

## Essay:

Feminism has given more Question than answers.

## Essay outline

### (1) Introduction

Thesis Statement: Feminism is thought to answer a lot of questions but also leaving some. However, in a broader picture, it ~~answers~~ more questions than it raises ones.

(2) Feminism: The background of the movement

(3) Feminism has answered more questions (Thesis)

(a) Need of feminism: To create a dialogue ~~between~~ ~~equally~~ the genders

(b) A pledge to eradicate oppression

(c) Gender equality: A popular slogan

(d) "Let her shine": Women's participation in every field

(e) Bringing women, not to sides, but at the centre

(4) Where feminism creates questions rather than answering them (Anti-thesis)

(a) Neglecting men's issue: "Ain't I a man?"

(b) Ending oppression with violence and hatred?

(c) Feminism and gender-equality is anti-religion and anti-cultural

(d) Women's participation is still struggling despite presence of feminism

(c) The legal debate has ended; no need for feminism anymore

(5) Why feminism ~~is~~ <sup>tackles</sup> ~~answers~~ more questions and creates more answers (synthesis)

(a) Feminism also strives for men's rights

(b) Misrepresentation: Biggest issue of feminism

(c) Feminism augments religion and glorifies culture

(d) Gender equality: A long way to go

(e) Legal equality does not change mindset: Social equality can!

(6) Conclusion

## Essay

It was a pleasant and warm day of July in New-York. The year was 1848. A bunch of women collected at a place together and came up to the world with "declaration of sentiments" who would have known that those women were going to carry-out a revolution only imagined for Mary and Engels. However, sometimes, reality is more surprising than imagination; and the next two centuries provided enough proof of it. Feminists, born in the year 1848 conquered the world in those centuries by answering all the questions left unanswered since the beginning of history. Yet, feminism is thought to answer a lot of question but still leaving some. However, in a broader picture, it actually answers more questions than it raises. It creates a dialogue between both the genders by a commitment to end oppression against women. It takes equality, equity, and parity in a world of exploitation and ensures that women must be involved in all the global platforms. Most importantly, it mainstreams women; it brings them to the centre rather than being present humbly on sides. However, it is also

Criticized for not answering enough and <sup>questioned</sup> actually, raising a lot of them. The most expected question is of men's right. of everyone detaches themselves, the system <sup>is</sup> going to junction. Another issue that it raises questions on religion and culture which is a major issues in third-world countries. Along with that, feminism is held accountable for hate between genders: its own failure, and with a debate arguing that women are legally equal to men. However, the nations can be refuted by arguing that feminism also counts men's issues. Moreover, it must be noted that feminism does not combat orthodoxy; it augments, redines, and corrects them. Although being misrepresented to some extent, feminism looks ahead to achieve the gender equality by creating gender parity and of course, social equality. That it long for.

Feminism, rather than being a concrete theory, is actually a chronological sequence of events occurring throughout the two centuries of the past. It came in waves, one following the other and the ~~precedent~~ <sup>later</sup> refining the former. It all started in the late

mid of 19<sup>th</sup> century when women started fighting for the rights to vote. On the July 1848, 300 men and women collected in Seneca falls, New York, and came up with a "The Declaration of Sentiments" - a document to put forth their demands for voting rights. It gave birth to what we now know as feminism. The subsequent waves, - the second and third (and vaguely defined fourth wave too) followed the same wave. In this way, time has given birth and raised the "feminism" child.

~~Although~~ Feminism came to solve many problems, chief one of which is to create the dialogue between both the genders. Prior to that, women were considered property of men and were a humble subordinate to them. Feminism, for the first time, talked about "talking" on the same table, of men and women; portraying them as partners and not in a master-slave relation. Mary Wollstonecraft defines it beautifully by saying: "By exercising her mind, women becomes a friend of her husband and not his humble dependant". In this way, an effective dialogue was initiated between men and women.

Feminism also talks about ending the oppression against women. In the pre-feminism era, women were a grade-2 citizen and were often physically, mentally, economically, and socially oppressed by men. Feminism took the notice of the miserable condition of them and made it a main point of its discourses. Jane Flax argues in his publication "Women do Theory" that feminism has 3 basic goals: To understand power differentials between sexes, to understand evolution of oppression, and finally, to eradicate oppression. In this way, feminism claims to end oppression on women as its main goal.

Another important question that feminism tackles and answers is the question of equality of both the genders. Feminism argues that women should be considered equal to men on the basis of being an individual. This is also the main discourse of liberal, marxist, and socialist feminism. Betty Friedan, a popular feminist of 1960's and daughter of Sigmund Freud, argues that feminism is all about striving for women's rights not only political, but also economic and social. Hence, one of the main pillars of feminism is the notion of equality.

The theory of feminism also takes into account the very important phenomenon of women's participation. The question of women's participation has been raised by masses since long time. Feminism answers this question by making the presence of women mandatory in all the fields of knowledge. Shulamith Firestone, a popular radical feminist, spits out the fact as: "There are very few jobs that actually require a penis or vagina, all other jobs should be open to every one." By directly arguing on the women's participation, feminism defines a pathway for women to follow.

Feminism strives not to bring women to the sides of the circle of power but actually at the centre of it. Despite being granted legal rights back in 1920, feminists are still struggling because they want the main position, not a side one. Feminism raises this issue to mainstream women in global, local, and domestic decision-making circles. Jane Flax terms it beautifully by saying: "I would have girls regard themselves, not as an adjective, but as nouns." In this way, feminism promises to solve the issue by giving women a mainstream position.

