Positive Impacts Of Women In The Industrial Revolution

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Introduction

The Industrial Revolution would have never gone the way it did had it not been for women, and though they were treated poorly, women played an important role in society. Women before the 18th century were the backbone of the household, and without them, the family would have never survived; then, during the Industrial Revolution, women began working outside the home to bring home more money and to provide for the family. Without women, there would have been more widespread poverty.

With respect to the positive impact of women in the Industrial Revolution, the Industrial Revolution referred to profound advances in manufacturing, production, and other sectors. Developments in fields like engineering took place between the eighteenth and mid-nineteenth centuries. The industrial sector was a male-dominated area, whereas women were the minority and were not allowed to take part (Ward, Bernie, and John Strongman, 2011). However, as the Industrial Revolution evolved, women became more liberated in the communities and began to participate in campaigns to fight for women's rights in and out of the household. Industrialization no longer portrayed women as inferior to men but instead as their competitors. Women, however, were paid less than men since they were cheaper; this posed a threat to men as both were in the same field for the same positions. Women's involvement during the Industrial Revolution impacted the lives of children in the 19th century (Tietjen, 2017). This paper will show the positive impact of the role played by women in all aspects despite the women's revolution being recognized as having a negative effect on the economy and production system.

Women's Political Mobilization and Reform

Women's introduction to the workplace led to many political changes and considerations to accommodate both genders. Females began to contest their roles in the community, which led to the formation of movement groups, which in turn led to political stimulation and, eventually, change (Khera, 2016). Bessie Rayner Parkes was one of the first women to pledge support for the female movement in England in 1848. She spearheaded demands for reforms to laws like marriage laws, which were termed harsh, especially regarding property. Bessie Parkes, with other women, created a

newspaper called English Journal, which was used as a platform for raising concerns regarding women's rights and was also used as a communication channel (Tietjen, 2017). Not all movements succeeded, but at least they managed to spread the word about changes to societies and local authorities.

By 1871, women in England were united to ensure the expansion of their rights and opportunities at workplaces and at home. At this time, three significant movements had a great impact on the nation, thus enhancing the National Union for the Education of Girls, promoting women's employment, and forming a committee for obtaining the Admission of Women to University Examinations (Ward, Bernie, and John Strongman, 2011). The movements propelled girls' education to prepare and protect them from real-life situations in employment at factories. Members of the women's movements believed that inequality at the workplace would always see women being subjected to men; thus, they attempted to educate girls about business and trade, hoping that in the future they would participate. The girls were required to attend lectures and lessons where they were taught wood-carving, china-painting, plan-tracing, and art-engraving in the form of apprenticeships (Bellais, 2014). Eventually, local political authorities took many women to form part of the administrative agenda. Many political reforms had been made by the end of the 18th century.

Women, Work, and Social Change

Many children who were old enough to work joined the workforce with their mothers, and they became another source of revenue, thus offering their families more economic benefits. Furthermore, women entering the workforce during the Industrial Revolution led children from the age of thirteen to mature earlier because they could earn their own income and were thus considered independent, allowing them to generate their own income and spend it as they wished (Bellais, 2014). Many youths developed a social life and used to gather at small shopping centers, thus stimulating the economy through the spending of young people's incomes. Because of industrialization, many women had to leave their homes and began to live on their own (Bellais, 2014). This idea was not welcomed by many, but on the other hand, it allowed women to become a more active part of community development and labor movements that eventually changed working conditions that seemed dangerous. The Industrial Revolution permitted females to generate more income, which, as a result, led to self-dependence, and they could support their families. Some significant impacts of the Industrial Revolution were the effects it had on females' lives. Long before industrialization, women were tasked with more traditional jobs like cloth repairing and were mostly involved in managing farm affairs alongside raising children (Khera, 2016). The Industrial Revolution impacted the enclosure movement, and the Agricultural Revolution required many small-scale farmers to move off their lands. This led to the migration of people from rural areas to urban areas to search for work, thus increasing the labor force.

