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Article

The Power of Being You: A Positive View of Individualism

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Abstract: This article explores the empowering dimensions of individualism, challenging common critiques that associate it with gender politics or social fragmentation. Rooted in philosophical, psychological, and cultural perspectives, the study presents individualism as a constructive force that fosters personal authenticity, self-fulfillment, and creative expression. Emphasizing the value of self-awareness and autonomy, the paper argues that individualism enables people to navigate societal expectations while remaining true to their values and identities. By examining contemporary examples from art, activism, and everyday life, the discussion illustrates how embracing individuality can contribute not only to personal well-being but also to a more diverse, innovative, and inclusive society. Ultimately, the paper advocates for a reimagined view of individualism one that balances self-expression with empathy and collective responsibility as a vision of gender free future.

Keywords: individualism; self-identity; gender free future; power conflicts; modernism; autonomy; feminism; challenges; cultural changes; vision

Introduction

In an increasingly interconnected world, the concept of individualism often evokes mixed reactions celebrated by some as a path to self-realization, and criticized by others as a cause of social disconnection. Yet, at its core, individualism is not merely about personal freedom or independence; it is about the power and responsibility of being oneself in a complex and often conformist society. *The Power of Being You: A Positive View of Individualism* seeks to reframe individualism as a source of strength, authenticity, and social contribution. Far from encouraging isolation or egoism, this form of individualism promotes self-awareness, critical thinking, and the courage to act in alignment with one's values. It recognizes that individuals are not just passive recipients of cultural norms but active agents capable of shaping their identities and influencing the world around them. Drawing from philosophy, psychology, and contemporary cultural narratives, this paper argues that embracing individuality is essential not only for personal growth, but also for cultivating a more inclusive and dynamic society. In this context, individualism becomes a positive force: a foundation for human dignity, creative innovation, and ethical engagement. This vision challenges the historical structures that have long dictated roles, behaviors, and expectations based on gender. From early childhood through adulthood, people are often shaped by invisible pressures to conform to socially accepted ideals of masculinity and femininity. These expectations not only limit personal freedom but also reinforce systems of inequality and exclusion. By exploring how individual expression and autonomy can coexist with empathy and social responsibility, this work reclaims individualism as a transformative ideal one that encourages us to live more fully, think more freely, and connect more meaningfully. By embracing individuality, people are better equipped to contribute meaningfully to the society, challenges unjust norms, and build inclusive, dynamic social environment. In this light, individualism becomes not a barrier to connection but a foundation for it.

Challenging Conformity: The Courage to Be Different

Why be one when you can be you, is the slogan of the article. Boy or girl, Blue or pink, Strong or soft, we were taught to choose right from the moment we took our first breath, the world began to shape us in a way assigning us roles, colors, pronouns, and expectations. We were told who to be before we had the chance to ask *who we are*. But what if the greatest act of rebellion is simply being ourselves, unfiltered, unlabeled, and unboxed? The positive way of thinking individualism. Individualism stands as a quiet revolution. A true individualism is all about authenticity. It is the belief that every person holds their right of “*Self*.” to define self is to pursue their own path, and live according to values they’ve chosen, not inherited. At its heart, individualism is a celebration of freedom. Not the kind of freedom that shouts for attention, but the kind that whispers, *you get to be you*. It encourages us to step away from the crowd not to reject others, but to listen to our own voice, to discover our strengths, desires, and purpose. It teaches us that life is not about fitting in, but about standing tall in who we are. *Individualism* means reclaiming the right to be more than the options we’ve been given. It’s choosing *you* even when you don’t fit the script. “*Individualism is the moral stance of political philosophy, ideology, or social outlook that stresses the moral worth of the individual.*”¹ We live in a world that loves certainty. It clings to binaries because they’re easy to process. But people are not binaries. People are stories, emotions, contradictions, and dreams. Gender, once seen as the foundation of identity, is now being questioned and rightfully so. Why should a label determine the way we speak, move, dress, or love? This mindset can be transformative. In embracing individualism, we learn to trust our inner compass. We begin to make choices that reflect our real selves not what others expect of us, nor the society demands. We take ownership of our beliefs, our style, our goals, our identities. And in doing so, we gain confidence not the kind built on comparison, but the kind rooted in self. *Why be one when you can be you?*” You in your fullness, complexity, and freedom are far more powerful than any box they build or constructed in the past. This is the future ideology when it comes to gender shifts and changes. These shifts are not just a personal journey. It’s a cultural shift. Moreover, individualism creates space for creativity and innovation. When people are free to think differently, to challenge tradition, and to express their truth, the world becomes richer. Art becomes more diverse. Ideas become more daring. Progress becomes possible. Many of the greatest thinkers, artists, and changemakers throughout history were those who dared to follow their own path when the world told them not to. We are seeing it in language that stretches beyond *he* and *she* by fashion that no longer plays by gendered rules. In bodies that are honored for how they feel not how they should look. To make space for the multitudes we hold. To build a world where being *you* is enough. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “*To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.*” So why be one? But you being strong, powerful and bold. Be the version of you that doesn’t need permission to exist. So let us think of individualism not as a wall, but as a door. A door to self-discovery. A door to courage. A door to a world where every person has the freedom to live a life that is fully and unapologetically their own. To be gender-free doesn’t mean to erase identity, it means to expand it. A world in which individuals are no longer constrained by rigid gender binaries or traditional norms. In such a future, identity is not defined by labels such as male or female, but by the unique experiences, values, and expressions of each person.

