Women's Role in the Civil Rights Movement

Name

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Many scholars believed that because women in the period of the American Revolution did not have the right to vote and did nothing to change that situation, they were non-political people. However, analysts have realized that women keenly participated in political debates that characterized the journey towards sovereignty. Moreover, after the war, most women worked to acquire great political roles. More importantly, women had an important part in the civil rights movement and mainly influenced the political, social, and educational landscape of America.

Indeed, there were numerous ideological and legal challenges faced by women who desired a direct and increasingly active link to politics. The law of coverture denied married women ownership of themselves and their property. Additionally, the doctrine refused to give women a chance to communicate their political opinions formally. Nonetheless, renowned leaders like Harriot Stanton, Alice Paul, and Carrie Chapman Catt fought to ensure that women had the important right to vote (Skemp, 2016). Although the struggle for this achievement was arduous and usually virulent, Congress finally ratified the 19th Amendment that accorded full voting privileges to women.

Furthermore, the exertions of the women's rights movement to attain parity in the field of education led to extensive changes. They pointed out the

disproportions in teacher earnings and promotions, revealing that women instructors received fewer promotions and salaries than men. Moreover, skilled women were frequently denied entrance to medical school or law school. It was also hard for women to obtain financial aid for their educational needs. Most educational institutes were immune to the Title VII provision of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Equal Pay Act, but women advocates compelled Congress to revise the legislations, obliging institutions to cooperate with the earlier laws (Brennan, 2007). Even though there persisted gaps and some colleges retained the freedom to apply quotas that reduced the admittance of women, most procedures victimizing females in education were eradicated.

Women played a great function in creating awareness on social crimes such as sexual harassment, rape, and domestic violence. Suffragettes argued that rape was an offense of violence, not gender, and this approach assisted in shifting the responsibility on the assailant instead of the victim. Many rape hearings would involve lawyers debating the victim's sexual history and dressing, indicating that an alluringly dressed female was somewhat at fault for experiencing an attack (Trueman, 2015). Feminist legal associations fought to amend the rules of evidence to counteract such material from being disclosed in litigation. Further, such movements pushed state legislators to recognize that rape could be perpetrated within a marriage. Numerous states exhibited a conviction that there was no

possibility of sexual abuse by a husband. Women organizations helped to establish rape emergency centers on campuses and in many locations around America. This endeavor provided women with a place to gain instruction on the management of trauma or the deterrence of rape.

All in all, women had a substantial role in creating the freedoms and privileges that are enjoyed in America today. Women are currently on the forefront in many areas of the American society with some being opinion makers and leaders. The zeal and determination of the women in the civil rights movement have created an America that is favorable to not only men but also women.

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