

This essay will be on feminism, and how the idea has progressed into actions that impacted society greatly. The essay will describe and explore Feminism, the 3 waves and radical feminism and how it was an idea that progressed into the equality and inclusion of women in the early years of the 19th century in comparison to the 21st century. Additionally, the essay will include a psychologist named Abraham Maslow and how this hierarchy of needs link into the importance of feminism. Furthermore, the functionalism theory will be used to describe society, it will also create a timeline of how the success of feminism resulted in employment and voting rights.

A man called Abraham Maslow 1954, was an American psychologist he was best known for his work that created his theory of need that describes an individual's basic, to possible needs. Abraham Maslow's 1954 theory is presented in 5 stages, the stages follow in specific order starting with physiological needs, he states that the needs include the access that an individual has food, water, warmth, shelter and rest (Simply Psychology, 2017). Next is an individual's safety needs are the next step, for example being psychologically and physically secure compared to living in dread or fear of something (Simply Psychology, 2017) after that, Abraham Maslow 1954 refers to the belonging and love needs relating to the individual: for instance, family, friendly, or personal relationships (Simply Psychology, 2017) following that stage an individual will look to fulfil their esteem needs, this is an influential part within human development they refer to their self-esteem, self-worth and their confidence. (Simply Psychology, 2017) Abraham Maslow's 1954 final stage called self-actualization discusses an individual reaching their full potential in all of the main factors. they follow as: physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. (Simply Psychology, 2017) Furthermore, women were denied the majority of rights that the 21st century has ensured, it is hard to believe the unfair treatment of women went on for so long without the majority of their needs not being met. Abraham Maslow 1954 does not comment on the consequences they might have on an individual's human development; short or long term affects. (Simply Psychology, 2017)

Gender is one of the most pressing social dividers that has been around for many, many decades. For example, the moments that responded to female's inclusion within society, records start from the 1800 hundreds, it is on-going in contemporary society. (Haralambos, M. and Holborn, M. 2000. p124) Partapuoli no date simplifies gender as a definition:

‘Gender is related to, and in one way or another based on sex.... Gender is normally referred to as the socially and culturally constructed differences between men and

women within cultural system. Sex, on the other hand, is traditionally seen as a biologically entity....' (Partapuoli, n.d)

The rights women have today, were not existent to previous generations. Gender was the only basis for inequality between the sexes, women were denied opportunities to progress and protect themselves for instance educationally, and or physically. Women were referred to as the property of their husbands because they were the dominant gender in that era additionally, once women made the commitment to marry, the control of their money and belongings were transferred in the man's power leaving women disempowered, and potentially oppressed. (Intriguing History, no date) Additionally, the equality gap between individuals who have the opposite gender, men are often known as the person who holds the most power in the relationship for example, in the household the male would be labelled as the 'breadwinner' in comparison to the women who are encouraged into the maintenance the household, labelling women has a 'housewife' (The Free Dictionary, 2016) due to the labels that had been used to define the roles between men and women, this caused a divide between the sexes resulting in discrimination. (Intriguing History, no date)

Functionalism was formed in the 19th century, Emile Durkheim was the name of a sociologist in 1917, he stated that society can be looked at as an organism, he explains the similarity 'within an organism, each component plays a necessary part, but none alone, and one experiences a crisis or fails, other parts must adapt to fill the void in some way' adding to Emile Durkheim's definition of society, if an establishment is not of any use, it will then be removed, and the other social systems will adapt to fill the gap (ThoughtCo, 2018).

Haralambos, M. and Holborn, M. 2000 highlight the difference between femininity and masculinity. They state that femininity can be 'interdependence, community, connection, sharing, emotions, body, trust, absence of hierarchy, nature, immanence, process, joy, peace and life.' (Haralambos, M and Holborn, M. 2000 page 137) and men are described to be 'interdependence, autonomy, intellect, hierarchy, domination, culture, transcendence, product, asceticism, war and death.' (Haralambos, M and Holborn, M. 2000 page 137) however, this does not mean one sex is better than the other, men are not better than women, women are not better than men the sexes are of equal importance. Emma Watson continues to discuss about the gender equality in 2014:

'Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive. Both men and women should feel free to be strong. It is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum, instead of two sets of opposing ideals. If we stop defining each other by what we

are not, and start defining ourselves by who we are, we can all be freer, and this is what HeForShe is about. It's about freedom. (ThoughtCo, 2014)

