



FEMINISM: A CONCEPT ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Feminism is the word which is a belief of social, economical and political equality of both the sexes. However, largely originating the 'west feminism' or 'pseudo feminism' is demonstrated round the globe and is also represented by various organizations and institutions pledged to activity on behalf of women's rights and interests. Throughout the study of past, it was often observed that women were being made confined to the domestic spheres while working outside and the public life was reserved for men. In some parts of the world, women were also debarred from the right to property, education, or to participate in any sort of activities outside the four walls of their house. Even in the late 20th century, women could not vote or cast elections. They were restricted for performing any sort of business works without any male member's supervision may it be father, brother, husband, legal agent or even her own son. However, with the passage of time such orthodox practices have been replaced with the emergence of new modern restrictions. In some parts of the country, girl children still have to struggle to get a proper education, women still have to face many barriers to reach her goals in life, and people still take 'women' as a burden on the family as India still has a male dominated society. The purpose of this paper is to come with detailed analysis of the word 'feminism' and not 'pseudo feminism' in the name of gender equality, with all the theoretical, sociological and psychological perspectives. It includes a literature review, research questions, objectives of the study, and methods of study, way forward.

KEYWORDS : Debarred, Dominate, Feminism, Restrictions.

Introduction:

The term 'feminism' is derived from the Latin word 'femina' which means 'a woman'. Feminism is an ideology which aims to advance the social role of women. The actual meaning of feminism is reaching the goal leaving behind all sorts of gender inequalities as everyone is born equal nonetheless of caste, gender, sex, race. However, there exist some sectors in the society where not every individual is treated socially, economically and politically equal. Inclusiveness is the core part of feminism. Inter sectional feminism may seem complicated but its main objective is to acknowledge the interplay of roles between both the genders and various forms of discrimination. When the woman works outside the home, she still continues the household works, and when men do it, it's usually things that can be postponed. The more obvious things such as cooking, changing diapers, she'll do after work. (The Second Shift, Penguin, 2003 by Arlie Hochschild). Conducting protests for right, fighting with every other people, being an anti-man individual is also not justified in the name of feminism, but what justifies is the depth and authenticity of the issue. In present world, the actual meaning of feminism is being the woman one is without any fears of judgment or joke. It means being successful in life not in a materialistic way, but in the way one wanted it to be. It's about what one wants in life, and fighting for what one does not want. Real Feminism empowers women to fight for their rights in a positive way making them bold and confident by making their lives way better than prior orthodox

Research Questions:

1. Why people have always misunderstood the concept of feminism?
2. How 'pseudo feminism' can bring destructive changes in the society?
3. If women empowerment would not have been promoted by the government, what would be the situation of the women?

Research Methodology:

This is a theoretically doctrinal work based on secondary data collected from books, journals, articles and online sources.

Aims and Objectives of the Study:

1. To prove that the goal of feminism is to summon the systematic inequalities which women face in their day to day life.

2. To point that feminism has never supported sexism against either of the gender.
3. To portray the very famous saying that 'Feminism works for 'equality' and not for 'female superiority'.
4. For giving a message that not every woman is a feminist and not every woman is a pseudo feminist; it depends on every individual for how one interprets it.
5. To portray 'Feminism' is a perspective, and not a research method.

Methods of Study:

Every research begins with a bunch of questions and a goal to make it a good article for reading, makes the article as well as the writer even more efficient. But then what makes research feminist? A classic answer is that it is research done by, for, and about women. Another is that "feminist researchers produce feminist research" (Robbins, 1996, p. 170). Feminism is an analysis grounded in an understanding of fundamental power differentials between women and men. There can be various thoughts and implementations for the word 'Feminism' and women empowerment round the globe but what matters is the need for women empowerment for women.

No matter how modernized the society is, how advanced the technologies are, women are still vulnerable in 21st century to protect their name and fame from the social devils who are not less than a demon with the face of a human. Empowering of India's women could help the vulnerable to get them justice and rights at least to some extent.

Girl child trafficking or woman trafficking has been one of the most popular illegal businesses of the peddlers. There can be innumerable cases for women trafficked, kidnapped, abducted, post marriage raped, raped, assaulted, harassed, bullied and many such; some of them are filed officially while some are just kept within the four walls of the house in the name of not losing reputation in the society. Although the scope of trafficking includes exploitation for labour of any kind¹, any discussion of trafficking of girls and women is inextricably related to the movement of women for sexual exploitation and is therefore conflated with the much older term in use, prostitution.² The issue of trafficking and illegal migration is only partially relevant to the Indian context since India is a country with high levels of intra-state trafficking that is, trafficking within its borders (Government of India Report, 2008). Data on India as a major international supply country are sparse (Joffres et al., 2008).

