

# FEMINISM

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- **ORIGIN**

- First book of modern feminism is written by **Mary Wollstonecraft-Vindication of the Rights of Women** (1792). She rejected against the writing of Rousseau who said that women are not entitled to get education. He said that women are not eligible for participating in political activities.

- Mary advocated for equal voting right and equal educational and legal opportunities for women.

- **FIRST WAVE**

- Writings of Wollstonecraft inspire the American feminist movement and British thinker JS Mill wrote the **subjection of woman**. Mill said that women are living like a slave in British society. Their ultimate aim is discovering husband in life. They are not receiving the equal political educational and legal rights.

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**BY-RAJESH MISHRA**

- First wave supports gender equality in **public life**. US women rights movement started from **Seneca Falls Convention(1848)**. National women suffrage association were also set up in 1869 under leadership of Stanton and Susan Anthony. Women movement for getting voting right realise first time in New Zealand in 1893.
- US constitution also granted right to vote for women in 1920 and women in UK got the right to vote in 1980.

## LIBERALISM

- Constitutional government and equality before law.
- One person one vote.
- No discrimination on the basis of caste, race or sex.
- Welfare state provides basic social goods.
- Equal right granted.
- Equal representation in the parliament.

## FEMINISM

- Women were recognized equal before law.
- Women got the voting right.
- Discrimination with women came to an end.
- Women got the advantage in case of distribution of social goods.
- Women received the right.
- Women is also got an opportunity to be a member of parliament.

## **SOCIALISM**

- Economic equality.
- Class divided society.
- Abolition of capitalism.
- Communities control over means of production.
- The division of society on the basis of caste, religion and sex abolished.

## **FEMINISM**

- Women empowered due to economic equality.
- It keeps women subordinate to men.
- Capitalist economy prefers the cheap labour of women.
- Economic independence of women.
- Recognizes equal worth of women in terms of productive capacities.

# RADICAL FEMINISM(2<sup>ND</sup> WAVE)

- It is radical because demanding the restructuring of the society like marxist. They said that the social structure is against the right and dignity of woman. Unless and until social structure does not change the equality in public life will not become successful.
- The radical feminist raise the following issues regarding the subjugation of women:-
- **(1)Patriarchy:** Betty Frieden is considered as mother of women liberation and founder of second wave feminism. She wrote the **feminine mystic**. Patriarchy literally means authority of male over family. Since family is controlled by male therefore, entire social structure including school, church and university is under control of male.

- Due to patriarchy women occupying a secondary position in political and economic life too.
- Betty Frieden said that society created a **cultural myth** that women seek security and fulfillment in domestic life. She also identified the **problem with no name** because women were treated as sisters, wife and mother but not recognized as an independent person. **Carol Pateman** said that women are considered as an object because human being can't be defined in terms of other person.
- Domination of patriarchy resulted in the **division of labor** too because domestic work is allocated for the women but public life including economic politics is captured by male said by **Kate Millett (sexual politics)**. Patriarchy is a culture created and maintained by society. Therefore, women are not subjugated due to **biological** reasons.

# REDIFINING THE POLITICS

- Garner said that politics begins and ends with the state.
- From **Aristotle** to **Hannah Ardent**, politics is considered as an activity which goes on in **public life** and family is always considered as a private life was kept away from the domain of politics.
- Radical feminism is the first ideology which rightly rejected the artificial distinction maintaining between private life and political life.
- **Simone De Beauvoir (The Second Sex)** famously said that '**Personal is Political**'. She said that 'women are not born but they are made'.
- She said that personal means the issues associated with the life of family which is dominated by patriarchy.
- Personal means, they demanded the right over their own body:-
- (a)**Right of abortion.**
- (b)**Freedom of marriage.**
- (c)**Freedom against the domestic violence.**
- (d)**Freedom from sexual harassment.**

# PERSONAL IS POLITICAL

- Susan Moller Okin (1989) argues that 'the personal is political' comprises four separate claims. First, it highlights the fact that the private sphere is a sphere of power. Or the sphere in which rights and duties, advantages and disadvantages, are distributed.
- The second way in which the personal is political is that the explicitly political sphere defines the infiltrates the personal.
- Third, the personal is political in that the private sphere- and particularly family life-creates the psychological conditions that govern public life.
- The fourth and final aspect of the personal is political is the claim that the gendered division of labor within the private sphere, with women taking on most or all the domestic and caring tasks, creates barriers for women in all other spheres and thus spills over into all other areas.

