

SOCIAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONS OF GENDER EQUALITY AND FEMINISM

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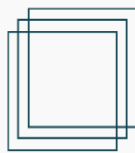
Abstract:

This article discusses gender issues and the formation of feminist movements at different stages of social development. The article also analyzes the specific scientific approaches of philosophers of different periods to the problem of gender equality. It also provides a socio-philosophical analysis of the solution of these issues by advancing the social status of women in modern society.

Key words: Gender equality, civil society, social equality, social status, social status of women, gender inequality, theories of gender inequality, matriarchy, social movements, feminism, theories of feminism, equal rights.

Introduction

Despite the fact that the issue of gender equality has been the object of scientific research of philosophy and other social sciences for a long time, we cannot say that even by today's modern era, this issue has not been fully resolved. Because the problem of gender equality, especially the issue of women's social status, is getting more and more intense with the passage of time. But despite these problems, gender equality issues are gradually being solved in the modern civil society, that is, today the place and status of women in society is rapidly increasing. In particular, this process can be observed in the increasing role of women in the economic, political, cultural and social life of almost all countries of the world. However, there are some shortcomings in the process of adaptation of women to the political and socio-economic conditions of modern society. In connection with this situation, since the end of the 20th century, the activity process for the protection of women's rights has become active and has become a very big global and international issue. In order to achieve gender equality between men and women in society, the UN General Assembly adopted several documents, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. As noted in this international document, until today there are cases of discrimination against women based on their gender, putting up barriers, and in order to eliminate these cases, and to achieve social equality between men and women, it is necessary to change their traditional role in the family and society, because child rearing is done by women and men, requires the responsibility of the whole society.



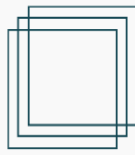
In all historical periods of society, there were debates about gender equality issues, i.e. women's social status and place in society, but at each stage of historical development, this problem was distinguished by its relevance and character.

For example, from ancient times, through the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and throughout long historical periods, socio-philosophical and legal thoughts and views on gender inequality have gone through several chronological stages of their development. The doctrines and views created during these historical periods formed the basis of the formation and development of the social position of women in the society.

Since ancient times, regardless of the status of a woman in society, the values of gender inequality between men and women have been recognized. The essence of such a situation was based on the fact that women and men "have different natural characteristics and they cannot be equal." The classic supporter of the concept of gender inequality was the great Greek philosopher Plato (427-374 BC), who considered women to be inferior beings, and love for her - an animal emotion, that is, nothing more than the need to continue and multiply the generation, considered that. Plato's views on the origin of men and women are presented in *The Feast*, and this view is of particular interest from a gender perspective. In this work, he expresses the nature of human being divided into one whole, and then two types of gender. Plato states: "First of all, human beings consisted of three types of sexes ... because there was also a third sex ... - the androgynes ... who embodied in themselves the appearance and expression of both sexes, such as female and male." But after these people rebelled against the god, Zeus split their bodies in two, and from that day on, they are looking for their second piece in order to unite" [1].

Aristotle (384-322 BC) also supported the theory of gender inequality. He stated that in the process of creating a child, the man gives his child the "form", i.e. the soul, and the woman gives the "matter", i.e. the body. Since the "spirit" is by its very nature superior to the body and a divine attribute, it is right that the female and the male are separated from each other. Only this reason can explain the existence of two sexes" [2]. According to this theory, the existence of sexes is an accidental phenomenon that does not have its legitimate place in the system of creation of the world, that is, the existence of a man is the norm, and the existence of a woman is a deviation from the norm. Also, the only essence of the separation of the sexes is related to the birth of children, and the only responsibility of women in society is to give birth to this generation.

Based on the above points, it can be concluded that the ancient views on gender inequality are based on the natural inequality of mental potential. This theory is widespread even today, including in the scientific environment, and in scientific works devoted to gender problems, there are views on the biological differentiation of men and women.



In the subsequent period, new views appeared in the philosophical and political-legal thoughts about gender inequality, based on the moral inequality between men and women.

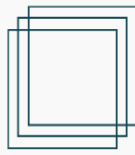
For example, in the social views of the Middle Ages, ideas emerged that women are the cause of all existing sins in society and that she is irrefutably guilty. For example, Jacob Springer's Hammer of the Witches mentions that women are more prone to witchcraft and pacts with the devil than men. He describes woman as a "liar," "foolish," "willless," and "woman is by nature sinful because she doubts and denies her faith."

In the European philosophical and political-legal thoughts of the next period, the views on gender, i.e., gender equality, have different and contradictory forms, and they are connected to the common basis - legal inequality between men and women, mainly with property inequality.

Ideas about democracy and human rights emerged in the European socio-legal and political thoughts of the new era. However, according to the ideas of Immanuel Kant and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, women and children can have passive citizenship, that is, they cannot be subjects of political life.

As a result of the development of philosophical and sociological thoughts, feminism, that is, a movement focusing on the role and importance of women in society and the family, began to develop. Social status of women and men, causes of their inequality in society Olympia de Gouge, S. de Beauvoir, M. Wollstonecraft began to be studied by representatives of the feminism movement [3].

