

Mention the full qs statement for proper evaluation. Without that, these are just notes and cannot be awarded marks

First Wave of Feminism

A) Preamble:

Wave of feminism is basically a movement for equal rights of women. The first wave started from Seneca Fall Convention in 1848 and ended in 1920. Dr. Rubina Saigal, a prominent feminist, says,

"A feminist movement consists in envisioning a just and equal work by transforming existing social, political, and economic structures and changing discourses of inequality and exclusion through individual and collective actions"

First wave of feminism is basically a movement to gain equal social and political right of women by changing the current discourses of society.

B) Background of first wave of feminism:

First wave of feminism

started with the Seneca Fall Convention in 1848 in order to make the world aware of equal rights of women. Mary Wollstonecraft is known as Grandmother of feminism and Jane Austine was called foremother of feminist movements. Both of them was prominent actors in Seneca Fall Convention.

c) Seneca Falls Convention-1848:-

It was convention of 200 women gathered to make aware the world of their political and social right. A Resolution was passed in this convention, demanding equal right for all women.

i) Prominent Participant of Seneca Falls Convention:

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia mot. Maria Steward, and Sojourner Truth was prominent participant. Elizabeth Cady Stanton drafted the resolution. She said

"I wish every girl known to be Noun instead of Adjective"

D) Demands of First Feminist Wave:-

i) Equal Education Rights:

First wave of feminism demanded equal rights of education for every girl and woman.

ii) Equal Rights of Property:

They demanded universality in property rights instead of giving property to male only.

"As a woman, I have no country. As a woman, I demand no country. As a woman, my country is my world."

iii) Opposition to Chattel Marriage:

Women were once treated as a commodity and used as a guarantee in order to ensure peace. First wave of feminism opposed chattel marriage and demanded equal marital rights.

iv) Equal Rights to Choose and practice Profession:

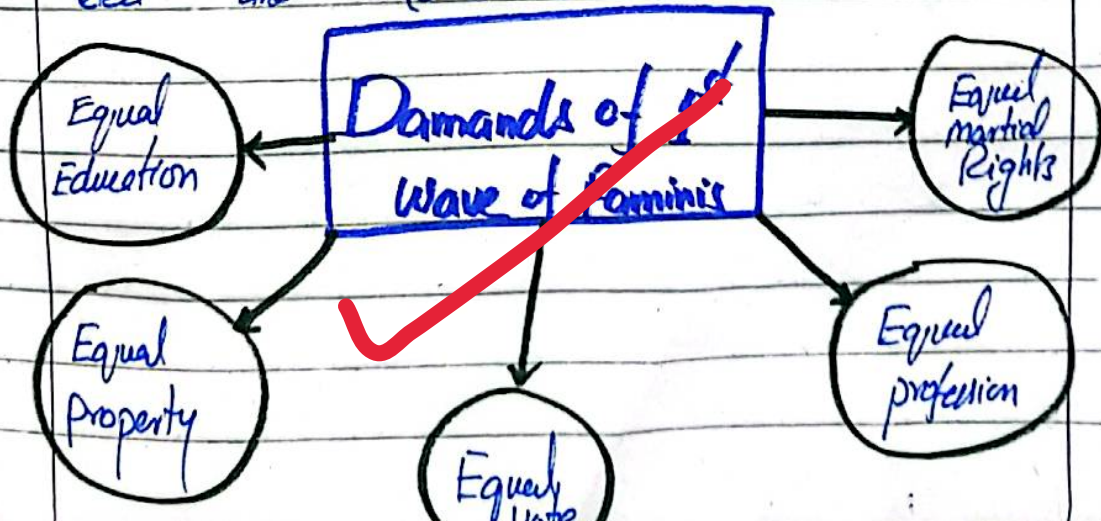
First wave of feminism demanded equal right to choose and practice profession.

"A woman who strengthen his body and exercise his mind, by managing family and practicing virtue, demands to be a friend, not a dependant partner on her husband"

- Mary wolstonecraft

v) Equal Political Rights and Right to vote:

First wave of feminism demanded equal right to elect and to be elected.



E) Achievements of First Wave of Feminism:

i) Marriage Woman Property Act - 1870:-

Marriage
woman Property Act was passed in
~~1870~~ British colonies in 1870 in
order to ensure property rights to
married women.

ii) New Zealand: First Country to Grant Voting Rights 1893

In
1893, New Zealand became first
country to grant voting rights to
women.

iii) Commonwealth Franchise Act - 1902:

Commonwealth
Country Australia granted right to
vote to all women over
age of 21.

iv) Women Day celebrated in Russia - 1913:

Russia was become first country to celebrate women day in 1913.

v) 19th Amendment in USA:

19th Amendment in USA was carried out in 1920 to ensure equal political rights to all women.

vi) Voting Rights to Women in UK in 1925:

In 1925, women were granted equal voting rights in UK.

vii) Voting Rights in India in 1929:

India was British colony in 1929. It gave voting rights to all women in the country.

Major proponents??

Timeline of Achievements

- 1870 → Marriage Women Property Act
in British
- 1893 → New Zealand: First country to grant
voting rights
- 1902 → Commonwealth Franchise Act in
Australia
- 1913 → Women Day celebrated in
Russia
- 1920 → 19th Amendment in USA
- 1925 → Voting Rights in the UK
- 1929 → Voting Rights in India

F) Criticism on First wave of feminism

a) Positive Criticism:

- i) Voting rights granted to women in major countries
- ii) Property rights granted to women in some countries

Attempt these by giving subheadings

- iii) Demonstration of women right internationally
- iv) Peaceful struggle
- v) No revolutionary measures taken

b) Shortcomings in First wave:

- i) White & women supremacy promoting racism
- ii) Less focus on basic issues of women especially domestic violence
- iii) Did not address all challenges under different forum

a) Conclusion

First wave of feminism was meant to ensure civil, political, property and marital rights of women. Though it did not solve the problem of every woman separately, yet it became successful in raising the world of women's rights. It is still relevant in contemporary world, as some countries deny civil and political rights to women.