



Elementary Discussion on Chinese Female Culture and the Direction of Its Future Development

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Received 22 September 2014; accepted 15 November 2014
 Published online 26 December 2014

Abstract

The harmonious development of human society cannot be achieved without the harmonious development of the relationship between men and women, and as an important cultural content, the development of male and female culture can not be ignored. Since China adopting the policy of reform and opening up, the independence and autonomy of the female group have been greatly improved. There are so many women practitioners in the field of politics, economy and culture, and the situation does not change when compared with the developed countries from a global vision. As a world power, China not only needs to develop its economy and society, but also needs to enhance its ethical and cultural quality and theoretical thinking. If female culture can be viewed as an important part of the construction process of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics, then significant contribution will be made to the development of human civilization.

Key words: China; Female culture; Direction of future development

Niu, Q. Y. (2014). Elementary Discussion on Chinese Female Culture and the Direction of Its Future Development. *Studies in Literature and Language*, 9(3), 194-198. Available from: <http://www.cscanada.net/index.php/sll/article/view/6022>
 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3968/6022>

INTRODUCTION

Female culture is a vital part of human civilization, the harmonious development of human society cannot

be realized without the harmonious development of the relationship between men and women. Karl Marx once said: “Everyone who knows anything of history also knows that great social revolutions are impossible without the feminine ferment. Social progress may be measured precisely by the social position of the fair sex(ugly involved)”. His words have strong pertinence and also show signs of the times, but it still exerts great influence on the development of Chinese women in culture.

1. THE PROBLEMS RAISED IN FEMALE CULTURE

Culture, as soft power and an important part of the comprehensive national strength, has been highly valued by all countries, The level of development of a country or a nation is closely connected with the development of its culture. In today’s world, the developmental gap between countries, is reflected not only in the level of economic and military strength , but also reflected in the level of cultural development.

As the harmonious development of human society cannot be achieved without the harmonious development of the relationship between men and women, the construction of female culture should not be neglected. The letter Marx wrote to Ludwig Kugman on December 12, 1868 said: The latest Congress of “labor union” of USA has made great progress, at a minimum, this shows perfect equality in its way to women workers, while the British people is also bound to some narrow point of view in this aspect, so is the sentimental French. Everyone who knows anything of history also knows that great social revolutions are impossible without the feminine ferment. Social progress may be measured precisely by the social position of the fair sex(ugly involved). Marx believes that the relationship between men and women is the closest to nature in human society, which can reflect the degree

of social development. His words has strong pertinence and also show signs of times, but it still has important enlightenment on the development of Chinese women culture.

Female culture is often known as feminist beliefs or feminism. It is raised in a famous paper “debate for feminist” in 1792 by the British writer Mary Wollstonecraft. This paper criticizes the concept that women are subordinated by men, clearly putting forward that women should have equal rights with men in the field of politics, education and work. Subsequently, the flourishing Western feminist has gradually developed from the right to vote at the beginning into a great social culture movement. From the presidential election down to the question whether to open the door for the lady, even whether the expression of “Rights of Man” means some gender discrimination, all these have become the object or focus for feminist research. In short, to review various social phenomena and ideas from the standpoint of the feminist and popularize feminist consciousness has become culture trend in the contemporary world.

However, this paper does not use the concept of feminism and feminist activism, but adopting the concept of female culture. So what is the definition of female culture? How to understand women culture? Culture is essentially a kind of spiritual product, social being determines social consciousness in philosophy and products of spirit are radically limited by the status of objective material production. The development of material production deeply reflects people’s demand in a specific age. Observing from a new perspective, different kinds of demand are the driving force in promoting specific culture. Diversity of cultural content largely reflects the diversity of needs itself. On one hand, contemporary female culture incarnates the cultural diversity of modern society; on the other hand, it also reflects all kinds of material and spiritual needs of modern women in the specific times. Of course, we should not simply equate female culture with female demand.

This paper argues that in this new historical condition, compared with feminism and feminist activism, female culture means a broader perspective. The development of female culture should be established on the progress of civilization of the whole society, strengthening and improving humanistic qualities and mental quality of women and view it as the starting point. And then creating a more harmonious social relationship between men and women. In this paper female culture refers to the cultural products and ideas in favor of women created and formed in the process of people’s material and spiritual production under the preliminary possession of subjective and objective conditions. To a certain extent, female culture lays stress on the unity between external

beauty and inner beauty, universality and particularity, nation and world, form and content.

2. CHINESE FEMALE’S CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Chinese female culture has been almost mature today after experiencing a long and difficult process: Female’s status is greatly improved, there is a stronger call for feminism, the cultural status of men and women has been gradually flattened.