# STATE

- Radical feminist says that state and government is a small part of society. And society is dominated by patriarchy. Therefore, state is also patriarchal.
- State is neither neutral nor autonomous. Carol Patman says that state is not a welfare agency, it is patriarchal in nature which protects the interest of male.
- This view of feminist is similar to marxist because marxist believe that state is an instrument of exploitation.
- For marxist, capitalism is the basic cause behind exploitation but patriarchy is a root cause of exploitation according to the feminist. Therefore, actions of state can't change the status of woman.

# JUSTICE AND ETHICS OF CARE

- Radical feminist criticized the Rawlsian Notion of justice because family or private life is not part of the discourse of justice.
- Rawls believes that gender discrimination does not exist on the name of veil of ignorance.
- **Carol Gilligan** wrote a book **In a Different Voice**. She argued that there are two sets of moral thinking:
  - (a) **Justice**
  - (b) **Care**
- While almost all men focus on justice, women are fairly evenly spread between justice and care.
- Ethics of care emphasize over human connectedness self-sacrifice and obligation to others. Relationship between the people emotions are the core values of ethics of care.
- Justice believes in rationality rather than emotions. Justice is considered as superior to care but Gilligan says that ethics of care is more important for women rather than justice. Although **Martha Mussbaum** criticized the idea of Carol Gilligan ethics of care undermines autonomy of women.

# ECO-FEMINISM

- The term eco-feminism is first time used by feminist scholar Eaubonne (1974). Other scholars associated with eco-feminism are Susen Griffin, Mary Daly and Vandana Shiva.
- Eco-feminist examine the relation between gender and nature and they said that the nature of women is more closer to nature of planet and universe. Male is associated with the values like autonomy and rationality. However, female is connected with the values of emotion, care and share, which is essential quality of nature. The offshoot of eco-feminism is:-
  - **(a) Cultural feminism**
  - **(b) Spiritual feminism**
- The cultural patriarchy believes in domination, exploitation and subordination. However, the feminist culture is associated with care and share and connectedness. Spiritual feminist also believes in a close connectivity between female and the nature and therefore support women's representation in each and every segment of life-political, social and economic

# LIBERALISM AND FEMINISM

- Infact first wave of feminism is result of liberal ideology which believes in principle of rule of law, constitutionalism, liberty and equality.
- Therefore, political system based on the liberal ideology can't become discriminatory towards the women. Liberal political system does not believe in the discrimination of sex too.
- Women got right to vote and equality before law due to liberal ideology. Welfare state provided preferential treatment for the women therefore, it is helpful for the equality of women.
- But radical feminist says that feminism is different from liberalism because liberals believe in individualism feminist believe in sisterhood.

## **RADICAL FEMINISM**

- Women's liberation
- Patriarchy
- Sisterhood
- The personal is political
- Transform private realm
- Gender equality
- Sexual politics
- Revolutionary change
- Consciousness raising

## **LIBERAL FEMINISM**

- Female emancipation
- Gender inequality
- Individualism
- Conventional politics
- Public/private divide
- Access to public realm
- Equal rights/opportunities
- Reform gradualism
- Political activism

## EGALITARIAN FEMINISM      DIFFERENCE FEMINISM

- Human rights.
- Personhood.
- Gender equality.
- Abolition of difference.
- Pro human.
- Men are subject to reform.
- Engagement with men.
- Rights of women.
- Sisterhood.
- Sexual liberation.
- Celebrating differences.
- Women.
- Men are problem.
- Separate from men.

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# SOCIALISM AND FEMINISM

- Socialist believe that class divided society and capitalism are the logical reason behind subordination of the women.
- Therefore, **class** is more important than **sex** for socialist. Engels in his book **The Origin of the Family Private Property and the State** said that the emergence of private property is the root cause behind the historical defeat of female sex.
- The women are a source of cheap labor for the capitalist economy and they can be fired from the job in case of recession or economic crisis. Radical feminist (**Costa**) disagree with the view point of socialist. Radical feminist says that patriarchy is the basic cause of exploitation of the women. And the economic subordination of the women is the result of patriarchy. **Shulamith Firestone** says that this world is divided only in two classes one is male and other is female.

# POST-FEMINISM

- Initially, feminism is considered as universal and homogenous ideology but later various branches were emerged within the ideology of feminism like:-
- **(a) Lesbian feminism:-** Which believes that men are the enemy and support separation between the men and women
- **(b) Black feminism:-** It is emerged in western world which believes that the black women are facing the problem of racism and patriarchy.
- **(c) Post-colonial feminism:-** Gayatri Spivak said that the women belonging to western world do not consider Asian-African women as equal member of the feminist movement.