For example, many historical sources and archeological sources prove that the primacy of women-mothers - matriarchy - existed in the first primitive community system of mankind in family management, providing food, protecting the family, continuing the generation and raising children. For example, the Swedish jurist-scientist, Professor Johann Bagofen Jacob (1815-1887) in his work "Legal Theory of Motherhood" in 1861, on the basis of archeological excavations and scientific research, proved that there was a rule of mothers, that is, matriarchy, before patriarchy, that is, before the rule of fathers. given by [4]. Also, many archaeologists, during the excavations conducted in different countries of the world, have come to the conclusion that historically, first of all, the rule of mothers, that is, women, existed. Later, as a result of the development of nature and society, the formation of the division of labor, the development of tools and resources of production, the struggle against nature and the achievement of property values by physical force led to an increase in the role of men in society, and therefore at the same time placed the role of women in the background, that is, in the second place. However, in ancient religions and legends, the role of women as a mother was considered sacred, and the ancient Sumerians put women-mothers above wealth, the state, and even children. According to the ancient Sumerians, everything in life can be acquired, but not only the mother. Therefore, the mother was considered sacred, and the honor and rights of motherhood were considered eternal and unchangeable for all children, regardless of human gender. In



general, the genetic, biological, physiological characteristics, morals and way of thinking, intellectual potential and social status of men and women are very different from each other. A woman's logical thinking is completely different from a man's logical thinking. For example, a woman always knows exactly what she wants in her career. If the task of achieving a goal is set in a woman's mind, then the methods of achieving this goal are of secondary importance for her. To date, feminism - a social movement as a philosophical doctrine and movement dealing with social roles - has made clear progress, but it is the cause of various negative situations. For example, some people have different opportunities and means to influence the natural progression of sexual life.

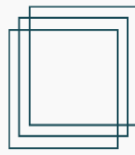
Viewing women's issues as a social problem is related to feminism. In 1779, the French philosopher J. Condorcet founded the movement for women's social and political rights in Europe, and later in the United States, through the Declaration "On the Granting of Civil Rights to Women" and Olympia de Gouges "Civilization and Women's Rights". From this period, the concept of "feminism" appeared. The concept of "feminism" is derived from the French word *feministe*, which means "femina" - woman.

According to A. Huseynova, feminism is considered as a movement that protects women's social and political equality. "Feminism promotes the struggle for women to have equal rights with men in the economic, socio-political and cultural spheres, as well as active participation in social and political life... That is why it has become a women's ideology, it brings to itself people (or rather, gender) as the main goal" [5]. Feminism aims for women to have equal rights and opportunities with men and against all forms of discrimination against women.

Various social and political movements that arose in the 19th century, the wide spread of views on human rights, created a basis for feminism. Therefore, by the middle of the 19th century, the existence of the women's issue was recognized in the politics of the states. Under the influence of women's political movement, liberal laws were adopted in North America, New Zealand, Australia, Finland, Norway, Sweden, England, Germany, and Austria in the 1970s and early 20th centuries, and women had the opportunity to participate in some areas of social life. By the middle of the 20th century, women had full political rights, and the issue of their participation in political life was widely discussed at European councils and UN symposia [6].

Over the last few decades, a great deal of research has appeared on the role of women in society and the relationship between the sexes. In many countries, these studies are carried out within the framework of feminist theory, based on three main directions: differences, inequalities, discrimination.

Inequality theorists believe that women have fewer opportunities than men. Manifestors of the extremist feminist movement believe that the family is the source of psychological, economic and political discrimination of women, and they call to get rid of this source. Manifestations of the patriarchal direction promote the need to



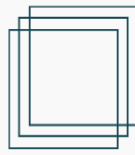
reduce the level of employment of women in the production process. Because women have very low qualifications as a result of many interruptions from the work process to perform motherhood duties, and it is believed that this leads to a decrease in the economic efficiency of labor. In addition to these two directions, the demographic direction shows that the decrease in the birth rate is associated with the increase in the level of female employment in the society.

In today's modern society, the egalitarian approach considers moral, economic, demographic factors as some aspects that reflect the place and social status of women in society. This direction also offers equal rights and opportunities for freedom of choice in the lives of men and women. The egalitarian direction of the principle of gender equality is not based on erasing the differences between men and women, but, on the contrary, on the need to carry out planned active work on the creation of equal social conditions for human development, regardless of whether they are men or women.

Today, the governments of many countries pay special attention to strengthening the social position and place of women in society, increasing their socio-political, medical culture and intellectual potential, and supporting their rights and freedoms. In general, today, the solution of gender equality issues is an integral part of all processes in the spheres of the state and society at the micro and macro levels. Therefore, policies aimed at solving only women's problems in society, as well as state decisions made without taking into account the specific characteristics of the situation of men and women, will not allow to achieve effective results in the future. Therefore, in all democratic countries and at the international level, many legal documents are being adopted in the field of protection of women's rights and ensuring gender equality. In the future, it is necessary to carry out systematic and consistent work on ensuring the full and purposeful participation of women in socio-political, socio-economic and general spheres of society's life, as well as monitoring the implementation of current laws and international normative documents.

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