

## **Feminism as social and cultural phenomenon**

The concept "women's movement" at different historical stages had ambiguous interpretation. At the end of 19<sup>th</sup> – the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries this term was used in wide and narrow sense. In the broadest sense it was considered as involvement of women in liberation movement, in the narrow – as self-organization in the unions and societies for the purpose of achievement of the equal civil and political rights with men.

Organized women's movement takes origin in Western Europe at the end of 18<sup>th</sup> – at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries under the influence of the liberal and democratic moods which enveloped the most progressive sectors of society. The ideological inspirer of women's movement in Europe was French writer Olympia De Gouges who wrote "Declaration of the rights of the woman and citizen" in 1791. She demanded to include women (femmes) in category of full citizens along with men. Since that time Olympia's followers began to be called "feminists", and movement for woman equality in all areas of public and social life called "feminism".

Gradually, in the process of activation of fight of women for the rights, the concepts "women's movement" and "feminism" underwent changes. Most researchers understand "women's movement" as general phenomenon whereas "feminism" as private manifestation enveloping radical, extreme slogans and concepts. "Feminism" has a political content, it is "engaged theory aiming to understanding society to challenge and change it. Its purpose is not the abstract knowledge, but knowledge which can be used for informing the direction of feministic practice".

In the 40's of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the approach to idea of female equality was offered by socialists. They coordinated its achievement to the general tasks of fight against social oppression and maintenance and designated as "women's issue".

Researchers understand set of the female initiatives directed on advance of interests of different layers of women and overcoming of a gender asymmetry as the modern female concept. The problem is especially topical during the modern period when there is a need profoundly to study history of position of the woman in the state.

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The historiographic aspect of this problem has special value in the form of appearance on the arena of political life of the state of a set of the new organizations and associations of women (total quantity 160 "female", a gender directivity or dealing with issues of a family, children and a demography) among them: Association of business women of Kazakhstan, public fund "Partnership Centre", Union of business ladies, Federation of women "Status" and others.

On March 6, 2009, the 5<sup>th</sup> forum of women of Kazakhstan prepared by the National commission on affairs of women and family population policy of the President of Kazakhstan was organized. Within the forum of the international conference "Woman. Family. Country: problems and perspectives on which gender aspects of development of the Kazakhstan society were discussed.

Position of women of Kazakhstan did not become a subject of reviewing of separate historiographic work, during certain time frames there were only in narrow frames scientific articles.

The historiography of female issues of Kazakhstan began in 20's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The program of "Alash" party changed public view of the woman, affirmed her rights for education, for involvement in socially significant affairs. The first attempts of historiographic understanding of woman's position in Kazakhstan were in the mid-fifties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Works of E.Masanov, G. Valikhanov, M. Bizhanov were devoted to this topic. In their life researcher concern about common problems of study of women position in Kazakhstan during the pre-revolutionary period.

In 90's of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in study of the Kazakhstan historiography of this problem were characterized as continuation of an old tendency, study of a contribution of women to production life of the country.

G. Byrbayeva's work, which has analysis of works on stories of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, emphasizing on female problems on it, has a special significance. At the same time the author gives the analysis of the German historiography within the subject "Woman and War", i.e. position of women of deported nations into Kazakhstan.

In S.Karpykova research the object a reconstruction of process of origin and development of scientific thought in the field of a female perspective throughout the Soviet period of development of historical science of Kazakhstan is set. In operation attempt of complex study of the Soviet historiography of the position of the woman in Kazakhstan caused by switching on in a row of analyzable works of ethnographic, anthropological, historical and medical, historical and art criticism character is given. The author reveals both positive and negative tendencies in a problem historiography.

Summing up the results, social movement of women for their political and civil rights has long history. Women's movement became one of those forces which promoted overcoming of the existing gender inequality. At the same time, based on researches, women's movement one of the most actively developed directions in a historiography of domestic historians.

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