

The Influence of Darwin's Doctrine of Natural Selection on Gender in China

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Abstract: The status of women has been rising both at home and abroad, and while this is due to women's own efforts, the worldwide affirmative action movement has also played an important role. The purpose of this article is to explore to accelerate the development process of gender equality in China. Method of literature is applied. Source of materials include published books and journal articles. By analyzing the case studies of the affirmative action movements in developed Western countries in the past three years, we can draw some valuable nutrients to serve as a reference for domestic affirmative action efforts. By studying the impact of foreign feminist concepts on the current situation of gender in China, we can make some practical suggestions to accelerate the development process of gender equality. Although gender equality can increase competition, it is a powerful force for social progress. Chinese society is currently breaking the inherited notion of male superiority over female. With the transformation of society and the continuous improvement of the legal system, it is more important for women to strive for their equal rights.

Keywords: natural doctrine, gender equality movement, gender status

1. Overview of the Doctrine of Natural Selection

Natural selection is the survival of the fittest, or in the words of the modern Chinese scholar Wei Yuan, "the survival of the fittest by natural selection" [1]. He spent more than a decade traveling and studying the evolution of species around the world, and finally used the doctrine of natural selection to beautifully describe the relationships among organisms in nature and to explain the inevitability of biological evolution, justifying his series of judgments.

Natural selection is a different concept from artificial domestication, in which human interventions such as crossbreeding and grafting are used to produce offspring that are likely to fail to maintain the characteristics of the species of one generation, although they may later revert, depending on their genes, while the former is to allow the species to grow naturally in nature with minimal or no human intervention. Undeniably, they would grow at a rate if not for some inhibitory and destructive factors. However, species cannot exist unencumbered, so their traits gradually diverge due to various factors, creating a magnificent landscape of biodiversity on the planet.

Nature's resources are finite, like water in a bottle that can never spill over the top. In other words, there is a certain amount of food, space, etc., so the competition for resources continues throughout the life of a living being [2]. There is an old Chinese saying that describes people who are desperate - no place to stand. We can clearly see from this that the "place to stand" is closely related to our life. Similarly, lions and tigers cannot declare their territorial sovereignty with high walls and thick soil, but they do it in a more direct and primitive way by spreading their urine around their territory so that other animals do not dare to step into their territory.

There are tigers and leopards in the world that roar in the mountains, and there are ants that are insignificant. Because ants have a large population base and a commendable ability to reproduce, they make up for a series of deficiencies with their numbers. In addition, ants are omnivores and are not picky about their food, so there is no shortage of food for them.

From the above theories, we can see that the struggle for survival and biological evolution are all about redistribution of benefits or improving the survival conditions of the colony. Here, we cannot help but marvel at the ingenious arrangement of nature - there are so many untouched wars hidden under the calm surface. These wars are astonishing and have gradually led to changes in life forms.

The first section describes gender inequalities in developed countries and the measures taken by the women's movement. The second part introduces the impact of the affirmative action movement in developed Western countries on the gender status in China.

2. Gender Inequality in Developed Countries

The feminist movement is a product of the idea that "it is not a matter of scarcity but of inequality". In ancient times, the status of women in both the East and the West was relatively low, because women were generally less powerful, weaker, and less able to resist, which led them to become tools of human interaction in the hands of the noblemen, and some tribes even treated women as tools for racial reproduction. In the modern era of rapid progress in productivity, the issue of women's independence and equal rights for men and women has been on the agenda.

The basis of women's independence is economic independence, and only when the means of subsistence are not tied to them can they be considered genuinely independent [3]. According to the Independent, the gender pay gap still exists and is growing, as 78% of companies in the UK acknowledge, even though the Act was introduced fifty years ago to protect rights. The World Economic Forum reported in December 2018 that it would take 202 years to close this gap, which signifies that inequality between men and women will persist for a very long time. Many factors help shape the structure of opportunities for women's representation in elected office, including the institutional context and the resources that women and men bring to pursue legislative careers [4].

Darwin said on the origin of species that the size of biomass within a group also affects the race's competitiveness. The feminist movement is not just a single-family movement; the organizers are not just a scattered group but have a certain organizational base and social strength. For example, the #Me Too movement began in 2006 and is dedicated to exposing women's injustices, calling for silence and social justice, and opposing molestation and sexual assault in all its guises. With the widespread exposure of the Harvey Weinstein sexual assault case in October 2017, the organization's advocacy has become a well-known hashtag that has had an enormous impact on the worldwide gender equality movement. Due to its relevance to women's rights and the considerable impact it has had both online and offline.

