained persistent fight for representation. Political reforms have led to different leadership compositions in these parliaments and the society now supports and embraces women in leadership occupations (Tripp, 2001).

Objective 3

In order to comprehend how female actors became involved in movements, and how their race, class, religion, and geographical location shaped their actions and the acknowledgment of their activities.

Modern perceptions about the continuous existence of women's activism since its inception are inaccurate. Instead the system operates through regulations that derive from race, class, caste and religious beliefs and sexual orientation and geographical settings. The research sets a goal to describe how distinct forms of discrimination intersected to shape women's activism approaches and public response toward their emerging leadership roles. The primary definition of intersectionality describes how various forms of oppression converge with each other to create unique outcomes which can be analyzed through Crenshaw's analytical model (1989). Global analysis of women's activism reveals the diverse dimensions of their worldwide fight because of which the topic expands extensively.

Race and Ethnicity in Women's Activism

Throughout social justice movements women have maintained their prominent status because both racial and gender biases have continuously impacted them. For the American civil movement Fannie Lou Hamer advanced as a black sharecropper to challenge the mistreatment of black people in the southern region. During the Democratic National Convention of 1964 Jesse delivered a speech to display the societal issues faced by police abuses and African Americans treated unfairly during voting days (Payne, 1995).

Traditions regarding Indigenous women along with other Indigenous people focus on preserving land rights and sovereignty in the fight against colonialism. Throughout Canadian history Mohawk woman Ellen Gabriel joined forces with Indigenous people in a major movement against government attempts at taking control of Meadows (Simpson 2011). The Indigenous peoples engaged in dual objectives which included political defense of their territory alongside cultural protection of their integrity.

Ruth mano leads hundreds of supporters in India who demonstrate against caste-based crisis and violence directed toward Dalit female members of the feminism community. This feminist approach exposes the ways upper-caste feminism operates while it confronts caste as a cause for gender oppression (Rege, 1998).

Class and Economic Inequality

The current state of economy influences both women's active participation and their absence from activism. Working-class middle-aged females maintain frontline positions in both struggle and labor activities yet upper-class feminism continues to block their entry. Members of the Madres de Plaza de Mayo in Argentina used their role as mothers to defend their children who had been eliminated by the military junta. Their frequent street protests in Buenos Aires successfully transformed maternal identity into a tool that enabled social power dominance (Fisher, 1989).

Dolores Huerta fought with other women to establish the United Farm Workers union in order to gain fair pay and improved treatment for migrant workers in America. The slogan "Sí, se puede" which gained popularity during her campaign served to unite efforts toward workers' rights and Hispanic liberation (Garcia, 2008). These women worked aggressively against several kinds of economic subordination and male dominance within their communities.

Religion and Spiritual Traditions

This paper investigates women's activism by demonstrating how religion functions both as a means of female mistreatment and as an instrument to boost female empowerment. Some Iranian Muslim women have attempted to attain feminist objectives through religious doctrines that exist in their system. The Noble Peace Prize recipient Shirin Ebadi promoted women's law advancement through Islamic legal systems as she disproved the belief that feminism and religious values cannot align (Ebadi, 2006).

Dorothy Day of the Catholic worker's movement is one of multiple Christian individuals who merged their religious beliefs with radical political activism. She used her faith to lead events which promoted pacifism and poverty and work rights that spread religious movements worldwide (Coles, 1987). These examples demonstrate that women actively use religion to pursue justice through opposition of patriarchal systems within religious institutions.

Geography and Global Contexts

Geography determines both subjects that affect women as well as their available response options. Women across the Global South actively engage in resistance because of their rural connections to both anti-colonialism and economic evictions. The Green Belt Movement in Kenya under Wangari Maathai implemented reforestation projects and economic female resistance (Maathai, 2004) as part of its activities.

Palestinian women are strengthening their resistance movement through basic civil and political support activities across their occupied lands. Hanan Ashrawi acts both as diplomat yet many others maintain their advocacy at local level against oppressive surroundings (Jad, 2004). These activists exist as gender-based activists due to their military occupation status.

Western world geography is influenced by privilege according to various methods. Women from the white middle-class segment based in Europe and North America have secured greater ability to represent feminist causes. The criticism from Global South feminists has proven that we need to establish transnational feminism that understands cultural differences and avoids mirroring western feminist experiences according to Mohanty's 2003 perspective.

Recognition and Representation

More so, there have continually been concerns with how the different intersectional identities are acknowledged where this factor remains a key issue for intersectional feminist activism. Even though celebrities and several great women in history are commemorated, grassroots women—especially those of colour and other oppressed groups—remain invisible or obscured. Hooks postulated that oppression in the very contexts where feminism seeks to eliminate oppression repeats the exact tradition (hooks, 1984).

The solution therefore has to be the diversification and democratisation of the historical narratives and activism. Hashtags like the #SayHerName that highlights the phenomenon of Black women's killings by police violence in the United States challenges the erasure of WOC within dominant frames of social justice (Crenshaw, 2015). These gaps must be recognized to pave way for intersections of all women to be involved in different movements.

Conclusion

Through their active participation revolutionists pushed forward advancements toward modern society and global political transformations and cultural modifications. The paper analyzed their involvement in both suffragette and political emancipation of women and civil rights and third world feminism movements and imperialism activities. Leaders Emmeline Pankhurst and Rosa Parks alongside activists Susan B Anthony directed key efforts in leadership together with planning and determination.

These changes resulted in lasting modifications of policy laws as well as modifications of collective beliefs and transformed fundamental leadership principles. Women extend resistance principles through organizational work and parental care as well as knowledge acquisition and moral force together with traditional definitions of this concept. Three major examples of

modern day movement activism embody This influence are the Me Too movement alongside Black lives matter and environmental justice campaigns.

Vital research confirms that women's activism creates intersections among various activist movements. The issue of sexual harassment that combines with inclusiveness affects Women Minorities alongside Low class individuals as well as coloured and Middle-aged Women who belong to different religious and regional backgrounds. Understanding this analysis helps establish how much marginalized communities including women can be centered to achieve greater insight about women's complete roles.

Women took part in changing processes while simultaneously serving as sources that sparked transformative ideas. Writing comprehensive histories of revolution and resistance demands an understanding of women in their complete nature because it establishes women as active historical subjects instead of passive historical objects.

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