

GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHT: FACE TO FACE WITH GLOBAL FUTURE

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Executive Summary

The purpose of this work is to provide an overview of global future in relation to achieving gender equality, a core aspect of human right. Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status. These rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work, education and many more. Gender equality is a fundamental human right. People often have their right violated because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. The United Nations Organizational human rights principle as enshrined upholds that man must enjoy universal and inalienable, independent, indivisible, equal and non-discriminatory rights. This work recommends for a high level of concern for equal right and dignity for both North and South divide. Using analytic method, this paper philosophically explores the thesis that “gender equality is a human right that must be promoted to usher in a peaceful world.”

Introduction

Advocacy for gender equality regardless of where you live is critical to all areas of a healthy society, from reducing poverty to promoting health, education, protection, and the wellbeing of boys and girls. However, it is not improper to say that international commitment to advance gender equality have brought improvement to some areas; child marriage, and female genital mutilation have declined lately and women representation in the political arena is adjudged to be better than before. On the other hand, there are several other promises yet to be fulfilled; a world in which every woman and girl gender enjoys full gender equality, where all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed, is yet to be fulfilled. This work will expose areas that have deeply contributed to this non fulfillment of these promises. Gender equality in all its entirety is a human right. It is also a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

The goal number 5 of sustainable development goal is to achieve gender capacity and empower all women and girls. It is on record that women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore is assumed to have greater potentials. Gender inequality is an infringement of human right. The world abhors it with a high degree of seriousness. A world where inequality in gender persists the effect is difficulties to the society. The existence of gender inequality stagnates economic and social progress. Gender equality plays a bold role towards economic prosperity. Society that value women and men as equal are safer and healthier and as well more progressive because there is no rancor anywhere, at home, at work, academics, no sexual harassment etc. This work concludes that gender equality is a human right that must be promoted globally for a safer and healthy

Human Rights at a Glance

The concept of human right has in some sense existed for centuries, although people have not always thought of universal human right in the same way humans do today (Nickel 2013). History had it that the writings of St. Paul influenced a lot of early Christians

Thinkers such as Hilary of poitiers, and St Augustine (Augustine on law), The true forerunner of human rights discourse was the concept of natural rights which appeared as part of the medieval natural law tradition. St. Augustine was among the earliest to examine the legitimacy of the laws of man, and attempt to define the boundaries of what laws and rights occur naturally based on wisdom and conscience instead of being arbitrarily imposed by mortals, and if people are obligated to obey laws that are unjust (Mayer 2000). From this foundation the modern human rights arguments emerged over the latter half of the 20th century ⁽¹⁵⁾.

- John Locke in 17th century brought to limelight in a greater capacity the issue of natural rights in his work, identifying them as being life, liberty and estate and argued that such fundamental rights could not be surrendered in the social contract.
- In Britain in 1689, the English bill of rights and Scottish claim of right each made a range of oppressive government actions illegal thereby paving way for global interest for a more improved human right.
- Philosophers such as Thomas Paine, John Stuart Mill and Hegel expanded the theme of universality during the 18th and 19th centuries. Many groups and movements have managed to achieve profound social change over the course of the 20th century in the name of human right. The Woman Right Movement succeeded in gaining for the many women the right to vote and a lot more (Glendon 2004)

The Natural Effect

Natural rights are those rights that are dependent on the laws and customs of any culture or government and so are universal fundamental and inalienable (the cannot be repealed by human laws, though one can forfeit it through one's actions). Natural law theories base human rights on a natural moral, religious or even more biological order which is independent on transitory human laws or tradition. Socrates and his students, Plato and Aristotle, pointed the existence of natural justice or natural right. Most times Aristotle is adjudged to be the father of natural law ^(89,90,91). Natural law theories have featured greatly in the philosophies of Thomas Aquinas, Francisca Suarez, Richard Hooker, Thomas Hobbes, Hugo Grotius, John Locke et al. Hugo based his philosophy of international law on natural law. He wrote *that* “even the will of an omnipotent being cannot change or abrogate natural law which would maintain the objective validity. Even if we should assume the impossible, that there is no God or he does not care for human affairs.” This is the famous argument that made natural law no longer dependent on theology. John Locke incorporated natural law into many of his theories and philosophy officially in two treaties of government. Locke turned Hobbes prescription around saying that if the ruler went against natural law and failed to protect life, liberty and property, people could justifiably overthrow the existing state’s state and create a new one.