Beyond the Binary: Individual Identity in a Gender-Free Future

Why should the conflict of *power* be based on gender? The solution claims *neutrality* by finding its functional merits vested on individual’s *intellectual power*. This, however, means reinforcing the existing power structures that has to move towards reasonable resolution enforcing *individualism*. The idea of *gender-free* permits sexuality to identify the individuals at different varying levels of ability, intelligence, appearance, limitations, goals, decision-making, etc., and hence, success becomes the means a positive by mastery which could mediate agreeable prodigy of equality. Women as individuals are of primary importance and resistance towards equality. Women’s interest in political participation resumes a great “*fulfillment in terms of individualism.*”² “Education being the positive aid, accessed their struggle of survival.”³ Women’s capability to acquire their position equal to that of men

however have constrained thoughts, yet has made major transition in women's position. The problems of transitional and cultural variations as a social vision focused by "the Victorian notions of femininity,"⁴ states Ann Oakley that they identified the rights of common law as the major breakdown of women's status quo, which was "bitterly excluded in the law".⁵ "It is unlawful in England to use force to keep a woman slave in the house" though the law was permissible to use force to keep a wife in the house."⁶ what makes the difference That's a powerful and complex statement, and it touches on how law, social norms, and gender roles intersect, especially when it comes to the difference between how a woman and a wife are perceived under the law. The difference lies in how the law interpreted agency. A woman who was enslaved was denied basic legal personhood, which eventually the law came to recognize as unjust. But a wife, although technically free, was still treated as part of her husband's legal and social identity. The law saw slavery as a human rights violation, yet it failed to recognize the marital power imbalance as a form of confinement or coercion. This contradiction exposes how the legal system was not simply about justice, but also about reinforcing power structures by placing the male authority intact. Understanding this paradox helps us see how deeply the law can be shaped by social norms and how even respectable institutions like marriage can quietly dominate the echo systems of control. Enforcing the strategies of consciousness-raising extensively in the 1970s gave voice of many feminists and other social critics, creating critical awareness of individualism. "Women been taught the feminine virtues associated with their traditional roles such as adaptability, dependency, unassertiveness, and nurturance also learn[ed] the values of modernity which in particular applied to men but also followed by women."⁷ Modernism associated with personal and professional life style however had constrained ideologies and caused cultural rifts within the systems of social values; it seems to be receptive in terms of "power relations"⁸ by inducing individualism. Thus, the inexorable authority towards modernism has been encouraged by the thumps of *survival schemes* based on resistance for developing progressive structures. This demands the dynamics of *changes* engendering the hierarchy by freezing the marginality of *gender-identity* which upgrades women's position and professions and also surpasses the consciousness of individuality. The modern dynamism, pertained; *activeness, aggressiveness, individualistic, independent, unemotional, objective, competitive, and achievement oriented*"⁹ were the factors of *women's success*. The concept of *women power and freedom* significantly demands women to claim mastery over *masculine modes* of practices. The changing realities of women's economic *freedom of individuality, money and powers* has widened scope. It is very clear that the goals of the feminist struggle precisely paved its way for great women empowerment to foray in elite positions and professions. Today, the feminist texts remain powerful reminders that women freedom and liberty was not gained so easily. Betty Friedan's classic *The Feminine Mystique*, sought to dispel the false illusion about women and Germaine Greer's *The Female Eunuch* expressed the radical views on gender. Kate Millet's *Sexual Politics* launched a powerful attack on the sexist attitudes of the male writers of the major tradition and the appealed women to come out of their subordination. These works drew attention to the 'domesticity' forced upon women and contributed to the public debate on legal remedies for women's liberation. The perspectives of feminism allowed women develop their belief of self-power, individuality, and intellectuality. William Henry Chafe who observed Margret Mead's proclamation defined that female had two choices, either she proclaimed herself 'a woman and therefore less an achieving individual, or an achieving individual and therefore less a woman.' If she chooses the first option, she enhanced her opportunity of being "a loved object, the kind of girl whom men will woo and boast of, toast and marry." If she selected the second alternative, however, she lost "a woman, her chance for the kind of love she wants."¹⁰ However, over the past centuries, the position of women in society has undergone profound transformations across social, economic, political, and cultural domains. Historically relegated to domestic roles and denied access to education and political participation, women have increasingly asserted their rights and agency, reshaping societal norms and institutional structures. Key developments include expanded access to education and professional opportunities, which have enabled women to contribute significantly to public life and the economy. Legislative reforms, such as suffrage movements, anti-discrimination laws, and equal pay initiatives, have strengthened women's political and legal standing. Furthermore, shifting

