

Essay

Feminism has given more questions than answers

Outline

① Introduction

Thesis statement:

Feminism has solved many questions related to women. Although it has worked out political, economic and social issues of women, it has also raised a few questions. It is necessary to solve above-mentioned questions to make feminism comprehensive.

② Feminism and its history

③ Feminism has given more answers than questions (Thesis)

(i) It challenges male-dominated power structure

(ii) It solves the question of political participation of women

(iii) It has answered to economic woes of women

(iv) It provides women access to education, health facilities, etc

(v) It gives power to answer domestic and workplace violence

④ However, feminism has raised more questions than solutions. (Antithesis)

(i) It raises question on patriarchy but does not ask for matriarchy

(ii) It asks for women political participation but in male-dominated environment

(iii) It calls for economic inclusion of women but it does not answer sharing of family burden

(iv) It does not lay down the road map for education access to health facilities to women

(v) It could not cater the domestic violence to workplace harassment issues

⑤ Feminism has answered to fundamental questions without ambiguity. (Synthesis)

(i) It calls for equality of men and women

(ii) Women political participation would confront male-powered system

(iii) It answers the over-burden women to equally-sharing responsibilities

(iv) Feminism asks for education & health issues as basic rights thereby no need of road-map

(v) It gives power to speak against violence and harassment

⑥ conclusion

Women are chanting slogans against workplace harassment in Europe, against domestic violence in South Asia and against reproductive rights in the USA. They are demanding equal rights on all accounts. Feminist movements have altered the social and political landscape of the world. They have answered the pertinent questions women were asking for years. It solves the question of male-dominated power structure, and calls for economic and political participation of women. However, it has raised questions about the family structure, responsibility sharing and religious ideologies. Nevertheless, it asks for equally-sharing responsibilities, and empowering women through political and social participation. Feminism has resolved imperative questions of women who are facing them for centuries.

Feminism has become a beacon for women rights. It confronts the fundamental questions related to women. As of history, feminism is not an old movement. It was started in the west back in late 19th and 20th century where political upheavals like revolutions in France and the USA had changed the political and social structure. There are three different waves of feminism in the world. First wave of feminism called for political and property rights. Second wave chanted slogan for reproductive rights of women. Meanwhile, the last one was taking into account women, queer and other marginalized communities. In Pakistan, women rights forums have been active for years. However, in the last few years, women rights marches like 'Aurat March' are being held across major cities of the country.

Feminism has a latest history; however, it has solved many questions that were being

asked by women. It challenges male-dominated power structure.

Feminism questions the imbalance structure of the society where male leads in every field and discriminates woman merely on the basis of gender and sex. Feminism highlights the issues of women arise due to disadvantageous privileges to men.

For instance, a male takes all decisions of his family without involving woman.

Patriarchy, - male-dominated structure - does not allow women to freely take decisions related to their career, personal lives, and marriage. According

to a report of Global Gender Gap Index, 2022, women are suppressed by patriarchal structures. It takes almost 132 years to fill the gap between both genders. Therefore, feminism answers to these questions,

Furthermore, male-dominated power structure resonates in political realm too. Feminism puts questions on the exclusion nature of politics where women are under-represented.

It calls for political participation of women so that pertinent legislative measures can be taken. Feminism explains that patriarchy is not only a social issue but it has tentacles in politics too. Therefore, it is necessary to have women in politics for pro-women legislation. There are only 17% women are head of the state in the world.

(Source: World Economic Forum, 2020).

The USA has never seen a woman in presidential office except Kamali Harris for a few hours. Feminism pushes for voting rights of women, level-playing field in representation of elections, and for high positions in a state. It calls for removal of gender-based barriers for equal participation of women. Summing up this, feminism answers the question political participation of women.

Political inclusion is not possible with economic involvement of women in the society. Feminism tackles the economic problems of

women more than any thing else.

It particularly emphasizes on the economic incorporation of females.

Feminism says that economic inclusion and independence of women would break the shackles of patriarchy. Socialist feminism specifically stresses on this issue. There are numerous case studies of the countries where this notion stands true. For

example, in Rwanda where a civil war between two ethnic groups killed more than eight lac people in a few days.

