

QUESTION 1:

WAVES OF FEMINISM AND INFLUENCE IN PAKISTAN

Introduction

According to Maggie Humm and Rebecca Walker the history of feminism can be divided into three waves. The first wave initiated in 19th and early 20th century, Second wave in 1960s and 70s and the third extended from 1990s to the present day. The impact of all these waves is evident simultaneously in Pakistan over the course of years which has contributed to the cause of women.

First Wave of Feminism

This wave started with Seneca Falls Convention 1848. It continued till 1920 after women in New Zealand, UK and US got the right to vote. It emerged out of an environment of urban development, liberal and social politics.

INTRODUCTION:

Originally, it focused on the promotion of equal contract and property rights for women as Olive Banks in her book *Becoming Feminist: The Social Origin of First Wave of Feminism* explain. However by the end of 19th century, activism was focused on gaining political power.

MAIN OBJECTIVE:

1. legal and political rights:

Women demanded full citizenship like men that will improve their legal position and also give them the right to vote.

2. Equal opportunities: They wanted that:

Woman should be granted right to education and employment, they should be treated like a property. Moreover, laws should be amended that would grant infant custody rights to women. All in all not discrimination should be done on the basis of gender.

NOTABLE FEMINISTS:

- 1) Wife of John Adams; (founding father of America), Abigail Adams wrote a letter to husband stating:
"Don't forget Women"
- 2) Mary Wollstonecraft:
In Her book, "A Vindication of Rights of women" 1792 propounded that women and men are equal and have the same level of intellect. Therefore they should be given the right to vote.
- 3) Sojourner Truth:
In "Ain't I a woman" - the writer demanded for rights of coloured people.
- 4) Caroline Norton:
She introduced the demand for right to custody of infant
- 5) Virginia Woolf:
"A Room of one's own" - where in she introduced the woman concept of bisexuality and unique voice.

SLOGAN:

One of the important slogan of this wave is
"Angels in the house"

SUFFRAGIST MOVEMENTS

In US, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony formed the National Woman Suffrage Association to work on women's suffrage in US. Similarly, in UK a Women Suffrage Society was founded ^{in 1869} and a paper English Women Review was published. As a result of these efforts through 19th amendment women got right to vote in

US in 1919 and the woman in Britain in 1928 respectively

ACHIEVEMENTS:

1) **The first Suffrage (Right to vote):** Woman in USA and New Zealand got the right to vote via 19th amendment. In UK, Representation of People act was passed granting rights to women.

2) **Access to Higher Education:**

Opportunity to get higher Education was opened for women along with reform in secondary schooling. Also a no of professions were also opened for woman.

3) **Married woman property Right:**

Woman Property Act 1870 was passed that gave women the right to be the legal owners of the money they earned and also the right to inherit.

WEAKNESS:

The weakness of this wave was that it promulgated the demand of middle class white women ignoring all the other races especially blacks. More ^{Being} focused on right to vote and education after the achievement of those rights this movement was sidelined by other movements and hence was unable to address more important issues.

Second Wave of Feminism (1960 - 1990s)

("The Personal is Political")

Despite getting the right to vote they were not treated equally in economic and social arena. Employment opportunities were limited to teaching and nursing, Also the subject that were taught to women were also limited. So the need of a second wave of feminism was felt and it started.

The Success of the first wave had given feminist a belief that they could achieve their demands through protests and awareness. The movement started in US in 1960 and till 1980s it spread as far as Asia and across whole Europe. In 1968 in an article in New York Times by Marla Lear she wrote:

"till now it was first wave of feminism but now the second wave of feminism has began"

MAIN OBJECTIVES:

Second wave can be divided into two approaches

Second wave

Liberal Approach

demand for social, educational and economic equality and focused on external restriction



Demands:

1. Equality of pay
2. Empowerment of women
3. Right to singlehood
(as women were unsatisfied with their traditional role)

Radical Approach

belief that women donot only suffer discrimination but also oppression.



This approach is therefore more focused on removing internal restriction like tradition, mindset, culture that suppress women



Demands:

1. End of patriarchy
2. Birth control
3. Ending Sexual Abuse
4. Sexual freedom (Right to Abort)
3. Hebosexuality i.e legalizing rights to LGBT community with safety and equal opportunity.

