



Question 3

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Describe the factors that led to the women's rights movement of the 1830s-1840s, the goals of that movement, and the success achieved in obtaining those goals during those years.

Thesis

- During the 1830s-1840s, the increasing division between women and men's economic roles, women's belief that they were the keepers of society's conscience and the growing reform movements on other subjects such as alcohol and slavery influenced the growth of the women's rights in America. The main goal of women's rights movement was to gain suffrage for women, along with the goal of increasing women's influence beyond the household which was met much sooner than the goal of suffrage.

Factors

- The market economy was increasingly separating the roles of women and men in America. In addition, women believed themselves to be the keepers of the conscience of society because women were responsible for grooming the future of America, and women became the main advocates for a temperance movement and the abolition of slavery. After centuries of their influence being centered in the home, women, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, realized they need to earn the right to vote in order to expand their influence onto a society dominated by men at the time.

Goals

- The main goal of the women's rights movement was to gain suffrage for women. The greatest first step taken towards achieving that goal was at the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Movement in 1848 in New York, demanding suffrage for women and stressing that all "men and women were created equal" in a document called the Declaration of Sentiments. In addition, women wanted to gain influence outside of the home, taking different jobs such as teaching or nursing.

Success

- Although the goal of suffrage and the Declaration of Sentiments were not met, women still expanded their influence beyond the home. Catherine Beecher urged women to take teaching jobs, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first doctor, Amelia Bloomer wore short skirts, Margaret Fuller edited a transcendentalist journal, and the Grimke sisters advocated the abolition of slavery.

Conclusion

- The increasing division between men and women economically and the growing reform movements of temperance and abolition of slavery, along with women's belief to be the keepers of society influenced women to strive to gain the right to vote. Although suffrage for women in America was not acquired until 1919, the influence of women grew outside the home through jobs such as teaching, nursing, and the occasional doctor in the 1830s-1840s.