The series of struggles between men and women, which are part of an interspecies struggle to achieve equality between the sexes, have been intense, extensive and long. The centuries-long feminist movement has brought women from the harem to society, from subordination to independence. Despite the initial achievements of the feminist movement today, some inequalities

between men and women still exist. For example, women are still disadvantaged in the workplace because of factors such as childbirth. To reduce this phenomenon, individuals, organizations, and relevant departments need to work together, and the whole society needs to pay attention to it [5].

3. The Impact of the Affirmative Action Movement in Developed Western Countries on the Gender Status in China

The evolutionary explanation for gender inequality from the modern era to the modern era stems from the naturalist Darwin's theory of sexual selection. He concluded from long-standing observations that in the competition for courtship and mating rights, it is usually the males who face the great challenge of being selected, thus evolving traits such as strong body size and large horns, which increase their probability of winning the competition for domains, positions, and mates. Similarly, it is often the males that evolve highly aesthetic traits to attract females, such as shiny feathers.

As a social construct, gender changes not only over time, but also with conspecifics or different cultures. Inequalities in gender roles and differences in power are the “natural” result of biological differences. Inequality between men and women begins with the emphasis on “the difference between men and women. The greater the difference in physiological characteristics between the sexes, the greater the disparity in social status. As the dominant view of gender in Chinese society, the concept of “male superiority over female” and “male dominance over female” has influenced the development of Chinese society [6]. As a product of modern industrial civilization, gender equality is a challenge and subversion of the traditional culture of male dominance over female dominance.

Feminism in Western developed countries is a widely influential social trend in Western countries, which is committed to fighting for women's rights and emancipation, and achieving equality between men and women in the whole of humanity. Feminism focuses on the discussion and study of the causes of women's inequality in society, revealing the causes of women's inequality in social life, and through a series of activities, attempts to subvert the traditional husband's power and release the shackles imposed on women by traditional society. Although the scope of feminism in Western developed countries is limited to the local area, it has to a certain extent contributed to the awakening of Chinese women's self-awareness, encouraged women's practical activities for independence, provided a direction for promoting gender equality, and has important guiding significance.

With the development of social economy and the Internet, feminist movements in the West have become more likely to influence feminist movements in China. In early October 2017, more than a dozen women accused Harvey Weinstein of sexual harassment and even sexual assault through The New York Times and The New Yorker, and the accusations quickly brought Harvey Weinstein, who for years had been an unstoppable figure in the international film industry, into disrepute. On October 15, 2017, actress Alyssa Milano took to Twitter to encourage women to spread the word #MeToo as much as possible so that people can be aware of the seriousness and prevalence of the problem. the seriousness and prevalence of the problem.

Since January 1, 2018, #MeToo has been making waves in China, and in early 2018, Dr. Luo XiXi, a doctor at Beijing Aerospace University who has settled in the United States and works in Silicon Valley, brought the shockwaves of the movement to China when she took to Weibo to report the continued sexual harassment of several female students by Chen XiaoWu, a professor at the university, prompting a rapid response among the university community. Many young, highly educated women spoke out, telling their stories and explaining feminist ideas. As the wind rose, the voices of women speaking out against #MeToo quickly swept through universities, the public

service sector, the media, and even the religious sector. The movement has brought more and more victims to the forefront, and the growing visibility of #MeToo in China has led to a growing number of feminist awakenings. Between early January 2018 and the Spring Festival, more than 8,000 students and alumni signed a petition demanding that schools establish anti-sexual harassment mechanisms.

Despite the slogan "Women can hold up half the sky" since the founding of the country, the fact that today more than 50% of college students are women and about 60% of China's workforce is female. However, the reality is that there is still a huge pay gap between men and women, widespread discrimination in the workplace, and sexual harassment of women, especially by men. Sexual harassment, especially by men, continues to be a widespread phenomenon.

The #MeToo movement has revealed the reality that sexual harassment is about gender discrimination and the unequal distribution of power and resources. Rosie's allegations are a normal response to the awakening of women's consciousness. It is gratifying that the Ministry of Education and some universities have committed to establishing mechanisms to prevent sexual harassment, and that the #MeToo movement has made substantial progress toward its goal, which is a remarkable achievement. Ultimately, this achievement is due to the growing maturity of the feminist movement in the West and its far-reaching guidance to the feminist movement in China.

