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Due Date

### **Freedom and Equality: Balancing Two Fundamental Ideals**

Freedom and equality are the principles upon which such a society is built. However, the awareness of their connection leads to numerous issues concerning it. What is freedom and equality all about? Does the one policy reinforce the other or will they cancel each other out? In order to overcome this challenge, we will go through the basic meaning of these concepts and if they can be achieved at the same time or one has to be given up.

The very meaning of the freedom is that it means no compulsion or restriction, whether in human thoughts, actions or words. It means a freedom of the person to act, to achieve the goals and to enjoy the rights without the unwelcomed interference. Such a concept of liberty is critical for democratic countries as it is the most sacred human right (Dias, 613). From freedom of speech and religion to freedom of assembly and movement, this ideology takes shape in many forms, which in turn foster individual development and encourage communal dialogue.

Conversely, equality is an international theme of justice that provides everyone around the world with same rights, opportunities, and treatments regardless of their disparities. It does not only deal with the economic justice. It includes social, political, and legal aspects that resist discrimination and privileges based on race, sex, or socioeconomic status. Therefore, equality becomes a moral compass for societies that guides them toward inclusiveness and social

harmony, which in turn fosters an ambiance of belonging and a common goal among the members.

At the outset the harmony between liberty and equality may look uncomplicated because they seem to be working in tandem for the sake of fairness in the society. In numerous cases people struggle for their freedom which in its turn reinforces equality enabling people to overcome injustice, fight for their rights, and play an active role in democratic structures. According to Walton (n.p), the second part of this is equality because it also fuels freedom in that the latter which restricts some group of people from having their rights to the fullest, freedom is therefore extended to all. The mutualism of liberty and equality reflects the fact that these terms go together in building a society wherein there is no discrimination or oppression but instead liberty and equality are the bases on which a society rests and through which it can develop and progress.

This kind of comparison (freedom and equality) spawns more questions that link the real expression of these ideals and their priority in the policies and the government. The fight for freedom is not an exemption from unequal treatment because extreme autonomy pursued by the elite and the powerful, in order to perpetuate injustices and monopolize the opportunities, may result in more inequality. Equality drives may be implemented through the legislative process and affirmative action but they still may affect individual freedom, just like personal property ownership or with an expression that is perceived as an offence or as an injury to the private groups (Matviichuk, et al., n.p). This delicate balance, though, requires a complex line of thinking, the one that evolves freedom and equality together and resolves any possible issue and creates a fairer and just environment for all.

Since ancient times, the society has been oscillating between freedom and equality, the relationship that swings from being more free to being more equal. During critical periods such as riots or authoritarian regimes, the quest for equal rights becomes the reason for limitations of freedom in order to preserve social unity or national security. Whilst some periods are characterized by a more neoliberal approach to governance or free market doctrines, they may cause a decline in the level of individual liberty as injustices and inequalities are being exacerbated. This implies that equality itself is put in jeopardy. This eternal struggle emphasizes the disproportionate nature of the management of the multilayered and evolving societies in which the notions of freedom and equality are yet abridged and thus require to be periodically re-balanced and resolved to achieve the justice and peace.

However, the simplification of the debate just ignores the more obscure connection between freedom and equality that are not opposed to each other or mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they are the two sides of the same coin which forms an integral part of a reasonable community, where one can not do without the other. Maintaining the balance of these principles is a rather sophisticated thing that has to be based on delicate measures which do not ignore the nature of the interdependence between individual freedoms and common good. For real freedom to develop equally, there is an equal culture that underlines every person regardless of their gender or social standing should have an equal opportunity and access to resources. Similarly, true equality cannot be without the establishment of personal freedoms because autonomy and agency offer individuals a chance to act. Therefore, the setting up of a fair and united community necessitates the development of a holistic strategy which recognizes equality and freedom as the two sides of the same coin, which are the pillars on which the dignity and development of society rest.

The way out of contradiction between liberty and equality could be to create such an environment that will promote responsible exercise of freedom, rights protection against abuses of power and equality opportunities for everyone. This multifaceted approach comprises not only the enshrining of civil liberties as well as human rights but also the addressing of structural inequalities that perpetuate social segregation and degradation. Placing the most part of the budget in education, healthcare and welfare programs will narrow down the disparities and generate a level playing field, resulting in growth of both freedoms and equalities (Koburtay, et al., 428). To start with, developing the policies inclusive of the unique viewpoints and special conditions of a diverse society strengthens the foundation of the fair, equal society in which everyone can succeed and contribute meaningfully.

Dialogue and citizens' activism can help to rebuild trust and find grounds for consensus on the values of freedom and equality for all. This is accomplished by building empathy, understanding and unity among different groups. This way societies can tackle selfishness and move to the point of justices and dignity of all. Accordingly, these demands generate platforms where the unfavorable groups could voice out, turn upside down the existing power relations, as well as develop the culture of responsibility and openness.

Owing to the above, freedom and equality are the two main pillars that, basically, constitute a democratic society. Although this confusion occurs between these two notions, this does not mean that they are mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they are complementing, each one coming to the other. The implication here is to recognize a mutual responsibility and holistic solutions that address both individual rights and systemic injustices. In this way we will be able to attain an equal, fair, and responsible world where both of these ideas coexist.

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