Feminism is a such a big idea, it covers many aspects relating to inequality of being female they include: women's health, income, and political stance. Additionally, due to the lack of women's rights in many aspects feminism was enacted in three historic waves of feminism. However it is important to remember that even in the 21st century inequality because of an individual's gender still occurs today, there are discussions of a 4th wave of feminism being formed. (Pacific University Oregon, no date)

The 1st wave of feminism took place in the early flashes of the 19th century, Pacific University Oregon no date reports that the first wave happened in 1848, when the Seneca falls convention that formally campaigned for equality. Additionally, the main focus of the first wave is to ensure equal opportunities for women. Moreover, during this time period is when women were fighting for the right to vote, also known as the women's suffrage. (Pacific University Oregon, no date) in relation to the campaign, roughly 300 women, and men gathered in support for the political rights of women.

The 2nd wave of feminism happened in the mid-range of the 19th century, feminist's voices were radical in comparison to the earlier wave. Looking back to gender being the grounds for unfair treatment, feminists realised that there were additional features that could attract inequality. For example, 'women are of many, ethnicity, nationalities, religions, and cultural backgrounds.' (Being Feminist, 2016) The wave concentrates mainly on a women's rights in relation to their sexuality and reproductive ability. (Progressive Women's Leadership, 2018)

The 3rd wave of feminism refers to the late years of the 19th century, this wave does not focus on the formal, direct rights of the women. It concentrates on a women's individual identity in society, after the victory of the 1st and 2nd waves feminists decided to tackle barriers that are not physically visible. Discrimination and stereotypes are problems in society, the Equal Opportunities Commission 2018 states that Discrimination can appear in different types for instance, direct, indirect discrimination and discrimination by association or perception. As a result, being discrimination against could lead to harassment, victimisation and stereotypes being formed. (Equal Opportunities Commission, 2018) Additionally, the term stereotypes can be defined as a fixed belief or view about a certain individual, group or community with society. (Simply Psychology, 2015) Although, they do report that stereotypes can be used positively, or negatively in society. Using stereotypes positively can result in known experiences which will improve confidence in the individuals and other people. Using negative stereotypes

causing social problems within our society, Simply Psychology 2017 link back to the definition of stereotypes by saying that individuals will start to make generalisation about people, they will start to miss little differences between 2 or more individuals. This can cause miscommunication, low self-esteem, or abuse (Simply Psychology, 2017)

In the time of the 1800's, women had little if any rights which included limitations in employment, political and health systems. In contemporary society, it is hard to imagine a world without the equality and rights women have today. Women's voting right was a long, tiring journey, it first started in 1867 when the London Society for Women created a movement to achieve women's suffrage. (Haralambos, M. and Holborn, M. 2000 page 120)

Then in 1902, parliament receives a petition from female workers from England. The topic of the petition was to request equal rights for women globally, it had 37,000 individuals to sign it in support of the cause. (MMU, no date)

A big influence in feminism is Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters named Christabel Kearney, Sylvia Kearney and Annie Kearney. In 1903, the family formed the Women's Social and Political Union that was first located in Manchester. (MMU, no date) However, Emmeline Pankhurst daughters reappeared a few years later in 1905 when they were accused of causing a riot in an election assembly. The women served some time in prison, however it worked in their favour because it brought publicity to their protest of women's votes. Additionally, a great amount of 250,000 individuals gathered in Hyde Park in London to support gender equality. (MMU, no date)

The Cat and Mouse act was first introduced in 1913, the government and local authority would momentarily release the prisoners that were joining in a hungry strike to allow them to eat and drink, once they were deemed healthy, they were returned back to their cell. (MMU, no date) According to the History Learning Site 2018, the act was used to weaken the suffragettes.

Additionally the women's movement had success in 1908 when Britain made it legal for women who were aged 30 and over to vote in in on-going elections. However, it was not until many years later in 1928 Britain's legal system granted females equal voting rights to men. Lastly, a short year later the first election took place where females and males had equal voting rights in 1929.