However, feminism is argued to have created more questions than answers, chief one of them being men's representation, rights, and other issues. The question was natural to rise, after the propagation of women's rights. After the fierce rise of radical feminism, men also came out in response to the wave. In ~~the~~ late 1970's and early 1980's, men's movements were on a rise to counter ~~of~~ women's movements, predominately initiated by the radical feminists of the time. This uprise of men's rights movements raised a big question for women rights activists.

The feminism of that era was also characterized by the use of hate directed against the men, which raised further questions on the movement. In order to bring the social equality, women used violent and "un-womanly" techniques as their tools of feminism. This involved strong protests against beauty pageants, where they crowned a sheep as "Miss America" and asked ladies to throw their lipsticks, high-heels and other "womanly" stuff. This tactic was considered ~~as~~ violent and hate-filled that raised the questions on feminism.



Jumping on to the present notion of feminism, critics of the movement argue that it challenges religion and culture. Feminism, especially its struggles for the equality is usually considered non-conforming to various religions and culture. Feminism violates the norms of certain societies by presenting an idea of revolution to already-established societies. Mainstream religions like Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam are followed by a majority of population of world - do not go along with feminism's proposal of equality of genders. This raises a question on feminism if it is going to eradicate the established systems of the world.

The worst question that feminism raises is upon its own success by failing to achieve the goals settled 200 years ago. Feminism has centuries-long history and despite this, women are still struggling for their rights. The struggle makes the fact clearer that feminism is not very much of a successful idea. The premise that feminism is a successful movement makes it mandatory that it must have achieved all the goals, which implies the conclusion of the movements; yet, the conclusion of movement is not to be seen anytime soon, claiming its

failure by logic. In this way feminism nullifies its own hypothesis <sup>1300</sup> by failing in its aims.

By considering the described logic, an end to feminism is argued. As the movement has created enough of the space, equality, participation, and opportunities for women, there remains no need for feminism. ~~As the~~ This is the main pillar of the theories, generated in 2000's and 2010's. The post-feminism theory argues that all the equality has been achieved and we are living in an era where women are granted all the legal <sup>due</sup> rights. This also vanishes the need of feminism, posing a threat to its existence.

No matter the questions, feminism has always answered <sup>400</sup> the major questions raised on it, ~~by~~ the biggest one being the dilemma of men's rights. Feminism ~~at~~ makes it clear to everyone by its very definition that it strives for equality of the genders. This "equality" means that it also talks about men's rights. This is evident from a branch of the movement, termed as Men's feminism, debating and striving for men's rights. This answers

the questions raised by opponents of feminism very well.

Another answer that feminism provides is that it is not inherently violent or hate-filled but instead, being presented ~~as~~ as violent. Feminists argue that feminism has been 'misrepresented' by various means. Particularly, radical feminism of the second-wave is what made the movement sound violent to ordinary man. However, the predominantly "post-modernist" third-wave of feminism came as a correction of "violent" second-wave feminism in the early 1990's. This negates the idea that feminism is violent by asserting its misrepresentation.

When talked in terms of <sup>(156)</sup> culture-preservation and religious-orientation, feminism actually augments both of them. Feminism talks about the equality of both the sexes, avoiding oppression and making sure that women are included in all circles of life. Looking at the religions, inherently, all <sup>(160)</sup> of them served as the same purpose. Majority of the mainstream religions are against oppression and support women's equality and participation, particularly the "Rashidun" era of Islam.

golden era is considered a ~~para~~ for pro-equality era for women. In this way, feminism actually aligns with the basic teachings of the religions and cultures.

In addition to providing women ~~with~~ rights, feminism is a phenomenon that keeps going on. It is not an end but a ~~mean~~ ~~end~~ it is a phenomenon with dynamic nature that gets goals rather than being a goal. Keeping in view the era-long history of patriarchy, the goal <sup>(1700)</sup> will obviously going to take some time. 200 years of feminism, although can establish itself well, yet the monster to fight is probably a million-years of patriarchy. Hence, feminism is going to take its due time for achieving its goals by staying dynamic

<sup>750</sup> Talking <sup>about</sup> the equality, feminism goes on <sup>with</sup> the principle of "mindsets can only be changed by revolution". The legal rights' battle was won by women in early 1900s. What is now being fought for is social equality. Feminism propagates social equality by the phenomenon of, conscious-raising, dialogues, discourses, and social struggle.

<sup>1800</sup>  
This idea has been popularized by 3rd-wave feminism, when girls were mainstreamed in the hip-hop music industry and is continued even today by women-activism all around the globe. In this way, feminism strives for a social change to help the ladies enjoy their right, unapologetically.

<sup>1850</sup>  
Winding up the discourse, it can be reiterated that feminism, although raises some questions in the minds, is capable of answering those questions. If it raises the issues of men's rights, it also strives for them; if it raises the issue of ~~to~~ countering the cultures, it ~~claims~~ to answer the claims by opening the eyes <sup>(1900)</sup> to the religious-Scriptures. If it is questioned about its own validity, it manifests itself by ~~defining~~ the virtue of its definition. All-along, it is proved to be a panacea for women who are oppressed, excluded, or marginalised. In this way, feminism is, and will be, for a not a hundred but a million years, the tool for the second sex to express her colors, beauty, and most importantly, its mind.

(1970)