cultural attitudes toward gender roles, partly influenced by feminist movements, have challenged patriarchal norms and have greatly promoted gender balancing. The rise of women in leadership positions, growing representation in media and politics, and increased control over reproductive rights signal a broad redefinition of traditional gender dynamics. Nevertheless, persistent challenges remain, including wage disparities, underrepresentation in certain sectors, and cultural resistance in some regions. Overall, the position of women has evolved from one of subordination to increasing empowerment, reflecting broader global trends toward equity, inclusion, and human rights. Women promising their individual success and approving the new modes of behaviors, manners, and values, envisaged equality by qualifying the rationale. Everything appears to be *modern* when changes appear to be eminent, observed by the chances of opportunities settled the sensory aspects of social and cultural changes occupying its acquiescence to *modernity*. The social concerns have constantly reinforced the norms of cultural imperialism. The persuasive force of socialization finds examining the changes obtained by the accepted and practiced ways of behaviors, manners, and shapes culture as refined and accepted. It is seen that *"There are always small fissures in any set of cultural rules and beliefs. A few individuals see the cracks of inconsistency and in sometimes prophetic tones try to signal the need for change. But these voices are often swallowed up in the rush of history. It is when the few voices are joined by many that the serious forms of critique begin to emerge."*¹¹ Therefore, however the social, political and economic institutions was characterized by sharp division of sex roles, women achieved success fighting needless disturbance. Women became aware that they belong to the world equal with the same rights followed by the *other sex*. Henceforth, *modern women* have undergone significant changes from era to era. They identified their *self, individuality and freedom of liberty* to acquire *power* which bestowed their status of equality. The ambiguous experiences of empowered feminists have been eminent by imposing new strategies for development in women's position and shaped women's identity and reinforced the radical strategies for progression. Their massive revolt supported education systems and helped shifting their identities equal to that of men. Women of today stand as the pillars for the world of tomorrow.

Conclusion

Individualism, when viewed through a positive and nuanced lens, emerges not as a rejection of community but as a vital expression of human dignity, creativity, and authenticity. This exploration has shown that the power of being oneself lies in the ability to think independently, act with purpose, and live in alignment with personal values while still engaging ethically and empathetically with others. In a world that often pressures individuals to conform, the courage to embrace one's uniqueness is both a personal triumph and a social contribution. Rather than promoting isolation, positive individualism encourages diversity of thought, fosters innovation, and supports the formation of meaningful relationships rooted in mutual respect. It empowers individuals to challenge unjust norms, pursue self-defined goals, and contribute to a more inclusive and dynamic society. A *gender-free future* envisions a society where individuals are not limited or defined by traditional gender roles or expectations. In this future, identity, opportunity, and self-expression are not constrained by binary categories like male or female, allowing people to live more authentically and freely. This perspective challenges societal norms, promotes inclusivity, and supports the idea that gender diversity should be embraced rather than restricted. A gender-free future aims for equality, where people are valued for who they are not for how they fit into outdated gender frameworks. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, reclaiming individualism as a force for good can inspire both personal fulfillment and collective progress. In the end, the power of being you is not about standing apart from the world, but about standing firmly within it fully yourself, and fully engaged.

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