Social and Cultural Rights of Women in the Philippines

Philippines is a country where women can live without worrying about their rights. Unlike Southeast Asia, our country has many laws that can protect the Filipino women. Government already recognized them to be a part of our society. Filipinos have discovered kinship before the Spanish times. Legal equality and inheriting family properties for the rights of women has already been accepted. In 1990, education and literacy levels were higher for women. Even having women in important positions is now even new. Most of them have been senators, Supreme Court justices, cabinet officers, heads of major business enterprises and administrators of our country. They also contributed to the development of the Philippines. During the 1990’s era, 91% of the women were established in more than a commensurable share of many occupations even though they already predominated in terms of domestic service, 59.4% for the professional and practical positions, and 57.9% for the sales. Women were frequently preferred in assembly-type factory work. Two thirds of women from rural places were already migrating because of the availability of work in which women predominated. The other kinds of service compare positively with chances available to men. 64% of graduates were represented by women but 159 out of 982 career top executive positions were held in the civil service and only 15% of top-level positions were held in private sector.

Men usually downgraded household tasks to women and that makes things harder for employed women. But this burden is lessened somehow by the presence of relatives and servants who functioned as their helpers and caretakers but using them has occasionally been criticized as an equivalent to utilizing women to free others. Women have been the treasurer of the family that gave them power when it comes to money since the Spanish colonial period. The Spanish also started a tradition of lower-ranking women which is displayed in women’s acquiescent perspective and in a double level of sexual behaviour. However, it changed as time goes by. But still, the double level of sexual behaviour is still being challenged. In 1987, men superiority is also being challenged to some area. The law accommodates equal right even though it has the absence of particular provisions that might make it more effective. Divorce was banned during the early 1990’s and under some conditions, legal separation was legalized. Legal remarriage was not possible and the family code of 1998 was more liberal. The code authorized annulment for psychological disability, repeated physical violence or forcing to change religious or political affiliation. Divorce acquired abroad by an alien partner was acknowledged even though the laws of restrictive divorce might be observed as an action of breaking the terms of a law on women’s freedom to emerge from a bad marriage, signs were that many Filipino women observed them as protection against abandonment and loss of support by stubborn husbands.