Over the years, with the awakening of women's consciousness, the continuous improvement of national laws, and the support and encouragement of more and more affirmative action movements, our society has been moving forward on the path of gender equality compared to the past, and the phenomenon of gender inequality is gradually decreasing, which is worthy of recognition. All people are born equal, whether male or female, and everyone deserves to be respected and recognized, and everyone has their own value. Although there is a long way to go to achieve gender equality, we must believe that with the efforts of our country, society and individuals, we will eventually see the light.

4. Reflection

The struggle for survival takes a long time to gestate, and as an intra-ethnic gender struggle, gender equality will not have an overwhelming outcome in the short term. In the meantime, our team has found that the gender equality movement is a healthy competition between different traits within the same race, guided and supported by the state and influenced by world trends. Gender equality is a family member of other equality goals, and this can lead either to drawing borders between the different equality struggles or to stretching borders to readapt them in a more inclusive way [7].

The role of women as half of the sky in economic and social development is gradually coming to the fore. As of 2017, 340 million women were employed nationwide, of which 15.297 million, or 48.6 percent, were professionals and technicians in public sector enterprises, while the number of women-led companies in the latest Fortune 500 list increased from 33 last year to 37, a huge leap.

The political status of women has also improved significantly. In terms of party membership structure, the number of female party members in China reached 25,599,000, accounting for 27.9 percent of the total. As of 2018, China has 2,065 female diplomats, accounting for 33.1 percent of the total number of diplomats. Behind these figures, it represents the increasing voice of women in the political arena and their ability to influence the general policy of the country.

Women's education levels and their role in education have also become more prominent. According to the 2019 national education statistics released by the Ministry of Education, women account for 50.75 percent of all full-time teachers in higher education, and more than half of all teachers in secondary education, except for adult schools. In special education, 74.25 percent of teachers are women, and 97.79 percent of teachers in preschool education. In addition, the Ministry of Education has conducted statistics on the number of female students at all levels of schooling. At

the general undergraduate level, 51.72% of the students are female; at the adult undergraduate level, 61.9% and 55.33% of the students are female; at the secondary level, 50.71% and 46.42% of the students are female in high school and junior high school, respectively; at the elementary level, 46.55% of the students are female in general elementary school; at the work-study school, 20.75% are female; at the special education level, 36.67% are female; at the school level, 36.67% of the students are female. In primary education, girls account for 46.55% in general primary schools; 20.75% in work-study schools; 36.67% in special education; and 46.94% in pre-school education. China's society is the age of information and knowledge, and personal literacy is like the claws and teeth of a beast in the animal kingdom. It is clear that in this age, women's strengths are at their best.

Gender equality is influenced by the social environment, and after all, man is a social creature and cannot live in isolation from society.

Five years ago, at the Global Women's Summit, an initiative was launched to "strive to build a harmonious and inclusive social culture," advocating that "equality between men and women should be the core, and that backward concepts and stereotypes that hinder women's development should be broken down," and we hope that more and more men will participate [8-10]. Over the past five years, China has actively built a gender-equal, harmonious and inclusive social culture, widely publicized advanced gender-equality concepts, carried out publicity and education on the basic state policy of gender equality in multiple forms and through multiple channels, and further formed a good atmosphere in society to respect, support and care for women. China vigorously promotes an advanced gender culture with gender equality at its core, adds a gender perspective, reflects gender awareness in the formulation, revision, evaluation of education-related regulations, policies, and development plans, and actively promotes the implementation of the principle of gender equality in education work.

5. Conclusions

Generally, women and men are opposing and interdependent expressions of the human condition. The feminist movement is a game between these two groups, a game for their legitimate rights and status. From a Darwinian perspective, the game between these two groups relies on two things: sharp claws and teeth, and the ability to adapt to the environment. Since man is a living creature, the law of the forest applies to him as well. The "survival of the fittest" is the root of the feminist movement's existence, and it is also the right thing to do. As women become more secure due to their overall literacy and ability to adapt to their environment, survival for men may become increasingly difficult. Competition for survival will become more intense, eventually reaching a certain balance and a new gender game. This game is endless and there is never a winner. In this enduring struggle, the pace of human development will become bigger and faster. The civilization of mankind will become more and more brilliant and splendid under the effect of this internal thrust.

At present in China, with the high attention of the state and the continuous efforts of the whole society, the advanced gender culture with gender equality at its core will definitely become the mainstream values that people generally follow and agree with, eventually forming a social and cultural atmosphere in which men and women treat each other equally, live in harmony, interact positively and develop together. The feminist movement has led to a higher social status for women, and Darwin's doctrine of natural selection has led to the realization that accelerating the development process of equal rights for men and women increases competition, and this competition is a powerful driving force for social progress.

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