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John Stuart Mill

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Throughout history, there are many things changed through the time by changing of people mind and social value. Most of it came from philosophers who strongly believe what culture suppose to be even though no one agree with it. One of them is John Stuart Mill who work for developement of human beings. He contributed to human being and what he had done is very important to our present being. One of his work is The Subjection of Women. It is about traditional culture of women being and what suppose to be fixed in that form. But first, let know this personal background.

John Stuart Mill was born in London in 1806. He was the eldest son of James Mill. His mother is Harriet Barrow. James worked at the East India Company as the Chief Examiner but James spent most of time to teach his eldest son numerous things. At fifteen John study work of Bentham, philosopher, and this inspire him to develop world human well-being. After that he spent most time into the work of philosophical radicals and began career. In 1830 he was introduced to Harriet Taylor, who crucially influenced the rest of his life. Two years after her husband's death they married. It was Harriet who gave him intellectual and moral developement and many ideas to his work as a utilitarian. After his wife died his step-daughter, Helen Taylor, helped him doing his work. He spent most of his time for the status of women. Most of his important work published by Helen. Mill died in 1873.

During his life time he do many work including The Subjection of Women and numerous valuable work.¹²

Thought history, women had been treated of their personal legal and political right unfairly by society and social values. Women had no right to do any things. They had been commanded by men, who has more physical power. In another word, men and women were separated by Law of the strongest. Women can be only mother and wife. The fate of woman depend on her husband. Women had no right to choose what they think and do. The Subjection of Women was written two years after Harriet Taylor's death and Mill was helped by Helen Talor. The Subjection of Women was written to explain what right women ought to be and point out the equality of both men and women. John Stuart Mill is the first male philosopher to argue and debate for emancipation of women.³

In men opinion, the nature of women is follow men and be only wife and mother. Woman had no right in marry, her parent can gave her to any man they want. Women should only marry and produce children. They do not suppose to do other than this. Woman must subordinate her husband even her property, but if her husband is a bad guy, imagine what fate that woman should be. Man has power to force woman to do whatever they want. Women can educate such a way as only to benefit men. Mill point out that the theory come form Law of the strongest which the stronger dominate weaker. Moreover, Personal's birth should not decide his or her fate. Additional, human cannot choose what

¹ <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/mill/#Lif>

² <http://www.utilitarianism.com/jsmill.htm>

³ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/aug/02/subjection-women-john-stuart-mill>

sex they want to be and no one should decide what fate they are if they were born. Women were treated unlike slavery but lower than that. People should not be determined by physical power and nature of animal. Men think that women worst at manythings than men, therefore, they don't let women do anything, but Mill attack that argument and said that we cannot judge what they can do because we never let them do. With Harriet, Mill learned manythings about women and fell bitter about inequity of women right. He learned that women are better at quick and correct insight and men are better at speculation of a more theoretical nature and good at thinking⁴. Both two things can balance 2 sexes. On his utilitarian view, he said that if we let women free to do every things and the proportion of women is half of human in this world, so, we will get everythings massively increase benefit to society and mankind and human development⁵. Mill kept support women in to politics so that they can votes and be voted. Mill saw that half of human cannot contribute to society as a hindrance to human development. So, there is no reason why women should not be equality to men.

The Subject of Women is the one of many great work that Mill do for develop the human-being of mankind. Mill dedicated all of his life to stand for what he believe even noone support him ,but many years after that, everyone has understood him. In modern world many has been changed. Women has right to do everything as men. One of this reason came from people who study his work and believe what he believe and further his aim to bring the balance of two sexes to the society, the equality of humanity. John Stuart Mill is the great philosopher and should be praise for all time.

⁴ <http://oneyearinbooks.blogspot.com/2010/09/subjection-of-women-by-js-mill-1869.html>

⁵ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Subjection_of_Women