Name

Institution

Reflection Paper: Essentializing Women

Course

Date

In previous centuries, Christian doctrine, medicine, classical thought, and modern science all contributed to how people perceived the differences between men and women. According to Christian philosophy, women were seen as men's helpers who should do as they are told. Men and women were believed to have different physical characteristics, as well as separate qualities and ideals. Men were perceived as being more physically fit, resolute, brave, and intellectual. On the other hand, women were viewed as emotional, pious, and weak. Women were seen to be passive and men to be aggressive. All facets of life, even flaws, mirrored these distinctions. Men's aggression, egotism, and obstinacy were seen as inherent qualities, whereas women's immorality was seen as a choice.

Men's sin was seen as the result of shrewdness, lust, emotions, laziness, and excessive passion whereas women's fault was seen as a result of aggression, selfishness, and stubbornness. These strengths and shortcomings led to expectations and roles for men and women. Women were considered to be a man's property after they were married, and anything they had to own prior to their union belonged to the husband. Children's care and household duties were traditionally considered to be the domain of women.

Work for women was perceived as an extension of domestic work; low paid, low status, and fewer skills and responsibilities. In politics, there was no place for women; they didn't have the courage nor the intelligence to fit. Beyond domestic responsibilities, women could only participate in charity and religion or other services confined to domestic virtues. Men were beings with strength and intelligence, leaders, primary wage earners, high skilled, high-status jobs, owners of homes, and wealth.

For decades, feminists, through social, ideological, and pollical movements, have the aim to redefine a woman in society and establish equality of sexes. With the aim to empower the woman in society, most of the campaign focused on eliminating the differences and discrimination practices and placing a woman's status at the same level and respect as that of men. Some scholars argue in essentializing women to achieve true empowerment. I believe and support that argument. I believe it is time we celebrate women's uniqueness, spirituality, and superior virtue. Women are much more as "women" than being the same as men. the nurturing virtue, empathy, selflessness, and much more cannot be put in the line as men. I believe and support the argument that to achieve true empowerment; we should focus on what makes women “women,” all things contrasted by masculine values. There are many aspects of womanhood that make women superior and more than just equal to men; women give birth to life – I believe there is nothing more superior in humankind's existence than the ability to give birth to life. There is nothing bigger than a vessel of life itself. The fact that women are vessels of life, beings that make the earth what it is, is a power in itself. Life radiates from within us; the earth exists from within us. Women are not equal to men; they are the vessels of their very existence. Women give them life and give life to them, biblically, women hold men up, nurture a man's strength, and instill them with virtues. This is empowerment in itself, a gift no one can take from women.

Women seek harmony with the rhymes of nurture – feminine values seek peace and harmony. As opposed to masculine values centered upon destruction and violence, feminine values are centered on empathy, patience, composure, calm, selflessness, peace, and harmony. Seeking to be equal to men means seeking the very values women don't uphold. Women are superior as they bring balance to nature. In a broken world with testosterone-fueled violence and reckless behavior, women have the gift to restore balance, order, and harmony. Women's true empowerment is achieved by realizing these unique gifts. Women have the ability to have it all – a woman can take care of her home, raise and nurture kids, work, maintain order, and lead others. Women exist in all aspects of life that anyone can possibly think of; Leaders in top offices, presidents, mothers, athletes, weight lifters, manufacturers, name it all. Men can do most things but not all; they can't be mothers, and a few can keep a home in balance. Golden words by Eric Gray “Whatever you give a woman, she will make greater.” I support the idea that women should focus on the politics of differences, the uniqueness, spirituality, and virtues that make them women and superior. True empowerment cannot be achieved with the politics of sameness. Women should therefore focus on womanhood, not personhood. Women should take pride and celebrate that which makes them biologically distinct and superior to men.