During the Industrial Revolution, early feminist organizations fought particularly for the right to vote. Women were denied the right to vote, thus leading them to form a movement to enhance equality in

balloting referred to as the suffrage movement, while the members fighting for equal voting rights were called suffragettes (Khera, 2016). Also, the Industrial Revolution enabled many, if not all, women to support their husbands and families, thus leading to women playing a large part in the factory and manufacturing industries as a result of industrialization. Although this marked a stepping stone for women's independence in many places, women began a plethora of societal changes that, in turn, affected many more members of society (Ward, Bernie, and John Strongman, 2011). The introduction of women into a workforce led by men created challenges as women became their competitors, thus forcing men to form unions to protect themselves from the influx of women laborers. The impact of women in the revolution led to the challenge of many old norms and caused demands for structural changes in the community (Khera, 2016). It can be said that women revolutionized the workforce, an impact that is still present today because of the effects during the 1800s.

Industrial Growth and Economic Benefits

The creation of looms, cotton gins, and sewing machines all led to an increase in the production rate in the textile industry. During a century of international commerce, the engines at the factories produced more products since women could provide cheap labor compared to men (Bellais, 2014). Other necessities became essential as a result of increased production. Some examples of the domino effect include the need for labor, the factory system, communication, transportation, and the financial system. The United States got to the next level due to the Industrial Revolution.

The evolution of factories was brought about by the need for workers. This growth in industry and factories, in turn, enhanced the development of societies. The option provided to women was an alternative way of earning income, and as a result, living standards were improved. These options directed women to wealth and power. Also, women's involvement led to the multiplication of factories, which was a result of increased competition between women and men, "the general spirit of enterprise," as labeled by George S. White, who established that employees were the real power behind growth regarding an organization. He also said that community members have the right to complain, and if corrective action is taken, it will benefit women in society (Khera, 2016). As production yielded more benefits, consumers required a channel of communication whereby they would receive the products. The demand for products to reach consumers led to the improvement of the transport system. This led to the construction of steamboats and railroads, and as a result, the price of goods decreased, thus making products available to the community (Tietjen, 2017).

The developments that helped people spread news faster and more efficiently were another positive impact of women in the Industrial Revolution. There was much more creativity during this time, which led to a huge impact on the lives of societies. However, with the arrival of the Industrial Revolution, more women became active stakeholders in the workforce and began undertaking many of the tasks just like men (Ward, Bernie, and John Strongman, 2011). Both genders were faced with joint hardships regarding their salaries due to the nature of competition in the factories. Women were hired more because of their cheap labor, thus endangering the men in the same workforce. In Valenze's account,

the ratio of women to men was eight to one, as the first industrial woman said. She also added that the high levels of women in the workforce led to underpayment. By the 1800s, one-third of the workforce was made up of women, and their presence in manufacturing factories caused changes in recruitment forms and machinery selection.

After the passage of the Trade Act in 1824, the Free Trade Act led to increased competition between women and men. Silk manufacturing propelled the introduction of machinery that, in turn, led to cheaper production costs and was user-friendly for women. Also, women became more likely to be hired by firm owners since they could offer quality work at a reduced wage rate. The female gender became more reliant on factory owners; hence, through industrialization, women gained their independence (Ward, Bernie, and John Strongman, 2011). Not only did women gain autonomy, but this reliability also increased their status in society. The most efficient way of enhancing the Industrial Revolution could have developed and improved through the exploitation of children. Parents and their children could discuss the responsibilities and wages allocated to each other, and doing that would lead to helping one another in the best possible ways.

Conclusion

The Industrial Revolution had a profound positive effect on the lives of women. This saw women's role in communities and societies dramatically shift, and many women involved themselves in the workforce in order to support themselves and their families. Today, the women's movement continues to fight for women's rights and equality in pay, voting rights, and maternity rights.

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