

# 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

Historical background is fine but try to be more conscience here

### ③ What's the real controversy?

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

3(b) Femininity versus masculinity: a constant hustle

3(c) Division in feminists themselves

(western feminism and its 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 (wearing hijab' 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 "shaar devari")

5(d) Zia-ul-Haq's regime, Hudood ordinances 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) USA 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 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 teachings 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 trace, 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 <sup>female</sup> scholars in back days weren't allowed to publish their work from their own name i.e Bronte sisters - Currier, & Missy 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 drive seriously on example)

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→ In political domain they're not taken seriously.  
Allocation of 32 seats out of 142 in Punjab, 74  
out of 61 in Sindh and — out — 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.  
<sup>(case-study of Banteel  
Baton)</sup>

(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 <sup>provide</sup> an insurance 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. Quite elaborative and  
well organised
- iv- The real heroes who aren't anti-men but  
rather women activist 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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