However, the issue of women migrating to other states, cities and towns within India remains a process clearly fraught with insecurities and dangers for unaccompanied women in particular. Migrating for work by increasing numbers of women is a phenomenon noted by scholars (Agrawal, 2006) with poverty, livelihood deprivations and losses pushing them on the one hand, and rising aspirations and media images on the other, beckoning young women and men to the cities with promises of work and opportunities (Huda, 2006).³

The entire system of trafficking of women works as a to and fro to the countries abroad. Just like selling of goods, vulnerable women are also being sold by the peddlers to countries like Russia, America, China, Saudi Arabia and many such where it would be impossible for the authorities of India to track them and bring them back to India. Some cases get a political touch to gain popularity among the politicians while many cases become unnoticed and uncared for as they not every woman who is a victim has a reputed or strong background. Further, although the problem of trafficking has existed for centuries, the recognition of trafficking as an organized crime, as a violation of human rights and of women's rights in particular, is recent and in consonance with rights-based and feminist perspectives (U. Vindhya and V. Swathi Dev, 2011).

In this debatable topic of trafficking and women empowerment, the prime matter of concern is not only the protection and implementation of women's rights but also their upliftment in the society as not every girl or woman is privileged to get the platforms for learning and reaching her goal.

Discussions and Results of the Study:

When the personal is political, the 'everydayness' of feminism comes to the fore – the small acts and thoughts that we distill from the volumes of feminist theory, and conferences, and public demonstrations, to make feminism an everyday practice. It's the everydayness of these things that make feminism a force of positive social transformation.⁴ Feminism is a great concept to be done research at; however, one can still look into equality of women in day to day activities.

It is often a practice that the mother does all the household works while the father goes to work. This only practice has been so usual and accepted by everyone that even the movies and ads show nothing new than this. But this arrangement of division of labour is found unequal and unfair. Cooking, cleaning, hospitality, and other household works should not be only confined as 'women oriented jobs' but can be divided by both mother and father as no work is small. It should not be leveled as 'women's work' or 'men's work'.

A child is always a boon to his or her parents. A child should always be brought up with utmost care and affection irrespective of its gender. Even in the so called modern society today, girls still don't get proper education and a good health care just because of having the gender as 'female'. Even after the ban of sonography in India, the parents of the unborn child and the doctor performing the act do it illegally as the doctor gets ransomed money from the parents to identify the gender of the fetus. Killing of girl fetus is just like a cake walk in most of the northern parts of the countries; such people don't even hesitate once before taking someone's life. Protection of girl child along with their proper livelihood and education shall be made a priority.

Working women are still not accepted by people at many such orthodox places. However, working women are proved to be a great asset to the companies for their dedication and determination to their jobs. Prevention of Sexual Harassment at workplace is a great initiative by the government to protect the image and prestige of a woman who is equally competent to men. No matter how many opportunities are provided or

how many acts, laws, rights are made for women, they will still be the vulnerable ones in the country, as the country believes in 'male dominance' which everyone has been practicing long way back from the early history time.

Way Forward:

When we make reference to feminism, we allude to a vast storehouse of practices, theories, and issues that are often very divergent. In order to "everyday life," it is almost impossible to reduce the multiplicity of positions to a singular approach. It suffices to think of the opposing characterizations of domestic space and that for women, the everyday is rooted in their bodies, social positions, and different contexts. For example, during the 1960's and 1970's, for most white European or American feminists, the daily life at home was symbolic of subordination, whereas for many African and American women the family and community were the most important sites of anti-racist practices.⁵

Conclusion:

Feminism is never meant as 'women oriented' or 'women biased' but the real meaning of feminism is equality and prestige in the society. Pseudo feminism is not a concept to be discussed at or practiced by any individual as pseudo feminists have always hated men no matter what, but the society should see men and women as equal and not as two opposite individuals. For empowering India's women there has been many rallies, riots, protests and movements done by the members of Women Commissions, NGOs, Voluntary Workers but still the condition of women remains the same as it was before. However, the historical restrictions are replaced by some modernized ones. A conclusion to feminism or women empowerment will be when women will feel safe to go out for any emergency even at the wee hours irrespective of place or being alone, when there won't be any loose comments or judgments for the clothes they are wearing as someone's clothes does not define one's character and most importantly, when they are treated as a normal human being instead of an object for lust. When women won't be seen as the only one to take care of everyone in the house and handle all the household chores and shall be encouraged to be the breadwinner. When the birth of a girl child will be celebrated with the same amount of joy and love as it is given to a boy child and the mere orthodox thought that 'what will a girl child do getting educated' should be brainwashed by all such people who think like this. Assigning gender roles to either of the kids, may it be boy or girl should be stopped, as every individual has their own capacity and talent to perform anything, when people will stop praying to God for giving them at least one male child to carry their generation forward and cursing their luck for not having one. Sexist comments should not be there at all, as it may someone's sentiments, when she is not expected to 'solely dedicate' her entire life to her in-laws, husband and children and not for herself, when girl's parents need not give dowry in the name of gift to their daughters for the sake of getting a suitable groom. Last but not the least, women are also like other human beings who also need respect and love just like the male members of the society gets. Women are not objects or machine to work, reproduce and die, but they can also be the ones who can excel in their life with bright colors if given proper forum, acceptance, love and respect.

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