

Date 11/11/2023 -

Q:- What is feminism? In what ways Radical feminism is different from Socialist feminism?

INTRODUCTION:

The term feminism was first used ~~to~~ ^{as} "medical" ^{term} for the feminization of the male body, or to describe women with masculine traits. It wasn't until the late 19th and early 20th century that "feminism" became a political movement to ~~to~~ free women off the oppression. Feminism has evolved throughout the course of its history from first-wave to the third-wave feminism, with every era coming up with a different agenda to put an end ~~to~~ to the subjugation of women. There are many types of feminism, therefore, central to our discussion being "~~Liberal~~" "Radical feminism" and "Socialist feminism".

DEFINING FEMINISM:

The word feminism is ~~to~~ ~~not~~ not easy to define in a single definition. However, it is a political stance of ~~who~~ someone who is committed to changing the social, political, economical and personal position of women and who believes in ending subjugation of all women because of their sex and believe that women deserve equality at least in the eyes of the law. Anyone who believes in putting an end to female subjugation is a "feminist". Therefore, there are multiplicity of positions that can be held under the umbrella of

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This title - Feminism is a heterogeneous term with many diverse positions, although all are subjected to challenging the social & material suffrage that women go through. Despite the fact that feminism can be used to reflect personal political positions, there are dominant strands that make up modern feminist thought as we encounter today.

TYPES OF FEMINISM:-

↳ LIBERAL FEMINISM:-

- Draws on diversity of Liberal thought.
- Affirms that the social status of women can be elevated by the existing democratic process.
- Main argument:- if men and women are educated equally, they will get equal access to society.

↳ SOCIALIST FEMINISM:-

- Links the oppression of women to the rising industrial capitalism.
- Believe that the existing difference between men and women is due to class and race difference as well as gender difference.

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↳ RADICAL FEMINISM:-

- Usually associated in the popular-consciousness with separatism and man-hating.
- Emerged largely from New Left.

↳ POSTMODERN FEMINISM:-

- A postmodern approach is difficult to define. However, it is a position formulated due to dissatisfaction w/ existing feminist politics.
- Postmodern feminists mostly reject the ideas of all traditional beliefs of feminists and argue that there can be no single formula to achieve women's liberation.

↳ PSYCHOANALYTICAL FEMINISM:-

- This type of feminism maintains that the fundamental ~~way~~ explanation of women's way of acting is deep rooted in their psyche.
- ~~Propose~~ Propose that in order to correct the bias, a non-patriarchal society must be established where the gender identities would be different from each but there should be linguistic reforms that allow both genders to evolve at an equal pace.

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DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "RADICAL FEMINISM" AND "SOCIALIST FEMINISM"

Although fighting against ~~the~~ ^{a common cause} oppression of women, both Radical Feminism and Socialist Feminism outline different causes of oppression and subjugation of women and have different theories and solutions to this oppression. Let us find the major difference between both political stances.

RADICAL FEMINISM

↳ DEFINITION:-

Radical Feminism is perspective within Feminism that calls out for the elimination of male supremacy in all spheres of life; whether economical or political or personal. It recognizes that women's experiences are also affected by other social divisions such as race, class or sexual orientation.

↳ HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:-

Radical Feminism emerged during the second-wave of feminism in late 1960s and early 1970s. Beginning of second-wave feminism was followed by protests associated with Miss America Beauty Pageant of 1968 and 1969, where ~~feminists~~ radical feminists

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used guerilla theater to shed light on women's oppression.

Feminist groups like The Redstockings, New York

Radical Feminists organised the protests against the beauty pageant to highlight how women were paraded like cattle. Radical Second-wave feminists also grew out of ~~part~~ leftist movements like Anti-Vietnam War

Movement, Lesbian and Gay Movement, Black Power Movement etc; when women realized that they were again exposed to sexism and formed a separate group for themselves to call out their issues. Key to

this branch was that only women can empower each other, hence their expression

"sisterhood is powerful", "personal is political" and so on.

~~"SISTERHOOD IS POWERFUL"~~

FEATURES OF RADICAL FEMINISM:-

↳ CONSCIOUSNESS - RAISING:

One of the key activities of Second-Wave feminism was consciousness-raising and it announced the emergence of an altogether new political front. The idea of consciousness raising was taken from peasants during the Chinese revolution and it was "speaking pains to recall pains". The idea was to form a group where women would gather and share their experiences with other women, in the hope that they might realise that ^{each} their problems were not so different after all and that they all needed to be oppressed by embarking upon a common mission.

