

Equal Wings: Women and Men- Partnership for a Healthy Planet

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Abstract: *Women as the provider of generations play an important role in the advancement of civilization by inculcating values in children, empowering the generations to come and in the transformation of society. The emancipation of women, providing equal opportunities in Education, their role in decision making and achievement of full equality between men and women is a prerequisite for peace. The present paper aims at providing solutions for development and empowerment of women and to bring about betterment and progress in the society. The creation of a peaceful and sustainable world civilization will be possible with the full participation of women in every arena of human activity.*

Keywords: civilization, decision- making, empowering, sustainable, transformation

1. Introduction

Women have a great role to play in the advancement of civilization both, as the provider of generations and inculcation of values and virtues in the upbringing of children. The advancement and the role of women is an essential element in strengthening the effectiveness of any institution or organization. However, we come across many challenges and problems faced by women in many spheres of life which is a hindrance to the development of humanity. This paper aims at providing solutions for development and empowerment of women and their role in the betterment and progress of the society. In matters of Education and training, although both parents share in the overall responsibility of educating the children, the mother is given recognition as the first educator of humanity and she must be carefully prepared for this task as the woman is the trainer of the child from its infancy.

The Education of women will be a mighty step towards the abolition and ending of war as she will not encourage her child to go in for war. The Women will contribute a lot in maintaining peace in the world. However, a great responsibility is placed on women to develop her potentialities fully. She must make every effort to attain greater perfection, contribute her share to be equal to man and to make progress in all in which she has been backward.

Certainly the well-being of mankind depends on the development of the potential virtues and abilities of every individual, regardless of race, nationality, class, religion or gender. For this reason prejudices, which causes division and oppression must be totally eliminated.

Women and girls are enmeshed in a culture which enables and sustains violence against them. This effects not only women and girls; such violence is ultimately an act of aggression against society as a whole. It degrades victims, perpetrators, families and entire communities. As such, the eradication of violence requires not only changes in law and policy, but more fundamental changes at the level of culture, attitudes and beliefs. Such changes must be grounded in the conviction that the equality of women and men is not only a

goal to be achieved, but a truth about human nature to be acknowledged and embraced.

The soul has no gender, the very essence of what make us human is neither „male“ nor „female“. Conceived in this way, equality goes beyond a tally of resources or a set of social norms. It reflects the nobility inherent in every human being.

Since 1975, the United Nations began observing the International Women's day on 8th March every year with various themes such as, women and education, women in decision making, women and justice, Empowerment of women and so on.

On the question as to why we dedicate a day exclusively to the celebration of the world's women, the General Assembly of the United Nations cited two reasons. Firstly, to recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women and Secondly, to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of International peace and security.

For the women of the world, the day's symbolism has a wider meaning. It is an occasion to review how far they have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. It is also an opportunity to unite, network and mobilize for meaningful change.

2. Solutions for the Development and Empowerment of Women:

Education and the role of women: The advancement of Civilization needs the participation of everyone. Universal education is a must for the nations to achieve success. If women are also to help in shaping the future, girl children as well as boy children must be valued by their families and by the society. The purpose of education is to catalyze and guide the process of building an ever-advancing civilization. Education should lead to the discovery and perfection of one's capabilities and instill a commitment to serve the best interests of the community and the world as a whole. These

two fundamental goals of education are inextricably linked because one unleashes and the other channels the power to transform the world.

UNESCO launched the Global partnership for girls and women education known as „better life, better future“ in 2011 guided by the conviction that educating girls and women can break the cycle of poverty and foster greater social justice.

The partnership seeks to increase learning opportunities for adolescent girls and women and to find solutions to some of the biggest challenges and obstacles to their education.

No Nation will achieve success unless Education is accorded to all its citizens. However, sometimes the lack of resources may limit the ability of many nations to work for the universalization of Education. It is in this case the priority has to be set up. The decision-making agencies in the world should give first priority to the education of women and girls as it is through educated mothers the knowledge can be diffused throughout the society. Women must be educated, not only for the service they render to humanity as the first educators of children, but ultimately, for the special contributions women must make to the creation of a just world order, an order characterized by compassion, vigor and scope. If woman is given equal opportunity of education, distinction and estimate of inferiority will disappear. Furthermore, the education of women is of greater importance than the education of men, for they are the mothers of the race, and mothers rear the children. The first teachers of children are the mothers. Therefore, they must be capably trained in order to educate both sons and daughters.

The mother is the primary source of the empowerment of the individual and the transformation of the society. So, Women and girls must be educated -- spiritually and intellectually -- because a mother cannot pass on to generations what she does not have. A child needs a nurturing environment and wise guidance in the first years of life in order to develop sound character. Moreover, if the mother is unable, because of her own deficiencies, to provide the child with experiences which will equip her for later, formal schooling, she will find herself at a serious, often crippling, disadvantage. It is also seen that, of all possible investments, educating women and girls pays the highest overall dividends in terms of social development, the eradication of poverty and the advancement of community.

