

Original Research Article

Evaluating the Intersectionality of Women Liberation Movements

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Abstract: The paper focuses on how women's liberation movements overlook women from minority race groups. The rise of feminism, for example, ignores the unique challenges faced by queer women and women of color. Additionally, women liberation movements do not highlight the plight of women from minority race groups, who are thought of as less feminine. For instance, feminist movements do not highlight the discrimination against black women, who tend to be assertive and confident, traits associated with masculinity. Moreover, women's suffrage protests were subjects of criticism for segregating women based on race. The paper criticizes the women's liberation movements take on intersectionality of race, strengthening the need to revisit their primal objectives, particularly feminist campaigns that ought to address plights for vulnerable women in society.

Keywords: Feminism; The Liberation Movement Evaluation; Women; Liberation Movement; Intersection

1. Have the movements been successful?

Women protests advocated for improvements in women-related laws, such as abortion and maternal benefits, fair wages, sexual and domestic abuse, and women's suffrage (Brewer & Dundes, 2018). The campaigns addressed topics ranging from women's civil rights to genital mutilation. Even though the movements first started in the United States, their objective was to offer assistance to all countries. Nevertheless, from the beginning, the women's empowerment movement was never cohesive. Notably, successful liberation movements center their approach on a theoretical structure, a major shortcoming for the liberation movements. Therefore, social inconsistencies in women empowerment movements barred them from addressing individual needs when fighting for their cause.

The movement's internal shortcomings emanated from social conflicts. Markedly, women did not understand the class and gender issues within the movements. Besides, the lack of a framework of study incapacitated their interventions, thereby failing to provide women with a sense of direction (Gordon, 2016). It culminated in the campaign being limited to one that dealt with hundreds of issues at the same time instead of concentrating on one main problem at a time i.e., the Independence Movement becoming the jack of all trades. Therefore, the movements primarily emphasized that women had to achieve an equal playing field to men in terms of the same desire, success, and goals. Primarily, the change washed out the basic concept of the campaign, which initially empowered women to gain recognition for whom they were, rather than forcing them to look and behave like men (Cahill, 2003). The women's movement took a tremendous start; however, in the end, it collapsed because the party had no cohesive ideology, nor structure, and discipline. Thus, without these principles, no organization has any chance of success.

2. Intersectionality of black and Hispanic women

Araújo (2019) claims it is impossible to address problems such as the social construction of race and gender. For instance, the pay divide is a prevalent issue whereby women of color are unable to access proper medical treatment, and their babies are dying at alarming rates in developed countries. At the same time, their families are in jail for no good cause and have both been traumatized by life in the predominant patriarchal culture. Therefore, if liberation campaigns such as the women's march truly cared for these women, they would have discussed those problems. Regarding feminism in the United States, women of color don't have a seat at the table, even when they do, it's for inclusiveness fallacy, not that their diverse viewpoints have meaning.

The liberation campaigns do not address racial injustices caused by the criminal justice system. Hispanic women, for example, are imprisoned at a double rate to that of White women. Comparatively, black women are likely to be imprisoned four times the rate of white women. Healthcare services for incarcerated women also remain insufficient, and their abortion rights systematically neglected. With this, race prioritization in the movements is apparent, whereby white women are not worried about going to prison because they can secure less sentences. Therefore, women of the minority race groups are victims of racial discrimination, an aspect not addressed by women liberation movements.

The movements have no idea how vibrant women can be when patronizing for health care. Mirza (2017) notes that physicians

have prejudices toward Black patients and are less likely to participate in patient-centered reciprocal care. Doctors talk louder, interrupt conversations, end appointments quicker, and show less encouraging signals and less love, negatively affecting health outcomes for the people of color (Mirza, 2017). African American women are chronically under-treated despite suffering from anxiety, insomnia, and depression. In summary, the women's movement is characteristic of a racial ideology that seeks to speak for all women while ignoring the needs of women of color by suppressing their voices.

3. Female empowerment overlooking the poor women

Alleviating poverty among women is a critical feminist issue. Yet establishment conservatism has spoken nothing about the current attempts to cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Typically, their long tradition places little emphasis on issues affecting vulnerable women, such as African Americans (Posey et al, 2019). Pushing low-cost accommodation or other ways to tackle homelessness doesn't appear to climb to the top of the list. A couple of papers are available, and maybe one or two feminists bringing it up as a feminist issue (Posey et al., 2019). But there are no glitzy ads, no services of enticing slogans backed up by famous names. Rather than working as a concerted effort to improve the quality of life for all, modern feminism has traditionally viewed poverty and homelessness as issues to address for anyone else.