2.1 Women’s Status Has Been Greatly Improved

Because the social system emphasizes gender equality, women gained more power and opportunity in creating and enjoying culture. They feel more free than before in choosing their careers, promotions, salaries, etc.. In today’s society, men’s division of labor has changed a lot, and women not only gradually occupy the mainstream in their adept positions, but also form a competition situation against men in a broader social platform.

2.2 There Is a Stronger Call for Feminism

Women were extremely active in social affairs than ever before and are playing an increasingly significant role in each social section. Facts proved that women never lag behind in the field of cultural creation, many women even become the leading role because they do better than men in certain part of cultural construction and research. Furthermore, due to the impact of globalization, modern lifestyle enters into huge numbers of homes. Profound changes have taken place in the relations of both sexes, and the relationship between women and men is transforming from the traditional inter-attachment style to the modern partners.

2.3 The Cultural Status of Men and Women Is Counterbalanced by the Reform of Economic System

Since reform and opening up, China has quickly changed. And China’s reform of economic structure also facilitates the development of its commodity economy. In this special environment, new concept, such as competition, fairness, efficiency, democracy, etc., is changing people’s fixed mindset. The new economic environment requires the two-way choice of people and society, the society can choose women, women can also choose the society. At the present stage, the independence and autonomy of the female group has been greatly improved, There are so many women practitioners in the field of politics, economy and culture and the situation is no difference when compared with the developed countries from a global vision, Chinese women’s self-awareness has changed from a passive way to a active way.

3. THE PROBLEMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS OF CONTEMPORARY CHINESE FEMALE'S CULTURE

Most content of contemporary Chinese female culture is a natural extension of Chinese traditional culture. From one hand, the law emphasize the equality between men and women, women can share the benefits of development like men, feel more free to express themselves in a wider way and among this Woman's Federation contributes a lot, girls can receive education as boys. But from the other hand, when it comes to the problems of employment, family planning, child care, income manipulation, education investment, women's remarriage, wage calculation, division of property and the participation in politics, women are always in a weak position. Mainly reflected in the following aspects

3.1 Women Are Obviously Playing a Role of Subordination in Culture

Judged by the numbers, female leaders who can influence cultural decisions and women teachers, doctors, writers who view cultural inheritance and creation as their career are minority groups in society. So Chinese women play a role of subordination in culture is inevitable.

3.2 The Voice of Putting Feminism Into Practice Is Still Weak

In modern Chinese cultural construction, Most Feminism advocates are intellectual women who possess a certain cultural status, but their voice is still weak when claiming the transform of questioning, debating and protesting cultural imbalances between men and women into effective social action, it cannot be a work of the whole society and few men are willing to be the promoters.

3.3 The Estimation of the Status of Female Culture Is Entering the Blind Spots and Being Misunderstood

The current mass culture push women at the peak of fashion tide, it seems that women are welcomed in the cultural field, but in fact it's a distortion and loss of cultural status. All the actions in the "beauty economy" of popular culture, such as the beauty pageant, beauty on the cover of journals, the hype of female celebrity's privacy by entertainment reporters with "evil intention", show no respect for women's cultural status. Unfortunately, many women have not noticed this kind of "patriarchal trap", even worse, they regard it as a channel to a higher social status. This may cause misunderstandings when evaluating the status of female culture.

4. THE CONDITIONS OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE WOMEN

Since the eighteenth national congress of the communist party of China, cultural prosperity and development of more and more attention, however, the development of culture is not going to finish, don't rush, if there is no advanced culture as the guideline, there is no excellent cultural products as food, cultural prosperity and development is not guaranteed.

4.1 Women Cultural Developments of Subjective and Objective Conditions

Any a kind of culture is in certain social historical conditions, from the generation of culture to spread to is accepted by the people or forgetting has profound social and historical roots. Women's construction and development in contemporary culture, need certain physical basis and prerequisite. "People first, must eat, drink, live and wear, and then engaged in politics, science, art, religion, etc.", people only in the material life demand reaches a certain degree, is likely to pay more attention to, the pursuit of a spiritual life. When the development of the economy and the improvement of ordinary people material life level is still the urgent task of social practice and the primary target, spiritual and cultural pursuit is often the second, women culture development is not exceptional also, when most of the group of women lack independent objective material base, cultural education lag, women's overall cultural quality is not very good guarantee, it is difficult to really talk about the development of female culture.

When certain objective conditions meet, subjective effort appears particularly important, if a certain age group of women culture to meet the needs of the senses, just under the temptation of materialism and utilitarianism, lost reflection and rational thinking ability, lack of cultural awareness and cultural self-confidence, wary of the threat from external cultural expansion is not enough, the internal culture of creativity atrophy without seriously, there is the tendency of simplification, enjoyment, provincial, and even lost to a great extent the independence of the thinking and insight and forward-looking, so even greatly the development of material civilization, the development of culture is not optimistic.