This necessitated the participation of women in industries and factories to run the economy. Now Rwanda ranks at 7th out of 153 countries, according to Global Gender Gap Index, 2022.

Hence, feminism also answers to the economic questions of women in the society.

With political and economic inclusion of women in a society, feminism lays down the ground for social participation of

females. Feminist movements call for equal educational and health rights for women. It was observed that early marriages of girls infringe their fundamental rights. According to a report of Oxfam, 'early marriages restrict the cognitive development as well as educational rights.' At least 12 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18. (Source: OHCHR)

Feminism confronts such issues and emphasizes on women education and health. Maternal Mortality rate in Pakistan is 186 deaths out of 1 lac. Feminism raises the slogan of health access to women. Similarly, literacy rate of women is low as compared to their counter-parts. Hence, it can be summed here that feminism provides grounds for equal access of women to health and education.

Lastly, feminism provides the ample reasons for education and health access for women through which they can break the shackle of domestic

Violence and workplace harassment.

Feminist movements have empowered women to raise against abusive societal structure. It has emboldened girls to question the domestic violence in the form of Honor killing, physical and sexual violence. It also empowers women to say no to workplace harassment. For example, #MeToo movement in Europe challenged the workplace abusive environment.

Feminism allows females who were working in different field to raise voice against sexual violence. Therefore, it can be summed up that feminism has provided more answers than questions.

However, there is another point of view which says that feminism has raised more questions than answers. According to this school of thought, feminism has imbalanced the power structure in a society. It has challenged patriarchal societal framework; however,

it does not call for matriarchy.

According to the Structural Functionalist, a Society should have proper societal structure where responsibilities and obligations must be outlined. Feminism challenges that structure thereby the societal structure overall. Hence, it raises more questions than answers as what would be the structure of the society.

Moreover, feminism asks for political participation of women; but, it did not call for overthrow of male-dominated environment. How would women be able to entrench in such patriarchal structure of politics? feminism enlists the benefits of political inclusion of women. However, the question of male-influential politics is still there. Feminism also raises questions about current imbalance in politics. For example, the most of laws and legislation are pro-male in the world. For instance, two-finger test of a rape victim was present until

a women judge, Hon' Justice Ayesha Malik, made it unconstitutional and null and void. But the question is how women would be able to reach at that level where pro-women laws can be adopted. Feminism does not answer this question. Hence, it raises more questions while discussing political participation of women.

In addition, feminism loses ground on the question of political inclusion as well as economic participation of women. Although feminism profoundly stresses on the economic empowerment of women, yet it does not answer the question of burden sharing of responsibilities in a family. For example, in traditional societies, a male is responsible for economic affairs while a female takes household work as a duty. After the economic participation of women as per feminist agenda, who will take the responsibility

of family, children, and household. Traditionally, it was the responsibility of women. However, feminist movements strongly condemn the domestication of women. They explain that it restricts women in all fields. Domestic duties hamper the growth of women. Feminism does not answer the most pertinent question of family - who will take the economic and social responsibility? So, it can be concluded that feminism raises more questions than answers.

With economic inclusion in the society, feminism calls for social uplift of women. However, it does not provide road map for women's educational and health empowerment. Feminism loudly calls for equal access to education for all particularly for women. However, how a girl would be allowed to continue her education in a patriarchal, mindset society.

For example, Gender Global Gap Index report, 2022 ranks Pakistan at 93 in political participation and 154 in Health facilities out of 156. (Source: WEF, 2022). There is clearly evident that political participation would not ensure social inclusion of women. Feminism has raised question over issues of education access to women; but, there is no clear road map on it. So, it can be summed up that feminism has raised more questions over the inclusion of women in a society.

In the end, feminism raised imperative challenges for women cause; however, it did not solve the questions of domestic violence and workplace harassment. Feminist movements are being held for decades in Europe and the USA. However, workplace harassment in those countries is more than anywhere in the world. Although feminism in Europe has taken women out of home; but, it

does not become pancea pancea
for fundamental issues of women.

