

Women did a lot more than one might think when talking about the labor movement. It is usually thought that men were the ones who were keeping the business running, but in fact, women were working long hours in the factories, coal mines, and mills with little to no pay while still raising children and doing housework. Even though women put in their fair amount of work, they still had to fight for their rights in the workforce.

In the 1830's, the Lowell Mill Women created a mass movement that created the first union of working women in the United States. These young women would work excruciating, long hours at the textile mills. These girls started working as early as 12 years old. Their bosses decided to cut their wages even lower than they already were in 1834. This is what pushed them to fight back and protest. Although they weren't able to get everything that they wanted, they were able to get 10-hour workday law. This law wasn't heavily enforced, but this gave other women the push they needed to fight for the pay and rights that they deserve.

The pay that each woman received was not enough to support her family even though the labor movement advocated for just that, but only for men. This was because it was believed that women should only be tending to the children and housework. Women were very angry with this and demanded changes through strikes and protests. Eventually their dedication and perseverance led to the Coalition of Labor Union Women in 1974. This movement's goal was to show representation of women in the union fairly and equal pay. This movement also focused on issues having to do with reproductive rights and sexual harassment and violence in the workplace towards women. This movement and the feminist movement is one of the many reasons that women are more equal in today's world.

Today, women are able to work in unions and even have a place on the board. Although things have significantly gotten better, there are still some issues that haven't been fully solved.

Unfortunately, sexual harassment is still a very common issue that women must deal with not only in their workplace, but anywhere that they go.

Recently, there has been something called the MeToo movement which has empowered a lot of women to reach out and talk about their story involving sexual harassment. It is actually predicted that about eight in ten women have been sexually assaulted in their workplace. This has a huge impact on a woman, not just mentally, but also their careers. This may prevent a women from advancing in her career or just wanting to continue her career in general. There are also studies that show that when a women experiences sexual harassment, she is more likely to be diagnosed with depression. This is taking away women power that they have worked so hard to get for many years. Women are even more vulnerable to sexual harassment in the workplace when it is a male-oreintated job.

Although there are still some things that need to be improved in this field of work, there are some very positive things that have been happening for women specifically in unions. Unions are now very diverse and recognize both male and female in their line of work. Unions today are actually helping raise the wages for women and people of color instead of being the reason that the wages are not equal. Women are also able to speak freely and openly about their ideas for their communities and workplace without being discriminated against because of their gender.

Women also don't have to choose whether or not they can have a family or work. They can do both. Jobs today allow a woman to take off of work for maternity leave and still have the same position she did when she left.

It has been a very long road for women to get the mention they deserve, starting all the way back in the 1830's. Every single woman that has fought this war is the reason that we are where we are today. Even today, women are still fighting to make sure that their rights stay their

rights. They are taking control of positions that are usually made for men and doing it better. Not only does it have to be women fighting for women's rights, but men can also be an ally. Men can learn to recognize when these problems occur and how to stop them immediately. This doesn't just have to be women fight, it can be everyone's fight.

Citations

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