4.2 Women Cultural Developments of Nationality and Era Unification

Since China's reform and opening up, China made great achievements in the field of material production and living, this also objectively affect people's cultural psychology. Current people for women there are two kinds of cultural mentality: on the one hand is the society as a whole become tolerant, society is becoming more and more psychological health; on the other hand is weak

and order of the original civilization and disappear. It can be said that both the emergence of the phenomenon is normal, also is a natural process, or will last for a long a time in history.

Construction of women culture in the new period, facing the contradiction between nationality and modernity. Modern society is a social market economy increasingly developed, marketization and commercialization of the impact of the traditional moral culture concept is huge, it's easy to fall for their own needs and the object of desire, lost value evaluation criterion, and people can become the subject of their needs and desires? It is a moral and ethical problem, need in the new era under the conditions of new cultural ideas leading the people, regulate the behavior of people's value. Women culture construction in such a background, can deal with the contradiction of modernity and nationality, and achieve effective integration, it is undoubtedly a difficult and challenge. Chinese women culture development to some women of Chinese traditional culture and western culture research absorption at the same time, combine era characteristics and national characteristics of effective, reasonable reunification; More importantly characteristics based on the current era, with the help of the historical opportunity of the rapid development of material productivity, refining and contains the better cultural content, rich cultural form, making it the important real strength to promote the development of female culture.

5. THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTAL DIRECTION OF CHINESE FEMALE CULTURE

The harmonious development of human society cannot be achieved without the harmonious development of the relationship between men and women, so as an important content of culture, male and female culture can not be ignored. However, the cultural imbalance between men and women is objectively formed in history and this result is caused by certain premise. Human civilization begins since hierarchical countries are formed, which features patriarchal society. After going through the history of feudal age for several thousand years, Chinese people's patriarchal thought seems to be more prominent. In the long historical process, the male occupies the main status in the process of creating cultural products. So the imbalance caused by history itself is one of the main reasons for advocating the female culture.

(a) Enhancing the sense of identity of the women group. The construction of female culture is based on the self-identity of women group. Although identification basis differs greatly in different ages, the specific cultural connotation under certain times should be easily accepted

by the group of women. This can be viewed as a kind of general content, for example, men enjoy higher status than women in ancient times but nowadays we emphasize the equality between men and women.

(b) Reflecting the cognition focus and cultural theme of the special female culture in different historical periods, this is to say, cultures with different meanings are stipulated by different cognition focuses and different researching themes in different historical periods, including women family culture, work culture and all different cultural content in different areas.

(c) The individual cultural thoughts, associated with the cultural workers' personality and reflected in each special theoretical system, show out through different theoretical system and different theory personality. Generally speaking, the unique perspective and the exceptional meaning of cultural theoretical system embody the author's unique understanding of female culture, such as female perspective incarnating in literature works and different kinds of novels.

(d) Coordinating the competition and cooperation between men and women and rebuilding a harmonious relationship between both sexes and cultural content. As the progress of science and technology greatly polarizes social division of labor, the loss of male superiority and the growth of the female advantage become a feature of our times. When a woman can do a man's work and earn as much as men, the competition between them will be objectively formed, which will directly influence the construction of family culture and social culture. So how to coordinate the competition and cooperation between men and women and how to rebuild a harmonious relationship between both sexes have been problems before us, which are also an important content of modern female culture.

(e) The diversified development of female culture. The construction and development of female culture are multifaceted and difficult. Currently, little attention is paid to the female culture, related researching articles are still relatively limited. Although relevant scholars have obtained certain achievements in the fields of female cultural self-consciousness, culture awareness, female literature, etc., the problems still exist, for example, they cannot accurately comprehend materialism when conducting theory discussion, as a result, they will get biased conclusion—defining female culture as material and spiritual product in practice. Apparently, this definition is mechanically applying a large cultural definition, directly viewing the human being as women, and ignoring the role men play in cultural construction. Therefore, the goal and impetus of Chinese female culture are to construct diversified development under the guide of cultural workers.

Advocating the development of female culture in a new age not only embodies important theoretical

significance, but also embodies practical significance, for a country like China, which has huge potential for development and great influence around the world. As a world power, China not only needs to develop its economy and society, but also needs to enhance its quality of moral literacy and theoretical thinking. If female culture can be viewed as an important part of the construction process of socialist culture with Chinese characteristics and also can make an obvious achievement. If the excellent female culture can be internalized into a national and world female quality, outstanding contribution will be made to the development of human civilization.

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