

Female Slavery in Child Marriages

Slavery has been a topic that has been discussed for hundred of years and has affected multiple different groups of people. Though it is mostly talked about in the past sense, many people are still affected by slavery and are forced to do things they did not ask to. One group of people that have been affected by slavery are women, but more specifically little girls being forced into marriages at a young age.

This source was written by multiple people. The first being Eleanor Rathbone who worked for the UK parliament as the parliament secretary for the Liverpool Women's Suffrage Society in 1897. She was also the first women to be elected for council in Livery in 1909 due to a legislative change as an independent member for Granby Ward. In 1919 she was elected as president of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. Another author in this memorandum was The Duchess of Atholl was born in Edinburgh in 1874 and was the eldest daughter of Sir. James Ramsey. She was a member of the conservative party and was elected to represent Kinross and West Perthshire in 1923 by the House of Commons making her the first woman to be elected to Parliament in Scotland. She was the only female MP to vote against women's suffrage at 21, but became fiercely left later on and protested for women's rights. The last of the authors was former Colonel Josiah Wedgwood. He had fought in the first world war and after getting very injured had gone back home. He had become a member of the House of Commons before the first World War in 1906, following in his great grandfather's footsteps. He was committed to a radical reform, advocating for things like the Indian self-government and had been opposed to the appeasement of Nazi-Germany early on.

This work was written by feminists and radicalists in an attempt to end child marriages. This would have been written during a sort of conference or meeting presumably, where it was all filled with members of parliament who wanted see a change. It was written to the League of Nations in hopes that they would step in and end the Slavery that occurs to women within families. It was a memorandum meaning it is not legally binding, but it was important for the people within that group to understand what the overall sentiments and ideas were concerning this topic. It was a way for that group to be on the same page and to discuss the issue at hand.

This memorandum was aimed at politicians who have the power to stop female slavery or to help stop it. It was also aimed at the people who were ignorant to the struggles women had been facing in their families and the exploitation of young girls by their parents and husbands. The people who would have had access to it would have been members of parliament and any world leader that might have gotten access to it. The response to this sort of work would have been very divided. Many people might have read it and completely agreed and changed their opinions on female slavery. The other side of people who would have read this would have completely disagreed and hated it, whether that be because they did not believe it or did not agree with their opinions since many of the people reading it would have been men who would have taken the male's point of view in the child marriages. The author definitely did want to provoke a response, they wanted people to be angry. The more anger people feel towards something, the more it becomes discussed which means more people hear about it. Whether that anger be directed towards the child slavery or the authors, it will still make people talk about the memorandum. I would say they were not successful in their goal of ending bride prices, but they did get people to learn about it and talk about it. The issue with attempting to get rid of bride price was that the people in charge did not see their point of view or did not agree.

The source talks about bride price and female child slavery. It discussed the argument supporting bride price who are able to pick one example of a child wife who is happy and not being abused and decides that they must all feel the same. The source also discusses how in societies with more laws and educational pressure situations like this do not happen and that those societies without that sort of pressure are the ones facing issues like this. The language used throughout the source condemns this form of slavery and uses an academic tone in order to inform those reading about the matter at hand. This source does not give a good plan as to how to stop these marriages and instead chooses to inform the reader.

The strengths present in this source come from the knowledge and strong opinions present in the writing. It shows that the authors of this source are very knowledgeable about this topic. The way that the source was written makes it seem like they know a lot about this topic and ignoring it would not be an option since it was written by people in the House of Commons. The tone of this source is very factual and provides great detail to every point brought up, even trying to understand the other side's point of view while still being able to dismantle it and defend their side. The writing is not written very passively, but rather takes the more aggressive and forward approach to the topic to not let anyone dismiss it. The reader is forced to think about the points brought up and to have to argue against it if they disagreed with it since they were able to produce facts about the topic. Some weaknesses present within the source is the lack of first hand account present. The authors of this source were all from the UK and were not forced into a marriage as a child, but instead are in positions of power where they have the option to decide what they want to believe in. This gives a level of disconnectedness between the authors and the point they are trying to make. There are no problems using it as a historical source for the topic of child and women slavery within the family, but it should not be used as the only source. Providing a source from someone personally affected by female slavery would ensure that the topic is fully discussed from all sides.

This source displays the subject as people trapped in a system that was never meant for them. It recognises the injustice faced by women every day and how even though there are some benefits or exceptions to this form of slavery, most women will be forced into it. This source shows how women from all over the world are forced to go through life with an unfair disadvantage and that no matter how much injustice occurs, men will likely always stick by a man's side. It also shows that violence is prevalent all over the world and can come in many different forms, not just physical.

Young girls are brought into this world with the idea that their only purpose in life is to tend to a man's needs. They are denied things that men get easily and their treatment is not recognised as a real form of slavery. Though it has changed form now, slavery was and still is an issue that people all over the world are dealing with and the only way to stop it is to convince those who gain something from the loss of others that they should change their ways.

Sources

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