

Abstract

This is a comparative study that examines the role of Fukuzawa Yuichi and Refa'a Raf' Al-tahtawī in the issue of Women's development, in addition to the role of both writers in paving the way for Women's empowerment in both the Egyptian and the Japanese society in the modern age. The comparison revolves around three concepts. The first one is that of education, the second is the woman's position in the society and in the family, and the last is political position.

The study also reveals the similarities and differences between the experience of Fukuzawa in Japan and that of Al-tahtawī in Egypt. This is done through a thorough analysis of the ideas of each writer about women with special focus on particular books. These are: *Gakumonno Susume* (Encouragement of Learning) and *Fujin Ron* (woman's theory) by Fukuzawa and *Al-morshed Al-Amin lil banat wa Al-banīn* (The honest guide for girls and boys).