The movement of the women relating to employment started in 1888 when approximately 1,400 employees and individuals who wanted to support their protest about the environment in the matchstick factories (MMU, no date)

Women were often known to become employed in jobs that had poor working conditions in comparison to men who are more likely to higher paid jobs. In 2012, the BBC reported that 'women occupy on average 30.9% of the most senior positions across 11 key sectors' (BBC, 2012)

Following that, a law named Trade Boards Act 1909 was passed. MMU no date states that organisations like the National Federation of Women Workers protested against the poor work conditions that exploited their workers, the success of the project ensured that the government introduced the act which renewed the wages of those positions. (MMU, no date)

Another significant moment towards women having equal opportunities in jobs and income is when legislation named the Parliamentary Qualifications of Women's Act received royal assent in 1918. The act empowered women to get employment in a high position of power, it allows individuals of the female gender the ability to stand a MP (MMU, no date)

Not long after, additional legislation was put into place to protect women relating to employment: The Sex Discrimination Removal Act allows women access to positions of employment they include jobs of the law, and accountancy in 1920.

Then, in 1921 the government created legislation that viewed the wife as an individual and not 'property' of the women's husband. They provided unemployment benefits which gives the individual over her income. Then, in Britain laws 1956 say that women that are employed as teachers should receive equal pay in comparison to civil servants which men normally lead. (MMU, no date)

A milestone in the movement towards equality is when Barba Castle made history in 1965 and become the very first minister of state, her job title was a minster of transport. Barbra Castle had the longest run as a female MP when she was in the house of commons. (BBC, 2010)

Then in 1968, women who were employed at the Ford Car Factory located in Dagenham organise a work strike over poor treatment and pay. It is stated that the women's actions caused the created the Equal Pay Act in 1968.

Additionally, the Equal Pay Act was officially introduced in 1970 which made it against the law if employers paid women and men different for carrying out the same duties because of their gender.

Furthermore, additional legislation had been created in 1975 to ensure that a women's rights at work were protected. The law stated that a woman will not face discrimination in employment, education or training. This links with Abraham Maslow's work, by the laws being put into place, it is guaranteeing that a woman can reach her full potential and reach the final stage of the hierarchy of needs. (Simply Psychology, 2017)

The last relevant section of women's rights in employment, is the Employment Protection Act which was passed in 1975, it prevents workplace discrimination from reproducing, this is when the maternity provision was introduced. (MMU, no date)

Feminism is a very broad subject area, it has many aspects to explore. An important part of the theory is Radical Feminism. Radical feminism refers to the equal power dynamic between females and males, they believe that society is only to be viewed as 'Patriarchal.' It can be defined as:

'Society run by men for men's benefit with men on top of the social system and women on the bottom. Women suffer under this form of social system. Men are highly valued under this social system and women are devalued. The only way a social system remains a hierarchy is if one group of people, in this case men, oppresses another group of people, in this case women.' (Radical Feminism, no date)

Haralambos, M. and Holborn, M. 2000 state that from a radical feminist view, women have and continued to be oppressed by men, or by the society that allows it. Socialisation is the process of learning, even more so learning how to behave acceptable. (Haralambos, M. and Holborn, M. 2000. Page 136) An individual will learn 'knowledge, language, social skills, values to conform to norms and roles required for integration into a group or community' (Business Dictionary, 2018) it is important to state that socialisation is a delicate process, failing to do so leads to disorganized behaviour for example, crime or inappropriate behaviour can be the result of a disorganised society. (Business Dictionary, 2018) Radical feminism has core beliefs that include: freedom of reproduction, tearing down the gender restraints directly or indirectly, they abolish the assumptions of 'motherhood, marriage, the nuclear family, and sexuality. Finally, they examine the historical context of Patriarchy that churches and governments continue to use. (ThoughtCo, 2017) Furthermore, their end goal is to achieve 'Matriarchy' which refers

to a social system where it is ruled or originated by women. (Merriam Webster, 2018) it is important to distinguish that not all the views from a radical feminist position are the same. Views differ from biologically, separatist's feminists, and female supremacists (Haralambos, M. and Holborn, M. 2000. Page 135)

Despite our genders, male or female we are born as equals, yes, it is apparent that their differences between the sexes but that should not of caused the unequal, power tilted relationships. However, exploring socialisation, gender roles and the functionalism theory it shows that individuals, groups and communities are in control of the norms and values that reflect on our society as a whole. Throughout the main body of the essay, references to the process of how women gained the right to employment and voting rights (women's suffrage) were made in great descriptive detail to highlight the significance of the feminism journey.

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