

Q:- Compare the waves of feminism.

1) Introduction:-

The waves of feminism track the evolution of women's rights movements over time. The first wave initiated in nineteenth and early twentieth century and focused on securing legal rights, particularly women's suffrage. The second wave expanded its focus to issues like workplace discrimination, reproductive rights and gender roles. The third wave brought a more inclusive, intersectional approach, addressing the needs of women of colors, LGBTQ+ individuals and those from different socioeconomic backgrounds. Each wave built on achievements of the last while adapting to changing social, political and cultural landscape.

2) A brief comparison between problems, solutions & approaches:-

| | 1 st Wave Feminism | 2 nd Wave Feminism | 3 rd Wave Feminism |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Main Issue | Discrimination | Oppression | marginalization |
| Solution | Emancipation | Liberation | Inclusion |
| Approach | Equality | Difference | Diversity |

3) Description of all three waves:-

a) 1st wave Feminism:- (1848-1920) ~ The Suffrage

It refers to an extended period of feminist activity during the nineteenth century and early twentieth century in the United Kingdom and United States.

i) Main Objectives:-

Demanded full citizenship like men (legal & political rights)

Suffrage or the right to vote

Education, marriage
and employment

Opportunities
for women

ii) Key Features:-

Discrimination:- Feminist focused on External Restrictions to women and not on the institutions.

Emanicipation:- Freedom from discrimination was seen as the solution.

Equality:- Feminist demanded equality for women in all respects.

iii) Achievements:-

This wave laid the foundations for future generations and provided women with self-belief. The first Suffrage (right to vote) was given to women in New Zealand in 1893 and in the USA in 1920 with 19th Constitutional Amendment Act. The opportunity to gain higher education opened up for women, along with reforms in girls secondary school system. Married women's property

right was recognized in Married Women Property Act of 1870.

iv) Main Contributors:-

Mary Wollstonecraft

Sojourner Truth

Harriet Taylor

Elizabeth Stanton

Virginia Woolf's

Simon De Beauvoir

v) Limitations:-

This wave was confined to middle class women, and focused specifically on right to vote and education. Issues of differences among women from different race and class were ignored.

b) 2nd Wave Feminism:-

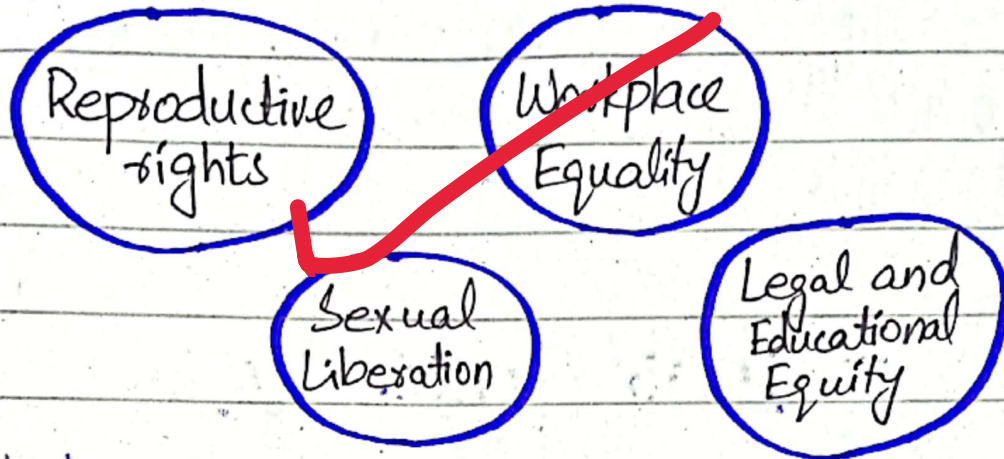
(1960-1990) ~ (The Personal is Political)

It is a period of feminist activity that first began in 1960s in the United States, and eventually

spread throughout the world.

i) Main Objectives:-

It aimed to bring attention to social, cultural and institutional inequalities.



ii) Key Features:-

Oppression:- Women all over the world experience male dominance and oppression. On the basis of shared experience of oppression, women constitute a "**United Group**" or "**Social Class**" or "**Sisterhood.**"

Liberation:- Women oppression will end through their liberation. Second wave turns into Women's Liberation Movement demanding end of the patriarchal values and institutions.

Difference :- Radical feminist stress on difference approach which has two dimensions. **First**, women cannot be accommodated in society which is based on principles by men. **Second**, women are different from men in terms of qualities and nature which are superior to men's.

iii) Main Contributors

Contributors :-

- Betty Friedans
- Simon de Beauvois

Organizations :-

- National Conference of New Politics
- Chicago Women Liberation Union

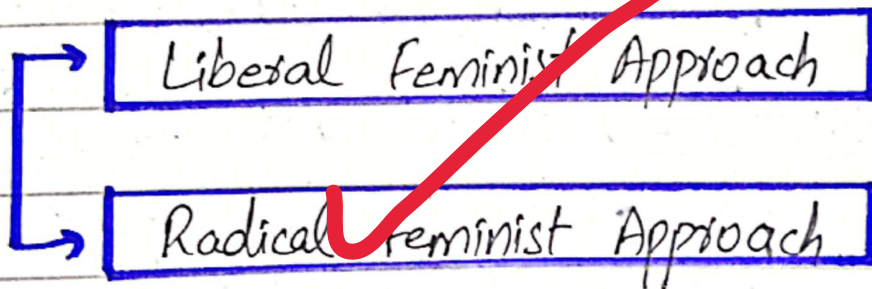
iv) Achievements:-

The second wave of feminism grew in its intensity and scope with time and resulted in important milestones. This wave successfully opened the doors for females to enter these

fields of professions. More specifically women were recruited to institutions like **US Army** and **NASA**, such as **Katherine Johnson**, an African-American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were critical to success of first and subsequent US manned spaceflights.

v) Approaches:-

Second wave feminist were divided in their approaches into two main groups:-



vi) Criticism:-

It disregarded the experience and contributions of women of color, working class and lower class of women. Many feminist scholars see

the generational division of second wave as problematic.

c) 3rd Wave Feminism:-

(Transversal Politics)

It refers to a phase of feminist thought and activism that emerged in the 1990s and continued into the 2000s. Feminists sought to broaden the scope of feminist concerns, emphasizing diversity, intersectionality and inclusivity.

i) Main objectives:-

Embracing
intersectionality

Reclaiming femininity
and Empowerment

~~Challenging gender
Norms & Binary
structures~~

Advancing
Global
Feminism

Fostering
inclusivity &
Diversity

ii) Issues Addressed in wave:-

It focuses on individual empowerment of women and less on activism. It celebrated the multiple and contradictory identity of women, accepting diversity among women. It advocated the need to change stereotypes portrayed by media and language.

iii) Key Features:-

Non-Universalist

Intersectionality

Cultural Relativism

Plurality & Diversity

Transversal Politics

iv) Major Achievements:-

Diversification of Feminism:-

Different types of feminism emerged i.e., black feminism and post-colonial feminism.

Weakening of Feminist Politics.

Unity approach of woman being a single category was rejected and alliance approach of diversification was adopted.

Rise of LGBT.

The issues and rights of LGTs started to get prominence in feminist arena.

v) Criticism.

Third wave is criticized on ground of lacking political will to bring about radical change. Its focus on identity issues is not a universal concern.

Good attempt!!!

3) Conclusion.

Each wave of feminism has built upon the work of previous generations of women and activists, while also addressing the specific challenges and contexts of its time. Feminism is an ongoing movement, and each waves continue to influence contemporary struggles for gender equality.