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REALIZING FEMINISM

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ABSTRACT

Feminism is all about equality: social, political, and economic. Once it is achieved the mission will be successful. But to realize this; it needs to be well engineered. Each and every aspect has to be segregated and judiciously planned lest it should be beating about the bush and realizing nothing.

Key Words: Feminism, Equality, Gender roles

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Feminism is all about equality: social, political, and economic. Once it is achieved the mission will be successful. But to realize this dream it needs to be well engineered. Each and every aspect has to be segregated and judiciously planned lest it should be beating about the bush and realizing nothing.

The first thing is that the women organizations need to be restructured and must reach from drawing room discussions to remote and underprivileged villages. The organization must be structured in such a way that all information reaches from central to provincial to the district to block and to village level and vice versa. Central administration must pass on all information regarding legislations, rules, regulations, rights enacted in their favor to the remote areas and these areas must pass on all information concerning their equality, safety, and security so that these can be assessed and taken suitable measures. This will be actually proactive administrative setup and not a passive one waiting for some issues to be dropped in through email. Once this type of administrative set up is established, a lot of problems will be automatically solved. Latest laws enacted in their favor will be passed on to the remote areas and the problems at the grass-root level will be taken cognizance of and their top-level administrative authorities will be able to take effective measures to solve the issues.

Once this type of network is established; sharing of information will become easy. But this sharing of information needs to be very impartial and judicious otherwise a lot of information may be overlooked by taking them as age-old custom; sometimes in the name of caste or culture or religion or social practice. It needs to be remembered that whatever hurts or discriminates against a woman is not fair and needs to be removed at once.

In India, in the name of religious practices, *devdasi* and *jogini* systems are simply cases of forced prostitution. In the name of social practice, there is one *kona* system in some parts of Rajasthan; where a widow is kept in seclusion for six months in an unfrequented corner of her house and not allowed to come out of that corner even in extreme urgency. She has to do all her daily duties before sunrise and go back to the same corner.

Such cases need to be informed to the central committee of the administrative setup and they need to find ways and means to stop such evil practices: they may go to the court of law or seek government legislations or send a team to the affected areas to convince or coerce or mobilize public support against evil practices. Whatever strategy they apply, they must ensure that such practices don't recur again in society. Here the role of radical feminism may be more pronounced.

Secondly, women need to redefine gender roles. Why only girl child will cook or clean? Why not boys? Share the duties and responsibilities of household chores equally between both boys and girls. Women must teach their sons also to cook and clean, stitch and laundry, and girls to outdoor activities. This way, most probably by next-generation we would be positively helping feminism by redefining gender roles.

After social equality we need to understand political equality. In democratic countries, this is not a problem, and day by day women are getting equal representation in local as well as national bodies but they need to strongly stand against those countries where they are not given equal representation. At this place, the liberal feminist can do better in taking lead to convince and create an atmosphere of political equality. In more orthodox societies, they may work in exile and create a pressure group from outside to bring about the desired change.

As far as economic equality is concerned, feminist groups need to be vigilant. There are many jobs where women are restricted and many jobs where their salary is not at par with men. Some times ago in India women were restricted in the recruitment of defense, and even if recruited were denied permanent commission. This could not be acceptable, and aggrieved lady officers fought their cases themselves in the court of law and won. *Such cases, however, must have been taken up by feminist groups.*

Not only is this, in some of the organizations, there is not even equal pay for equal work. In such cases women organizations need to take action and instruct them not only to advertise the job but also mention the remuneration that goes with it and if discrimination is marked, they must be brought to the book. All these small efforts will bring equality in society and a better understanding of man -woman relationship.

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Dr. Rajiva Ranjan was awarded a Ph.D. degree in Humanities from Magadh University, India in 1998. Since his post-graduation, he has been teaching English language and literature in different institutions both at home and abroad. His current assignment is with Jaipur National University, Jaipur where he teaches Professional Communication.
