

Q Outline and Explain the 1st wave of feminism in the west?

## 1) FEMINISM

A feminism is a very of equality among all genders. It includes equality in economy, education, politics etc.

FEMINIST SLOGAN: Women Rights are Human Rights

## 2) WAVES OF FEMINISM

There are four waves of feminism and 1st waves of feminism is also known as suffragist movement.

## 3) FIRST WAVE OF FEMINISM

In west, women things that they have no right to vote that's why they face discriminations on the basis of gender and sex. First wave was centered along right to vote. Conditional vote. First voting for women was conditional (Age limit was 30+, women must own property and



just for middle and higher class women).

- Amendment in Right to vote in 1928 which set age limit for women (21)

TIME PERIOD OF 1<sup>st</sup> WAVE: 1848-1920

TERM COINED: Elizabeth Stanton

SLOGAN: "The Angel in the House"

STRATEGY: Bloomer strategy (in which women wore Turkish style Bloomer to show their 12 demands)

ORIGIN: Seneca Falls Convention 1848

#### 4) BACKGROUND:

- Enlightenment doctrine of human right which especially declares the rights for male and of the citizen (1789)
- In 18<sup>th</sup> century the liberal ideas of democracy, freedom etc caused US and French Revolution. Western challenged monarch and demanded citizenship and rights.
- Mary Wollstonecraft's publication



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A Vindication of the Right of  
Women (1792)

- A Seneca Falls convention in which 200 women and 100 men participated. There are total 12 demands which were demanded in the declaration of the Sentiments.

### 5) MAIN OBJECTIVE:

- 1) Demanded full citizenship like males.
- 2) Suffrage of the right to vote.
- 3) The main concern with education, marriage and employment.
- 4) Opportunities for women.

### 6) KEY FEATURES OF 1<sup>st</sup> WAVE:

- 1) Discriminations: Focus on external restrictions (law and politics).
- 2) Emancipation: Freedom from discrimination.
- 3) Equality: Equality in all aspects.

### MAIN CONTRIBUTORS:

- 1) Mary Wollstonecraft's publication



- "A Vindication of the Rights of women."
- 2) Sojourner Truth: The right of colored women.
  - 3) Harriet Taylor: She wrote a number of articles and books. such as "The Enfranchisement of women (1851)."
  - 4) Susan B. Anthony: "The incident of illegal voting in 1848". She casted vote and arrested by the police.
  - 5) Elizabeth Cady Stanton: Her "Declaration of Sentiments" was a revolutionary call for women rights.
  - 6) Virginia Woolf's: "A Room of one's own" in which she discussed female bisexuality.
  - 7) Simon De Beauvoir: "The Second sex" gave a detailed analysis of women oppression.
  - 8) Caroline Norton: Infant Custody Act 1839 to get child custody.

## 7) THEORITICAL ORIENTATION OF FIRST WAVES.

The female activists like Willstonecraft, Simon De Beauvoir, Susan B Anthony



etc had a positive impact. Their writing make people aware of women rights.

They followed "liberal approach" in 1st wave of feminism specially freedom in voting, education, property and marriage.

## 8) ORGANISATION AND MOVEMENTS IN FIRST WAVE

- 1) The National Women Suffrage Association in US to safeguard women voting rights.
- 2) Young Women's Christian Association
- 3) Women Christian Temperance Union.
- 4) General Federation of Women Club
- 5) The National American Women Suffrage (NAWSA), 1st president was Elizabeth.
- 6) Women Social and Political Union in UK to achieve objectives of feminists
- 7) John Stuart Mill placed a proposal for: right to vote for women but was defeated.
- 8) The Feminist divided into two groups  
1st group to aware people about



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women rights on street level whereas,  
2nd group women wrote articles  
and books.

## a) SUCCESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 1) Right to vote in Zealand in 1893. It was a 1st country to which give voting rights to women.
- 2) In 1918, UK gave voting right
- 3) In 1920, US passed 19th amendment to give voting right to women.
- 4) Spread of women consciousness.  
Empowerment of women education
- 5) Marriage Women property right in Married women property Act of 1870.
- 6) Establishment of 1st women political party named National Women Suffrage
- 7) Widen access to professions.

## b) LIMITATION OF FIRST WAVE:

- 1) Give right to white middle class
- 2) especially focused of right to vote and education



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- 3) Issues of women from different class and caste did not mention.
  - 4) limited influence after getting limited rights.
  - 5) Side lined by other progressive movements.

## n) CONCLUSION:

It was first platform to highlight female issues in practical life. It paved a way for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> wave of feminism. It initiated gender equality on political, educational and economic level.