

“Women of Hong Kong – A Century of Contribution and Development”

Essay Competition

Secondary Schools Division – Second Runner-up

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Yesterday has gone

Undoubtedly, in Hong Kong, a city influenced by different cultures, especially the Western one, the public have generally adapted to the changing attitude towards women's role. Women used to be regarded as weaker and more disadvantageous when reckoning with the competitive nature of our society. However, that women stay at home to look after their children has ceased to be a must. Thanks to the promotion of gender equality, no one can deny that the position of women has been increased remarkably in the past century, no matter whether in the areas of family, economic and social participation. One will not feel odd to see a female representative of the government, or some organizations, speaking in front of the medias anymore. Days, veritably, have been changed.

To commence with, women are now no longer solely housewives, whose work is only cooking, cleaning and looking after children. Ostensibly, women seem to be incapable of supporting the family by their own. However, what we can see the general phenomenon is that most contemporary families have their women working outside. As the traditional and conservative thought has gradually been weeded out, people are more open-minded towards the changing role of housewives. That women become one of the breadwinners is inevitably nowadays. Therefore, we ought not to oppose the change but to support it. In other words, the promotion of sexual equality should be advocated indeed.

In the economic fields, women also contributed a lot in the past century. Hard as it is for housewives to complete the household chores, some of them insist on finding a job in a bid to earn a living. In addition to what they get individually, our society also get benefits, especially the economy. According to the recent statistics released by the Labour Department, there is a climbing trend of female applicants seeking for jobs. In line with the increasing demand for jobs, the department has organized some workshops for women who desire to dedicate themselves to society,

with an intention to train ordinary housewives to become competitive employees. The successful result that there is continuous emergence of prominent females in all walks of life has been seen recently. While congratulating on their great success, we should also notice what they have achieved is boosting our economy. Despite some arguments claiming that their contribution is just a little, no one can deny women have definitely made efforts and they have got an inspiring beginning.

Last but not least, there are more and more women taking the key positions in various jobs in society. For example, the government and the Legislation Council have both increasing number of female officials. What this reflects is that Hong Kong, as a cosmopolitan city, has been influenced by overseas' attitude toward equality and people generally accept women to play a vital role in society. Gracefully, Hong Kong has been taking the lead to enhance equality between men and women since the previous century. Often do people hold the belief that women cannot confront challenges as men do; however, one thing is irrefutable that female officials possess more soft interpersonal skills, which enable them to have advantages during negotiation. Only by having both male and female officials can the government run pretty smoothly.

All these concrete facts point to the benefits of promoting sexual equality, no matter whether in areas of family, economic or society. In fact, the government and the concerned authority need to zero in on the issue and devise plans for advocating sexual equality and eradicating the conservative attitude. Times have changed and we should establish a harmonious society without any prejudice against women.