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Ngos Influence on Women's Political Consciousness after the Revolution

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ABSTRACT: This study examined the impact of NGOs on women's political consciousness after the revolution. Non-governmental organizations are responsible for to be the duty of public participation in the development of the country for the purposes of the law are considered. These organizations have grown considerably since the Islamic Revolution in Iran. And many of these organizations are trying to women's rights and their participation in the development process of the country's growth and development have placed on its agenda. Hence, This study examines the impact of NGOs on women's political consciousness after the revolution. The results of this study suggest that NGOs can done a wide range of activities for the rights of women. Despite this, They have not succeeded in attracting women and their political awareness in the highly desirable. Nevertheless, Studies have shown that in many cases, these organizations have been successful in achieving women's rights.

Keywords: non-governmental organizations, political awareness, Islamic Revolution in Iran.

INTRODUCTION

One of the problems of women in society is that they not aware of their legal rights and social or their knowledge is of low level. To be governed society by the law, members of the society should have sufficient knowledge. Women as half of the body of the community, have an important role in the culture and development of their societies (past and present). If people be aware of their rights and duties in social relations, by trying to protect their rights and to respect other people's rights and duties that society has placed upon them, sense of responsibility, and thus; And so Society is responsible. And any person in any place, and in every position do their responsibility. Since half of the countries traditional, most women were confined to the home and in the community have not social activities, yet. In connection with legal troubles Characterized as a result of participation in the community or in the case of specific problems, they have not role. And the lack of communication with the social world is a great obstacle in gaining awareness of their rights¹.

NGOs or non-governmental organizations are inclusive and active organizations in areas related to women. Several definitions are provided by non-governmental organizations that to each country can be seen differences in the definition and scope of their activities according to the cultural, political strategies and urged of their nations. The most common meaning,

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definition of the World Bank has provided: "Private organizations are for the plight of the people, improve living standards and poverty alleviation, protect the environment, and provide basic social services and the development of communication".

The definition provided by the United Nations

Any international organization which is not in agreement with government is a non-governmental organization. Iranian government in different devices have different definitions of non-governmental organizations in each of the following examples

Interior Ministry

NGO applies to all institutions by a group of natural or legal persons established as a voluntary non-governmental, non-political and objectives in accordance with its statutes track.

Center for Women's Participation

"NGOs: a set of interfaces in the form of NGOs and civil society organizations are composed of a group of volunteers and has the same purpose".

National Youth Organization

"Non-governmental and non-profit organizations that doing voluntary work with non-political tendencies only for compassionate purposes. These organizations have a special statute that is according to the executive branch".

Grassroots women's organizations can contribute to the growth and development of the country with attract women and increasing political- social awareness, and to make them believe and have faith in their ability by different ways such as training, information, counseling. Women's activity in NGOs can be considered both micro and macro levels :In micro-level, activities results for the one's own ; In macro –level, women's activity checked in relation to the political system .

Politics in Persian dictionary has several meanings:

1. Manage the affairs of the country.
2. The sovereignty of Country
3. Sentencing and punishment
4. Materials and methods as soon as Manage: establish social justice, agreements in different groups, art use of facilities.

Impact of NGOs on awareness of women's political rights in Iran

Today, globalization, human rights discourse, women's rights activists and international NGOs growth of women's organizations at national and international levels. And on the other hand has increased political participation of women in management is become one of the main demands of women in the world, especially in the Muslim world (Women's Network).

With the formation of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic culture in society, issues related to women's rights took on a new form. Many experts, including the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran attention to the role and importance of women. This caused the women of the Revolution to gain confidence in political activities². After the Islamic Revolution in Iran, 1/5 percent of women selected parliament elections. While the fifth round of elections, the total number of delegates increased from 270 to 290 individuals¹.

Experience has shown that whenever the opportunity for women, women play their role and entered the field³. Although the level of specific political Participation of women is not significant in Iran; but in recent years, number of women who become members of political parties have been increased somewhat. So that in the Seventh 828 Female candidate for representative⁴.

Non-governmental organizations as one of the country's population structures can play an important role in the socialization of women for example, changes in beliefs about women's political culture. Women activity in the NGOs cause an increase in capabilities, increase the presence of women in society and their participatory experience – political. Women activity's in organizations makes sense that they would be useful (91 percent), as well as to increase their awareness of the problems of politics (67/3 percent). On the other hand, performance of many organizations are not clear to people. This indicates a failure to update these organizations .In women in NGO activities at the macro level, the attitude of the political elite, political culture- participation and civil society are important. Then, part of the failure of women's NGOs is related to ignoring them the government's activities. The result is that women's NGOs in Iran have failed to influence government yield too much⁵.

Impact of NGOs on social awareness of women's rights in Iran

With the formation of people's organizations and public bodies active and permitted presence of women in these organizations caused trust a lot of religious people that did not accept women in society before the Revolution. Today it is possible for women higher education, better jobs and achieving higher social identity².

The legitimate presence of women were recognized a top of the men. Female doctors, teachers, nurses and female drivers were trained. But social approach, women are among the vulnerable groups of society to provide their specific needs activities are supportive mainly. For this reason, most of them are some charities and cooperatives so role of this organizations cannot be ignored in the field of vocational training and job creation⁶.

Report of center for statistics and information of women's social and cultural, types of women's NGOs large increase from the mid-70s. Activities in this organizations on the need of society Including : subjects of art- cultural, sport, research, health, environment ,vocational training and job creation ,legal ,religious funds, youth, social services, Social pathology, and network specialist. However, due to limited opportunities for formal employment, women engaged in informal employment such housekeeping services, sales, secretarial⁵.

Impact of NGOs on gender awareness of women's rights in Iran

Aspects altered awareness of women in most societies, in less than three decades is wonderful. The transformation process of gender socialization added in the presence of women in the public arena particularly in higher education. Although no significant changes in comparison with men. As Giddens writes: “In modern societies, women have the opportunity that test their chances in various fields. Since women have to lose previous and established his identity, then they experience modernization to form a more perfect and more contradictory”(Giddens;2000).

Conclusion

This study examined the impact of NGOs on political awareness women's rights. The results of this study show that despite the efforts and activities of NGOs, these organizations have failed to have the desired performance yet. However, from the early days of the revolution, the government has done a lot of effort to increase the ability of women for better enjoyment of various social and political rights more importantly, education and literacy for women. But unfortunately, reflections of success both domestically and abroad is not as it should be. Obviously, assess the status of Iranian women with western values would not be desirable and

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realistic results. It is more important because Muslim women in the west are considered a symbol of Islam, Today.

In total, more than two decades after the Islamic Revolution, efforts and achievements of Iranian women be so much so that even to western analysts is also irrefutable. Several writers and thinkers have paid to impact of various aspects of modernism in women. Some, families are considered as one of the victims of the current progress (family as a bumpers important community), some believe that disillusionment of western women causes to wrong paths.

In fact, today, it has become apparent that women in comparison with other social classes suffered and therefore even the development policies of the west could not be appropriate path for women for the benefit of women of different rights without policy modification.

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