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World Views

Research Challenge

Radical Feminism

Throughout history, there have been many attempts made by women to fight for their rights and be treated as they should be, equal to men. While now we think of women more-less equal to men, this is something that really only came in to movement in the early 1900’s. Nellie McClung began fighting against women’s suffrage in 1911 while living in Manitoba. She and the rest of the “famous five” helped to spawn the first wave of feminism in Canada, fighting for political equality, for women to be treated as men in senate and in parliament. The third wave of feminism, radical feminism, began in the 1960 with women fighting to eliminate male supremacy.

The big issue that radical feminism tries to overcome is the male supremacy that exists in society today. In our society, women grow up in a world where the sexualisation of women is normalized, where woman are told they can never amount to much if they aren’t beautiful, where men can tell you what to do with their bodies. This is a serious issue in society and one that the radical feminist movement tries to overcome. There are dozens of examples we see of this in society today, recently Donald Trump bragging about his sexual assault of women back in 2005 where he said a multitude of things about women, mainly how he can “Grab them by the p\*\*\*\*. [ I ] can do anything.”. This is a serious issue because it teaches young generation of people that this stuff is okay and this is normal, not something to be worried about.

The solution to overthrowing male supremacy is tearing down the social structure that’s been put in place and reestablishing a new one with a system built by women. Having women in control of economics, politics and social issues. Radical feminism is a small portion of feminism, and unfortunately is a branch that ends up getting a very bad rap and gives people very negative views of feminism as a whole. A lot of men bash on feminism because they believe that men and women are already equal, even though it’s clear that women are treated worse than women. Because of this attempt by many men to undermine feminism, radical feminists unfortunately often take the stance that “men are the enemy”, which only gives feminists an even worse image.

Radical feminists try to fight the oppression against women by standing up for themselves and refusing to allow themselves to be subjected to these social ideas that men can do what they want when women are involved. Nellie McClung said “The world has taunted women into marrying”, which is absolutely true. They absolutely reject the idea of being submissive to men and will stand up for themselves and other women when they’re threatened. Radical feminists try to eliminate male supremacy in a less political way and more in a social and cultural way. They first and foremost try to appeal to other women’s sense of self and being. They try to remove the idea from women’s minds that men are superior and instill in them a strong sense of self-worth and being.

In conclusion, radical feminism is something that is important in our society. We need women who are very outspoken, who fight for themselves and for the rights of other women. We need woman who will fight for their equality, and reestablish the mindset in women that they are in control of themselves, that they are not for anybody and that they are important. It eliminates the view that women are objects for men and focuses on this aspect of sexuality. It’s unfortunate that radical feminism gives feminism as a whole a negative image due to the actions of very few who might push it a little too far. Radical feminism is a much needed approach to feminism because they approach it loudly and proudly over social media and protesting in the street.

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