3. Women, Peace and Justice

The emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality between the sexes, is one of the most important, though less acknowledged prerequisites of peace. The denial of equality perpetrates an injustice against one half of the world's population, sharpens still further the challenge of science and religion in the economic life of humankind and promotes in men harmful attitudes and habits that are carried from the family to the workplace, to political life, and ultimately to international relations. There are no grounds, moral, practical, or biological, upon which such denial can be justified. It is only when women are welcomed into full

partnership in all fields of human endeavor will the moral and psychological climate be created in which international peace can emerge.

The world in the past has been ruled by force, and man has dominated over woman by reason of his more forceful and aggressive qualities both of body and mind. But the balance is already shifting -- force is losing its weight and mental alertness, intuition, and the spiritual qualities of love and service, in which woman is strong, are gaining ascendancy. Hence the new age will be an ageless masculine, and more permeated with the feminine ideals. It will be an age in which the masculine and feminine elements of civilization will be more evenly balanced

It is time for the institutions of the world, composed mainly of men, to use their influence to promote the systematic inclusion of women, not out of condescension or presumed self-sacrifice but as an act motivated by the belief that the contributions of women are required for society to progress. Only as the contributions of women are valued will they be sought out and woven into the fabric of society. The result will be a more peaceful, balanced, just and prosperous civilization.

When women are given equal educational opportunities, a great force for peace will be unleashed. For as women gain the respect and confidence attendant upon moving into new areas of activity, violence will diminish, both at the level of interpersonal relationships and at the structural level of state policies.

First and foremost, violence against women and girls, one of the most blatant and widespread abuses of human rights, must be eradicated. Violence has been a fact of life for many women throughout the world, regardless of race, class, or educational background. In many societies, traditional beliefs that women are inferior or a burden make them easy targets of anger and frustration. Even strong legal remedies and enforcement mechanisms will have little effect until they are supported by a transformation in the attitudes of men. Women will not be safe until a new social conscience takes hold, one which will make the mere expression of condescending attitudes towards women, let alone any form of physical violence, a cause for deep shame.

Women and Equality: Gender equality is a spiritual and moral standard essential for the establishment of peace and unity. Only with the talent of both men and women, economic and social development of the planet is possible.

The World of Humanity is possessed of two wings- the male and the female. If both these wings are not similar in strength through Education and opportunities, the bird will not fly.

Likewise Humanity will be able to reach to great heights of prosperity if both men and women are given equal opportunities. As long as women are denied freedom and are prevented from attaining their highest possibilities, so long will men be unable to achieve the greatness which might lead them to great heights for, without the qualities, talents

and skills of both women and men, full economic and social development of the planet becomes impossible.

Development and Empowerment of Women: To achieve the implementation of true justice, equality of men and women is required. The inferiority in women is due to the lack of education,

As long as women are prevented from attaining their highest possibilities, so long will men be unable to achieve the greatness which might be theirs. When both men and women work together, an educational process is put into motion that holds a great promise for the future and the happiness of mankind will be realized when men and women coordinate and advance equally because each is the compliment and help mate of the other.

However, promoting equality of the sexes is considered to be the task of both men and women. When men actively promote the principle equality, women will no longer have to struggle for their rights and gradually both women and men will discard long held unhealthy attitudes and progressively incorporate into their lives the values conducive to true unity, without which an environmentally sustainable civilization will be impossible

Women and Sustainable development: women today are redefining development by undertaking their own projects and working with the Non-Governmental Organizations. The creation of peaceful and sustainable world civilization will only be possible with the full participation of women in all arena of human activity. Women's voices have been amplified and their call strengthened for a sustainable future, for their children and the generations to come. As women help to redefine development, planners are beginning to take a more holistic approach.

Some suggestions to empower and increase the participation of women for a healthy planet are:

- First and foremost, violence against women and girls, one of the most blatant and widespread violation of Human rights must be eradicated.
- Contribution of Women should be recognized. When the contributions of women are valued and woven into the fabric of society, the result will be more peaceful and balanced.
- The role of women as mothers should be properly valued, their work in nurturing and educating children be respected and properly rewarded. It should also be acknowledged that the child-bearing role does not diminish one's aptitude for leadership, or undermine one's intellectual, scientific or creative capacity.
- Increase the participation of women to ambassadorial or similar diplomatic positions.
- We must consider every opportunity to encourage member states of the United Nationsto proceed with ratification of conventions and protocols that protect women's rights, improve their status and seek their Empowerment for the development of a healthy planet.

There should be a monitoring system to prepare status report on the policies by various committees and conferences on the implementation of their goals and measures and also on

the results achieved which could be presented annually in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

To conclude, even after many of the suggestions given above and the ample number of opportunities given, however, women need to develop their own capacities and step forward to play an active role in solving the world's problems. Men, for their part, must learn to cooperate with women and encourage their efforts in various fields. The world of Humanity has two wings- one is women and the other men. Not until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly. If one wing becomes weak, flight is impossible. Also, the members of the institution of the family must also be transformed so that the principle of Equality of women and men is internalized. It is also seen that if the bonds of love and unity cement family relationships, the impact will reach beyond its borders and affect the society as a whole.

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