

Femininity is Power: Breaking the Pedestal

While enjoying the privileges and power they have now, women still have a long way to go to achieve the real freedom of femininity. What exists now can be traced back few centuries ago before women have been considered part of humanity. They have become subject of abuse and slavery, in short, they are being commodified by the patriarchal system that endorses them.

When the first wave of feminism succeeded in raising the voice of the women, they were given the opportunity to participate in politics and in voicing out the materialistic difference between the two sexes. On its second wave, it emphasized the politics of reproduction, women’s experience, and sexual differences. Presently, on its third wave, it focuses on uplifting the minorities that are most of the time being neglected not just on social activity and interaction, but with their gender and roles. Why do we need to highlight the waves of feminism? By identifying and scrutinizing this timeline of event, it will be deduced that the struggle in equality cannot be instantly attained after a night or two. It expresses that the fight is not over, gender stereotyping and pedestalizing the minority is still an issue of femininity.

As manifested by events that defined history and the culmination of cultural highlights through literary texts and documents, traditional gender roles concentrated on emphasizing the distinguishing marks that men are rational, strong, powerful and protective, while women are irrational, dependent, and inferior in terms of leadership and authority. By posing this identification, the inequality in women and underrepresentation were justified and is being strengthened by focusing on the negative view of women as mere commodity without the ability to decide and lead. This traditional gender roles are concentrated in different institutions such as academe, politics, corporate world, and even home.

Gender has always been an issue in the partition that divides inferior women from superior men. Right after birth, a person is already tagged of what s/he is expected to be: the socially-constructed roles based mainly on gender.

Cultural diversity, likewise, contributes in the establishment of gender roles in the community. For instance, the universality of the “inclusive *he*” as pronoun in most of the narratives contribute to the denial of women’s power and social contribution. This enables the misrepresentation of human being—both men, women—in the construct of identification and social attribution.

In her book “Critical Theory Today: A User-friendly Guide (2nd Ed),” Lois Tyson (2006) states that, “patriarchy continually exerts forces that undermine women’s self-confidence and assertiveness, then points to the absence of these qualities as proof that women are naturally, and therefore correctly, self-effacing and submissive.”

Therefore, the ferociousness of fight for equality among men and women in the society is a manifestation that what the people need now is a real equality. Equality that gets rid of traditional gender stereotyping and by creating space for women to emphasize, or at least contest, their existence with patriarchy that denies women of their right to fairly lead and exist. It is important to note that, giving women their liberation does not mean a sudden disappearance of masculinity. For masculinity should co-exist with femininity, recognizing both party’s contribution in social inquisition and leadership.

Moreover, the deletion of gender roles and other social constructs that pedestalize women are big steps that will redeem their lost and neglected rights as set by patriarchal system. The lifting of stereotypes for women create a more conducive and productive society as opposed to the general belief of being weak, irrational, and emotion-driven decision making among them.

Women empowerment does not mean eradicating men. It simply means that presenting women beside (not behind) men as people and as human being celebrated with every right that—whether natural or legal—protect and give a free rein to everyone.

Empowering women means celebrating them, recognizing them, and giving the privileges every “he” enjoys. They are not mere shadows of men, nor accessories of the past; they are the shadows of their own, the beauty amidst chaos, and the potent ones who bore those “powerful” men. *(KLAGustin)*

WE WANT YOU EMPOWERED!

Report Sexual Harassment at

bit.ly/NFRDICF2019

For GAD training needs fill out the form at

bit.ly/GADTNA

Email us at gadsec.nfrdi@yahoo.com



GRaD

GAD for Research and Development