

Controversial issues of feminism in contemporary women's rights movements

Outline

① Introduction

② The paradigm of feminism is constantly evolving

- i- First wave of feminism (Mary Wollstonecraft, 19th)
- ii- Second wave of feminism amendment in America's constitution.
- iii- 3rd wave of feminism
- iv- Modern-day feminist

③ What's the real controversy?

3(a) 'Gender' a social construct or natural?

3(b) Femininity versus masculinity: a constant tussle

3(c) Division in feminists themselves

(western feminism and their persistence on intersectionality)

3(d) The debate of intersectionality and individualism.

④ The savior narrative being practised by the white feminists and the patriarchy

4(a) White feminists themselves marginalize the feminists by becoming their savior and resultantly double marginalize them (labelling hijab as a sign of repression for them)

4(b) The cinedrella narrative deeply ingrained

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⑤ Controversies in feminism in the case study of Pakistan.

5(a) A constant debate on "what is feminism?"

5(b) Pakistan came into being on the name of Islam and that gave rise to an extremist group here. (extremism = less tolerance).

5(c) Male dominated society and the cultural pressure to abide by it. (glamorised concept of "choor devari")

5(d) Zia-ul-Haq's regime, Hudood ordinance and its ever lasting effects. (rape and its implications)

⑥ Global dynamics adding more fuel to the fire of "controversial feminism" in Pakistan.

6(i) Pakistan is being torn at the cost of its neighbouring countries and their politics.

6.1(a) West has played an influential role in worsening these controversies via media campaigning and narrative building.

6.1(b) India: our constant rival has played a major role in adding to this fire via their Bollywood movies.

(A Pakistani ^{muslim} male is equivalent to a dominating oppressive man with long beard and surma in eyes.

⑦ The other side of the coin: male narrative

i: Man and a woman collectively can form a healthy functioning society

(biologically the beautiful union of a man and a woman results in the birth of a baby)

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ii Islam and its emphasis on finding a middle way between patriarchy and matriarchy
 (Surah - Nisa)

iii Quaid's preachings on "women side by side with men" can only result in the creation of Pakistan.
 (His own sister an epitome of active feminism)

iv - The real feminists which our history has seen and the case studies of Malala, Mukhtara, Belkis Bano etc.

⑧ Major issues all feminists face on international, local and domestic levels.

8(a) On the international level feminists face:

⇒ Acceptance (literary ^{female} scholars in back days weren't allowed to publish their work from their own name i.e Bronte sisters - Currier, & Lewis by Acton Bell)

⇒ "Rights" which translate to something which comes naturally as a "right". But women have been fighting for their basic rights i.e right to vote, right to own property, right to get married by their own will... and the list goes on.

8(b) On local level initially women weren't even welcomed in any domain.

→ In technical fields i.e engineering and IT they're often called a "misfit".

(men not taking female drivers as an example)

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→ In political domain they're not taken seriously.
Allocation of 32 seats out of 142 in Punjab, 14
out of 61 in Sindh and — out of 3 seats in
Federal Assembly suggest that.

8(c).1 On the domestic level women are confined
within the four walls of the house

8.c.2 According to a survey <sup>(a short story - "The yellow
wallpaper depicts it")</sup> around 85% women
become a prey to some kind of violence in Pakistan.
'Honour killing' is the most eminent among all.

8.c.3 At the very grassroots level the discrimination
between the birth of a boy and a girl serve as the
foundation of the biases which further deepens.
(case-study of Banteel
Batalan)

(9) Way forward to combat these issues raised in the
women rights movements.

- i- UN security council and its role to not only just-
make some laws but also their enforcement for women.
- ii women representatives who are not "extremists"
can play a major role in bridging this gap.
- iii The Glamorization of savior narrative by some prime
for the damsel in distress has to end.
- iv- The real heroes who aren't anti-men but
rather women activists need to come forward.
- v- Speaking on this topic with empathy instead of
rage can better convey the things to the global
audience.

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