NOTABLE FEMINISTS:

1. Betty Friedman:

In her landmark book "The feminine Mystique" 1963 laid foundation of liberal approach to feminism. She challenged the societal assumption that women enjoy

domestic life and they can't have public life. She believed that women need to have an independent existence apart from the traditional divisions.

2) Simone de Beauvoir

In "The Second Sex" 1949 writer wherein aims to eliminate the sexism and gender oppression by presenting the argument that women are in no way inferior to men.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

1. 1963: Formation of Commission
That was made to understand the issues of the women and to address them.
2. 1964: Discrimination on sex ended
This allowed woman to have more control of their lives and also gave them more opportunities
3. 1965: Birth Control-legal
Any material for birth control was made legal giving liberty to women.
4. 1972: Educational Institution - Sex Discrimination ended
Non traditional professions such as scientific research, engineering and architecture were opened. Women were also recruited in institutions like US Army and US space agency NASA. The women were also give liberty to study in Co-Education.

WEAKNESS:

The movement fail to recognize and acknowledge the multiple sights of female in surgenies of coloured women, silencing. We see a disregard for the experience and contribution of coloured woman, working class and lower class. Also the feminist got divided in many ways based upon the approaches.

3rd Wave of Feminism

The Third Wave of Feminism has its roots in the disappointment and conflicts which brought Second wave to halt. Therefore, the third wave is more focused on individual identity instead of laws and political process. as S Gills in his book *Third wave of Feminism: A critical Exploration* states. It has said to have arisen of the realization that women are of many colours, ethnicities, nationalities and religio-cultural backgrounds.

INTRODUCTION:

With the failure of the Second wave to highlight the issues of women as a whole led to development of a Post modern approach which searches for multiple explanations and try to address all the aspects including the issues faced by the woman of colour and their voice being marginalized previously under generalization. This approach celebrate the diversity of women and dealt with issues that limit and oppress women participation in public social, economic and political life.

MAIN OBJECTIVE:

1. Broader inclusion of recognition of colour, sexual diversity, age in both men and women
2. Ending of discrimination via writing, film making etc.
3. Activism - (gained more momentum via volunteers)
4. End on one way portrayal

NOTABLE FEMINISTS

1. Rebecca Walker:

in her book "To Be Real" claim that the media portray one side horrific image of women that need to be change. She also explores the topics of exploitation, Reproductive freedom and Sexual freedom.

2. Judith Butler:

She highlights the paradigmatic shift in her book *Gender Trouble and Bodies that matter* - mentions new

emergent movement such as Queer and trans gender politics.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 1) Diversification of Feminism: Different types of feminism emerged i.e black feminism and post colonial feminism. It now also address the plight of non white women along with white.
- 2) Weakening of feminist Politics: Unity approach of woman being a single category was rejected. No women sisterhood but woman solidarity.

WEAKNESS:

It is lacking on a political ground/will to bring about a radical change. While other believe by equating women sexuality with power this wave has done more damage than good.

INFLUENCE IN PAKISTAN

1. Colonial legacy:

The early feminist movement can be traced back to the days of struggle for independence. where we see figure like that of Fatima Jinnah working along side her brother for the creation of Pakistan. Along with that for the enhanced participation of women in political sphere Muslim Girls Student Federation 1941 was founded by lady Abdul Qadir, and fatima Begum.

2. Educational Institute:

For the women to enjoy equal educational opportunity. in 1899 Woman training education school opened in Calcutta. Today we see many institutes i.e schools, colleges and universities providing quality education with any discrimination based upon gender.

3. Legal Reforms:

Several legal reforms are done such as provision of 1948; Muslim personal law granted women to inherit all forms of property. Similarly, in 1956 women got right to vote and also the right to claim reserve seats. Amendment

of Hudood ordinance, the criminal amendment act 2004 aimed at providing better protection to women against crimes like acid attacks are some of the examples.

4. Education and Employment:

Efforts are made to increase women participation in public sphere they are given reserved quota seats in almost all the government jobs ranging from teaching to Civil Services. Initiatives like Benazir Income Support Program also provide economic resources to women to empower them.

5. Social Awareness and Activism

Women rights organizations have actively played their role such as Aurat Foundation that has been working to create awareness among the masses and advocate gender equality.