

Beijing Forum 2019

Women's Initiative and Development over the Course of Civilization (II)

On the afternoon of November 2nd, 2019, the panel session "Women's initiative and development over the course of civilization" continued in the Moonlight Hall, Yingjie Exchange Center, PKU. Ten speakers gave speeches on the topic of "Women's Motivation in Harmonious Family Construction".

Opening the session was a presentation by Ye Jingyi Professor of Peking University entitled "Gender Equity in Workplaces: Ideal and Reality". The main thrust of her argument was on the need to initiate a multisectoral approach to addressing gender discrimination in workplaces. She cited situations where pregnant women been forced to leave their jobs because of rampant discrimination in workplaces. She emphasized that Anti-discrimination in employment is a legal governance project and a concept reconstruction project. The main thrust of her argument was on the need to initiate a multisectoral approach to addressing gender discrimination in workplaces. She further suggested that removal of barriers to the full and equal participation of women in the workforce is the demand of achieving equality.

The second presentation "Ending Violence and Harassment in the World of Work - ILO New Standard" was given by Ms. Zhou Chang, Labor Law Specialist of the ILO Country Office for China and Mongolia. She shared that in the letter of recommendation written to member states, they stressed the prerequisite for legal enforcement for employers. In her view, one apparent obstacle in the recommendation was that legal enforcement was left as commensurate to member states and corporations' degree of control to prevent violence and harassment which was quite ambiguous. In all, there are a lot of requirements for the employer emphasis should be placed on investment time to establish dispute resolutions mechanisms to end domestic violence.

Associate Professor Kim Miran from Sungkonghoe University gave the third lecture titled "Me Too Movement in China and Feminist Knowledge Production". She made a comparative analysis of the different development directions of the Me Too movement in various countries, and emphasized the mechanism of this movement in China. She also interpreted the Me Too movement from the perspective of Chinese feminist knowledge production.

The fourth presentation “Capital Globalization and Women’s Domestic Role Orientation in Urban China - a Marxist Political Economic Perspective” was presented by Professor Zuo Jiping from St. Cloud State University. She reviewed the achievements of women in the field of economic construction since the founding of New China, and pointed out that after the reform and opening up, there has been a return to the traditional concept of " men mainly working outside the household and women working within the household" and to analyze this phenomenon from the perspective of Marxist political economy. She concluded that women’s return or permission is seen as a resistance to the commodification of labor and the commissioning of market conflicts.

Deputy Director and Associate Researcher Peng Ling from China Law Society was the fifth scholar to present her topic, “Women's Development and Protection of Women's Rights in the Internet Age”. She reviewed the history of Internet development and analyzed the participation of women in the Internet field. While the development of the Internet brings convenience and opportunities, women's rights have also encountered a new crisis, and women's right to development has not received sufficient attention. She believes that these phenomena are less relevant to female Internet practitioners, especially those involved in decision-making. Therefore, women should be encouraged to engage in the Internet industry and enhance women's scientific quality and equality.

Professor Li Mingshun from China Women's College was the sixth scholar to present his paper, “The Special Role of Women in Family Construction”. He discussed from three angles: family and gender equality, the unique role of women in family building, and the unique role of Women's Federation in family building. He emphasized that under the traditional background of home country and home state, the family has irreplaceable functions. He analyzed the status of women's family under the male central culture and the changes in modern marriage and family, pointing out that the family should be transformed into a place of equality and justice. In order to achieve this goal and protect women's rights and interests in marriage and family, China's laws and systems are making corresponding adjustments.

Professor Xia Yinlan from China University of Political Science and Law was the seventh scholar to present her paper, “Research on the Legislation of Marriage and Family in Civil Law”. She said that legislation on marriage should take China's legislative traditions and basic principles, contemporary international development trends, and reconstruct the basic principles of marriage and family planning into account. It should consider the reality that non-marital cohabitation is gradually

accepted by the public and becomes a life model. We should take seriously the current situation and ensuing problems in our society, such as the rising divorce rate, the limited application of the divorce relief system, etc. While guaranteeing the freedom of divorce, we will need to make rational institutional arrangements for the realization of legal fairness and justice.

Professor Ma Yinan from Peking University was the eighth scholar to present her paper, “The Impact of Women in the Formulation and Implementation of Legal Policies”. She believes that because of the different social resources of men and women, an equal and neutral policy is more beneficial to men. By sharing the case of several women's influences such as the joint debt determination rules, land confirmation rights, joint registration of real estate, and husband and wife property system selection, She emphasized the potential and important achievements of women's participation in the formulation and implementation of legal policies.

Researcher Wu Xiaoying from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences was the ninth scholar to present her paper, “Family Caregiving in Dilemma under the Myth of Familism”. She pointed out that China's family policy is currently at the stage of recessive familism and there is a tendency to transition to explicit familyism. If you want to get out of the ultimate dilemma of care, you first need to break the myth of familism, clarify the public and private issues of care, and then choose a model that fits Chinese society in stages.

Professor Shen Jie from Japan Women's University was the last scholar to present her paper, “A policy-oriented analysis of gender equality in Japan: Out of the "male breadwinner" cycle”. She suggested that Japan is gradually out of the "male breadwinner" model, and moving toward the "work and life coordination" path. Substantial changes are expected to occur simultaneously at family level, the market and the country as a whole.