Human Rights: A Definition

Human rights are moral principles or norms for certain standards of human behavior and are regularly protected as substantive rights in substantive law and international law (Nickel 2010). They are commonly understood as inalienable, fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because he or she is a human being and which are inherent in all human beings, regardless of their age, ethnic origin location, language, religion or any other status (United Nations2014). They are applicable everywhere and at every time in the sense of being universal and they are egalitarian in the sense of being the same to everyone. (Shellens 1959). They are regarded as requiring empathy and the rule of law, and imposing an obligation on person to person to respect the human rights of others.

Gender Equality

Gender based disparities has taken a negative tole globally. The gender perspective focuses particularly on gender-based differences in status and power, and considers how such discrimination shapes interest of women and men globally. The issue of gender equality conclude that women and men have equal condition for realizing their full human right. There should be equal condition for contributing to and benefiting from economic, social, cultural and political developments. In other words, it is equal

valuing by the society, the similarities and differences between men and women and the roles they play (Geneva 2000). Gender equality prevents violence against women and girls. It is essential for economic prosperity. Gender equality is a human right as embedded in UN human right charter.

The issue of gender equality varies according to society and culture but overall, traditionally men have a stronger position than women all over the world. The existing gap in gender equality is very large and has left women greatly disadvantaged in most aspects of life. Gender mainstreaming has focused more on empowerment of women, in this regard the term “gender” has taken to be synonymous with women.

UNICEF, defined gender as “women and men, girls and boys, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protection”. It does not require that girls and boys, or women and men be the same, or that they be treated exactly alike rather than breadwinner of the family. They are less likely to be politically active and far more likely to be victims of domestic violence.

Face to Face with Global Future

The utmost objective of globalization is to achieve equal development and absolute peace in politics and in religion. That was what gave rise to approaching issues in a global mood. The establishment of global bodies was necessitated by several undue advantage by bigger nations to smaller ones, the issue in discourse is most het. That was why it became necessary to call it a declaration. Despite that, human right many members state violates the tenets of that declaration gender equality included. Gender issue is hydrated and such should be treated with utmost concern bearing in mind that man is the prime suspect. Every aspect of development requires a corroboration of both gender for success. Poverty as a disease cannot change its defects when it is a poor woman and vice versa. The intention of every person in this world is to have a conducive world for now and later. Achieving gender equality requires total elimination of harmful practices against women and girls as well as reduce women and girls’ undue advantage against their male counterpart. Practices like sex trafficking, germicide, war time sexual violence, gender wage gap and other oppression tactics. UNFPA stated that despite many international agreements affirming their human rights, women are still much more likely than men to be poor and illiterate. The reason being that they have limited access to property ownership, credit, training and employment. And more as a result of archaic stereotype of women being labeled as child bearers and home managers. Gender equality stands at the forefront of shaping global future. A more just, prosperous and sustainable world is achievable if we pave way for gender equality. Promoting economic growth, innovation of creativity, a step up on health and well-being, social justice and peace and security are agents of world peace. Gender equality is a catalyst for driving sustainable development. If women are empowered, of course

invest in care work, end gender-based violence and foster technology healthier societies can emerge.

Conclusion

The best way to conclude this work is emphasize the fact that gender equality is a human right as such inalienable. The struggle to re-assent women is a global issue that must be fulfilled. The result would be that of global peace because all the rancorous effects of being equal and unequal must have been eradicated.

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