Hard-earned reproductive rights after
the second wave of feminism in
1960s have been reversed in the
USA in 2022. The notorious case

abortion rights landed in the supreme
court of the USA which overturned the
previous judgement in favour of abortion.

Feminism has become mouth-piece
of elite-class issues in the west.

It does not solve the domestic
violence and workplace harassment.

Still every 4th women out of 10
face sexual harassment in their
life time. Feminism asks women
to speak for their body rights.

Unfortunately, the most of the harassment
cases ^{involve} are of family or close friends.

So, how should women react to
these issues? Should they build
women-led country or society as
per radical feminist suggests?

What would be the structure of
family if the marital rape cases
do not stop? These questions

would change the equation of which feminism did not address so far. Therefore, feminism has raised more questions about the dealing of domestic violence and workplace harassment than answers.

Nevertheless, feminism has solved the important questions related to women. Every feminist wave called for one or another issue of women. For example first wave of feminism called for political rights. Second women rights movement attained reproductive rights. Feminism actually calls for equality of men and women. "Women share the sky as much as men." (Source: Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of Rights of women). Feminism through different raised the voice of women. The pertinent question is whether a woman is independent in her decision or not. Feminism has called for independence of women rather solving the debate

of matriarchy or patriarchy. Hence, feminism has solved the question of power structure by independ freeing women.

Moreover, equality for men and women would only be prompted with equal political participation. Therefore, feminism speaks for women as representatives, heads of states, etc. Political inclusion of women would enable pro-women laws and legislation. For example, during the second tenure of Benazir Bhutto (date) in 1993-1996, Pakistan joined UN convention on the Elimination of all kinds of Discrimination Against Women. Similarly, Jacinda Arden, former prime minister of New Zealand passed series of pro-women legislation. Therefore, it can be said that feminism has rightly pointed out the question of political participation of women.

Feminism while giving equal political inclusion of women

abates the burden of women. They are over-burdened due to their reproductive responsibilities along with economic participation in the workforce. Feminism calls for not only maternity leaves but also paternity leaves. In Sindh, paternity leave bill, 2021 has been passed. It is due to the feminist movements in Pakistan which raises slogan to allay women in social responsibility. Therefore, it can be summed up that feminism has abated the burden of women through sharing responsibilities.

By sharing burden of family, children, and household, feminism asks for equal access of women to education and health facilities. There is no need of road-map on it. Every society has its own laws. However, the commonality should be of equal access of education and health facilities by women. According to a Oxfam report, women literacy rate

was 25% in 1950. However, it has been increased to 48% on average.

It is the success of feminist movements.

Feminism is for women rights in different fields by changing the societal equation. Women's question of inaccessibility to education and equal access to health facilities was solved by feminist movements.

Therefore, it can be concluded from discussion that feminism has actually answered the questions of women's issues.

Last but not the least,

feminism by educationally empowering women emboldens the case against domestic violence and workplace harassment. Various feminist movements overall the world have changed tremendous success over the issues of sexual violence. For instance, in

Pakistan, various laws were passed due to the immense pressure from feminist movements. It includes Women Protection Bills 2006, Workplace Harassment Law, 2010, Anti-rape, Anti-Domestic Violence

bills, etc. Similarly, various prominent cases were of harassment by celebrities in the USA and Europe were tested and trialed first in the history. Feminism provided power to speak against these cases of violence. Therefore, it can be said that feminism has answered to the questions of domestic violence and workplace harassment.

In a nutshell, feminism has answered more questions ~~than~~ ~~and~~ than otherwise. It gives platform to women to speak against imbalance power structure in politics, economy, education, society, etc. It emboldens the cause of women rights. However, another school of thought argues that feminism has put forward more questions than addressing the real issues. It says that feminism is silent over family structure, sharing-responsibility and working in male-dominated environment. Nevertheless, feminism speaks for equality between men and women in ~~eg~~ every field.

It has answered to questions of women related to political and economic participation, education access and health attainment. Undoubtedly, feminism is the raising the voice of women in every domain to make the world more peaceful and equal.

For comments