

# Is feminism a clearly understood concept in our society?

## Outline

### 1- Introduction

### 2- Thesis Statement

Misunderstandings leads to misconceptions and misconceptions are easily exploited. Feminism can never flourish if it is misunderstood in our society leaving the females, who are the majority of our population living as a minority.

### 3- How is feminism a misunderstood concept in our society

- a) Defined by everybody differently
- b) Promotion of vested interests by certain groups
- c) Linking of feminism with immorality
- d) Considering feminism as a tool to draw men as monsters

### 4- It is a clearly understood concept

- a) Widespread awareness about the concept
- b) Established institutions dedicated for the women
- c) Natural tendency to misunderstand a concept if used as a tool to exploit
- d) Increased male participation in its support

### 5- Despite advances its is clearly misunderstood

- a) Misunderstanding leads to misconceptions
- b) Whatever misunderstood can be easily used as a tool to exploit
- c) Lack of support from the masses
- d) Vulnerable conditions of women

## Conclusion

## **Is feminism a clearly understood concept in our society?**

### **Introduction**

“Masses of the people think that feminism is always the only about women seeking to be equal to men. Their misunderstanding of feminist politics reflects the reality that most folks learn about feminism from patriarchal mass media.”- bell hooks

Feminism, a multifaceted concept which has evolved through time, however still widely misunderstood. Feminism is a concept that aims to define and establish the political, economic and social equality for women. Everybody has adopted their own understanding of the concept through which they define it differently. It is clearly misunderstood in our society as it is being promoted in a negative light creating a misconception about the concept which further darkens the conditions of those already living in the dark. The idea of feminism is usually connected with the spreading of immorality and considered as a way to attack men in the society. Though it may be misunderstood, more people are aware of it than before progressing for the promotion of the well-being of women with increased male support. Misunderstanding creates misconceptions and in such a state, the idea can never progress in our society.

Feminism is clearly misunderstood in our society as it is defined differently by everybody. Everybody have adopted their own idea about this concept worldwide. Our society has adopted a slight conservative approach to it. We view it negatively and consider it as a western propaganda that is promulgating western ideologies into our culture. Despite the masses adopting the conservative definition to this concept, a number of Pakistanis usually belonging to the well-off classes have also adopted a very liberal approach to it. They have gone all out and made it gender inclusive believing that Feminism isn't just about women but all the genders of the LGBTQ community. But theres also the moderate ones who believe in the just opportunities of women in all spheres of life.

Since the Aurat March protests, feminism has gained momentum in Pakistan but for all the wrong reasons. The Aurat March is a yearly protest that aims to spread awareness about the vulnerable conditions of the women in Pakistan. However, the mass media usually focuses on banners that shows only one side of the protests which is usually in favour of the liberal Pakistanis who define feminism as gender inclusive leaving the important issues related to women unhighlighted. The banners held by these individuals promote obnoxious statements which is certainly not acceptable in a society that's majorly conservative who further consider the concept of feminism intolerable ignoring the dire concerns of the women living in Pakistan.

As feminism is viewed as a liberal idea promoting the western values, it is usually promoted by the liberal class who are open in their views about LGBTQ, sexual orientations, nudity, and many such concepts that are a taboo in a traditional society like ours. Since the mass media usually highlights those liberal representatives who exploit feminism for their vested interests, feminism is projected as a means to promote immorality and vulgarity.

Feminism is considered as a weapon against men. This attitude is enough to destroy the whole essence of promoting female progress. It is logical that both the genders cannot progress without one another. But due to this misconception of feminism being used against the males and to exert dominance over them have weakened the concept of feminism in Pakistan.

### **It is a clearly understood concept**

Despite it being clearly misunderstood, its still being spread among the masses. People are aware now more than ever about what feminism actually is and why its important to realize the rights of women to live in a developed progressive society.

Many institutions throughout the provinces of Pakistan have been established that aims to promote the well-being of the women. Policies have been made to help them prosper in various fields. Laws have been passed for their protection.

It's a natural tendency to misunderstand a concept if its used as a tool to exploit the actual needs of the masses. The masses no matter conservative, moderate or liberal understand the needs and problems of the women. However due to its representation in the media, it is exploited and being ignored.

Increased male participation can be observed in whatever way possible to promote equal female rights. Men can be seen involved in the protests, institutions working for women, passing the bills and advocating the rights of women.

### **Despite advances its is clearly misunderstood**

Despite a little progress in it being understood in our society, its still majorly misunderstood. This clear misunderstanding leads to misconceptions about the whole idea of feminism. The misconception created is hatred for the idea which can be seen by how controversial the whole concept has become. Even the talk of it has started to bother people because of how negatively it has been promoted.

Since it is misunderstood, it would be easily misused. If it wouldn't be used the way it should be. People would come and misuse it for their interests. Feminism was a concept that aimed to promote the social, economic and political rights of females. But it was misunderstood and today in our society its usually used to promote every idea but the idea that it originally hoped to promote.

Its evident that its still not understood how it should have been as the majority of our population still don't support feminism. They still consider it as a western ideology and don't bother with the problems that the women are actually facing .

Women are still in miserable conditions. The literacy rate is low, domestic violence and rape cases are high, female representation in politics is low, child and forced marriages are high. The attitude of "I don't do it hence it doesn't happen" should be diminished because just because someone isn't doing it, doesn't mean it isn't happening anywhere else. Genuine concerns should be addressed and acknowledged. These prevailing conditions are a living proof that feminism is still clearly misunderstood in Pakistan.

## **Conclusion**

Although widely misunderstood, feminism has still made progress in our society as many people are slowly being aware of it. Its high time that these misconceptions of feminism are debunked and it should be understood that feminism isn't about wanting to stand taller than men but its about wanting to stand side by side. One is incomplete without the prosperity of other. Therefore, for a progressive and healthy society, females must be provided all the equal opportunities in all spectrums of life starting from families within their houses to the outside world.

(Note: due to lack of time, I had to upload it in soft form because I wanted to attempt this mock and evaluate my writing)