As reported by Feinstein (2016), women are more likely to lack essential needs than men globally. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, on the other hand, estimated that the community is expected to face food insecurity in 2018 is families with children led by a single mother - more than twice the national average (Feinstein, 2016). Women are also struck hard by the affordable housing crisis. Ladies earn less than men doing equivalent jobs, meaning that females-supported households contribute larger-than-average amounts of income against rent. Thus, this indicates the much less discretionary income over a lifetime, with greater difficulties in attaining financial stability with liberty.

Women continue to be worse than men, partly because of gender discrimination. Typically, men have access to better jobs than women, meaning that single women are less prosperous and can gain less wealth throughout their lives. Yet, traditionally, as couples split up, child custody has fallen overwhelmingly on mothers, and hence the pressures and costs of child care. Things have improved considerably in the last few decades with the advent of "deadbeat dad" legislation (Velez, 2019). However, some men still refuse to pay child support, and the parental responsibilities that women carry on often compete with employment in ways that men do not have to contend with. The cumulative amount of all this is that women with children live in abject poverty in a highly unequal way. Nonetheless, feminist movements do not highlight the significance of empowering such women, most of whom are from minority race groups.

4. Is the fourth feminism wave helpful?

The first women's march was a fight for women's suffrage (1880–1920). The second movement focused on issues of sexual and financial equality, drawing its influence from the Civil rights movement (1965–1980). The third was the extension of the struggle of the white women towards women of color, the rise of queer ideology, the revaluation of gender, and a new tolerance to gay rights. The fourth wave emerged after the Y2K, facilitated mainly by online communication. The fourth wave of feminism is characterized by the rise of fan culture, which was in response to pop culture. The earlier 2000s was a period when the internet was quickly democratizing, and people learned what society actually care about (Gordon, 2016). New communities developed around fan groups in this cultural chaos, some of the first of which were the communities around TV recap pages. Eventually, society blended into the bulk of film media, with the advent of prestige television. People deeply bonded with the protagonists and their poor decisions, and they "shipped" protagonists in intimate relationships they longed for.

Fiction is not reality, and real humans are not imaginary characters. The fourth wave brought fresh faith to teenagers and young adults, encouraging them to believe their views counted and needed to be heard by networks of like-minded individuals. As such, this meant the real problems were overlooked, and more women started to face poverty. Besides, sex abuse and violence are rampant, aspects that do not take center stage today. Worse still, in some nations, women still experiencing discrimination - issues that American women had to fight during the second wave (Parameswaran, 2005). For instance, although women in Middle Eastern countries are allowed to drive, they still have to ask for permission from their husbands to leave the house. However, the movements do not strive to tackle global issues, mainly because the predominantly white women do not experience them. The movements shifted their focus on different problems, drifting away from the novel ideas that unified women.

5. What should be done?

Even though feminists fight for gender equality in today's society, the main goal will be to break race intersectionality and increase the quality of living for all women. Overall, it's not a case of working well enough for women who are struggling to keep themselves safe, fed, and dressed. Their desire for fair pay starts with equitable access to employment and opportunities, but not in pursuit of equal pay or "having it all" (Posey et al., 2019). A feminist viewpoint that persists without dealing with the influence of race, age, gender, orientation, or capacity is one that will spout all the right words but will do little about the circumstances facing women. Most importantly, they should advocate for legislative changes to empower all women.

Too often, women who get to the top of the capitalist heap have used feminism to fulfill their needs. Yet, they do not appear to understand that the political influence synonymous with feminism should be used for fighting against the intersectionality of race. Typically, they decided to take a seat at the table, rather than seek to create new ones. Replacing bootstrap ideologies and rugged individualism with supposedly egalitarian philosophy only succeeds because feminism does not depend on gaining wealth and prestige for the few selected while trying to focus on the notion that certain people can continue to wait for protection and care forever. Women liberation movements must reflect the needs of all those women it claims to support, irrespective of their race.

6. Conclusion

The paper explored issues within women's movement relative to how they overlook the plights of women from minority race groups. Notably, poor women are still facing financial problems despite the advent of a robust feminist ideology in modern-day society. The text outlines the issues ignored by the women's movements by favoring white women, who are the majority. Thereby, any troubles and predicaments facing the minority groups are left unaddressed. Regarding the success of the women's movements, the debate is viewed differently from the various faction of women. As such, women whose issues haven't been addressed tend to claim a failed campaign, while other groups such as the transgender seem to benefit. Nonetheless, it is apparent that women movements need to help out every woman's plight irrespective of race and financial predicaments.

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