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↳ THE PERSONAL IS POLITICAL:-

Due to the realisation that all the experiences of women are linked and are widely shared by other women, radical feminists proclaimed that "personal is political". They insisted that men's control over both women's sexual & reproductive lives and women's self-identity, self-esteem, self-respect is the fundamental of all oppressions that human beings through.

↳ RADICAL-LIBERTARIAN FEMINISTS:-

Not all Radical Feminist agreed on ~~to~~ this pernicious "ism" and voiced very different views on how to fight injustice.

One group; the Radical Libertarian Feminists supported the version that claimed that being exclusively feminine will ~~to~~ limit women's development into fully humans. They supported women to become androgynous and incorporate within them the ~~good~~ "masculine" traits and "feminine" traits.

First to recognize and celebrate androgynous women was "Joreen Freeman" who ~~says~~ wrote:-

"What is disturbing about a Bitch is that she is androgynous. She incorporates within herself traits that are defined as "masculine" as well as "feminine". A Bitch is blatant, direct, arrogant & sometimes egoistic. She disdains the life deemed natural to women because she wants to live a life of her own".

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↳ RADICAL CULTURAL FEMINISM:-

Some radical feminists started having second thoughts about the thought of women being androgynous persons, - As they saw it, a Bitch was not a full human person, ~~but~~ but only a woman having developed the bad traits of a man.

According to Echols, this group called Radical-cultural feminists, believed in embracing the essential femininity of women and believed women to be their own persons, embracing the cultural qualities of females, rather than emphasizing on cultural traits of males.

2) SOCIALIST/MARXIST FEMINISM:-

DEFINITION:-

This strand of feminism believed that unless industrial capitalism is destroyed, people will continue to be divided into two classes - the haves & the have nots - and women will find themselves subjugated because of the ways capitalism & patriarchy reinforce one another.

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:-

Alongside Liberal Feminism, another perspective started to develop - It belined in ~~the~~ equal opportunities for women, but focused more on the pleas of working-class women and their involvement in class struggle. Socialist feminists such as Rosa Luxemborg, Emma Goldman, Alexander Kollantai paved their way by fighting both politically & in their private ~~lives~~ lives for the rights of women to abortion, divorce & nonlegislative partnership, along with fighting for class difference in socialist movements.

FEATURES OF SOCIALIST FEMINISM:-

↳ WOMEN'S STRUGGLE IS CLASS STRUGGLE:-

Affirming the beliefs of seventeenth century philosophers like Marx, Lenin, Engels etc.

Classical Marxist Feminists belined that it capitalistic economic forces that divided the proletariat and the privileged and used a caste analysis, instead of a gender analysis to explain women's oppression.

A good example can be found in Evelyn Reed's "Women: Caste, class or Oppressed Sex?" stressing that "the same capitalistic economic forces that brought about the oppression of one race by another, one nation by another" also brought about oppression of one sex by another.

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2) IT GOES BEYOND CLASS:-

Post 1917 Communism ~~was~~ in Soviet Union & later in the so called Eastern Bloc was not true socialism, but a new form of human exploitation. Women's lives under socialism ~~was~~ were not any better than women's lives under capitalism. Women's move into workplace had not made them men's equals. For these reasons, socialist feminists ~~at~~ decided to move beyond class as being the driving factor of women's oppression. The marxist feminists tried better to understand women's subordination ~~that~~ in a way that integrates "class, sex as well as other factors such as race/ethnicity/sexual orientation", ~~being the~~ giving rise to a new ~~sub-branch~~ called "Socialist Materialist Feminists".

CONCLUSION:-

~~Discuss~~ Having discussed the origin and agenda of feminism and its strands, we now know what feminism is and what ~~it~~ it stands for. Feminism is a cry for equality of women in all social, political and economical spheres. However, feminists are still not close to ~~solving the~~ finding an answer to prevent women's oppression. It is ^{an} ever-going fight with new developments, agendas and philosophies at play, with radical feminism and socialist feminism pinning down different problems and presenting different solutions to end the subjugation.