WOMEN'S RIGHTS: PAST AND PRESENT

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Human rights are an essential element of the legal status. Observance of human rights is one of the most important objectives and values of the modern state. Equality between women and men is an indicator of a developed society.

For the first time women have shown their organization as a political force at the end of the XIX century. The public movement for women's equality was formed a long time and is made up of such periods, as women's suffrage (XIX-XX centuries), the liberal and radical feminism (1960-1980). And only in the late 80-ies of the XX century, feminism has become a part of the democratic socio-political systems and public policy in the developed countries of Europe and America [1].

Despite the fact that since the publication in 1949 of the book of the French writer and philosopher Simone de Beauvoir's «The Second Sex» has been more than half a century, the issues that it considered in his work remained relevant to this day – «How can realize himself a human being in the position of women? What ways are open to him? Which ones are dead ends? How to gain independence within dependence? What circumstances limit the freedom of women and whether it can overcome them?». Simone de Beauvoir defined them, «not based on the concept of «happiness» but the concept of «freedom» [2].

In modern society, no doubt these issues are analyzed and resolved in a certain sense but completely right?

United Nations Population Fund in the review of the gender situation, said: «Gender biases, fixing the benefits of either sex, are present in all areas of our lives. Often, the only explanation is an established tradition. Overcoming gender differences is as important for the men as for women» [3].

The term «gender inequality» refers to the characteristic of social organization, according to which different social groups (in this case – men and women) have a persistent differences and the resulting unequal opportunities in society [4].

The United Nations classifies gender issues to the category of global and encourages States to modify existing gender model, preserving a system of unequal values and double standards. Currently, there are even integral index, which reflects the
existing inequalities in the opportunities of achievements between women and men in three dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment and the labor-market [5].

In particular, it noted in the United Nations Population Fund in the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter – UNFPA), women in Belarus have a higher level of education than men but are employed in the lowest paid professions. Higher or secondary vocational education have 55% of working women and 38% men. 37.6% of the unemployed who are registered more than one year – women [3].

As noted by E. Kopysov, «gender inequality hinders the development of the society, which is confirmed by the following negative consequences: reduced productivity, slowing down economic growth. For example, using data of research the International Institute for Food Policy concluded that the equalization of access of men and women to education, nutrition, recovery of income and property rights would contribute to reducing the proportion of underweight children under three years old in South Asia by 13 %, which would reduce number of malnourished children most exposed to early death to 13.4 million. In the countries of sub-Saharan Africa child malnutrition levels would be reduced by 3%, or – in absolute numbers – 1.7 million malnourished children» [5].

Currently, there is another serious social problem which denies an equal women’s freedom with men – the violence against women.

Thus, according to the World Health Organization (hereinafter – WHO), «Violence against women takes place all over the world: it is uniformly spread on the planet. 30% of women respondents said that they have experienced violence by men with whom they were in relation. The peak of violence was recorded in the countries of Southeast Asia. There are 37.7% of interviewed women said the researchers from the WHO that they have become victims of their partner. But even in countries with high per capita income 23% (almost one in four) of interviewed women said that they were abused his partner in life» [6].

UNFPA statistics, in Belarus, three-quarters of the victims of family and domestic crimes – women, or 1.952 of the 2.639 victims. Four out of five women aged 18-60 years are exposed to psychological violence in the family, every fourth – physical violence, 22.4% of women exposed to economic and 13.1% sexual violence by their husband or regular partner. One in ten women (9.5%) was subjected to physical violence by a husband or partner during pregnancy [3].

According to research conducted by the staff of Lomonosov Moscow State University in Russia, almost 80% of women are faced with at least one of the exertions of psychological violence by her husband [7].

According to the Ukrainian Institute for Social Research, only 27% of women believe insults as an exertion of violence, 49% – the beating, and 56% – the rape [8].

Ejaz Khan said that in the United States some form of sexual aggression are subjected to 83% of girls aged 12 to 16 years. In England, the victims of sexual violence in one form or another becomes one in five women aged 16 to 59 years [9].

As we can see from the above figures the growth of the prevalence of gender issues observed in the world that require effective solutions. Undoubtedly, gender equality is a kind of incentive for the strengthening of economic, demographic and other spheres in modern society.
However in the framework of a psychological evaluation method of the issue of gender inequality should be seen first of all in social terms. Stereotypes established in gender relations exacerbated by globalization and rooted value orientations.

Thus, in our opinion, it is necessary to pay special attention precisely the psychological and social education of children. After all, a child with childhood «absorbs» the traditions, the rules of behaviour in society, which accepted in his family. So is possible to create a special cycle of interactive animation and multimedia materials demonstrating a positive perception of gender equality and develop the child's mind in the direction of equal rights for women alongside men. This method will reduce in the future statistical figures on gender inequality, and thereby strengthen the social atmosphere in modern society.

References: