

# Feminism

The concept that argues that women should have equal opportunities in every field of life. They believe that women have something valuable to contribute to the society and if they are given opportunities they can work for the development of their nation. As it is famous said that "Men and women needs to work shoulder with to shoulder in order to succeed."

## Why feminism?

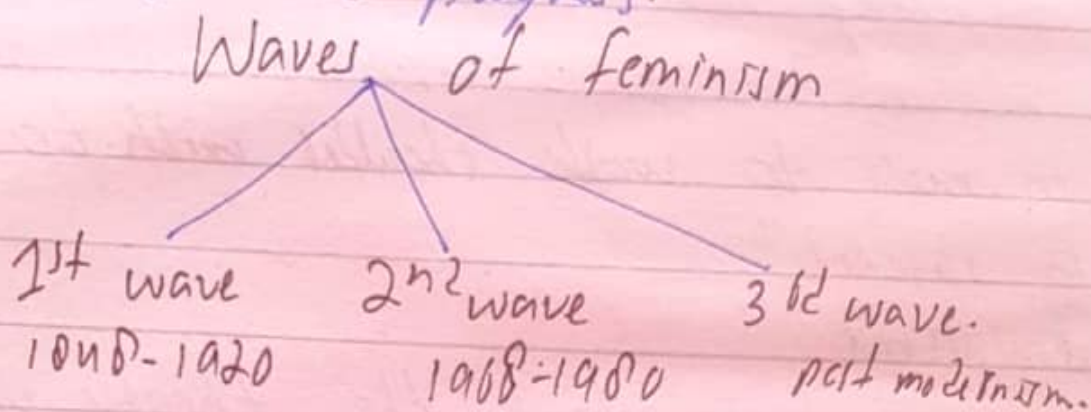
To understand the theory we first have to glance in history. "Man is intellectually superior to women." The statement was given by Charles Darwin and it represent the patriarchal mindset of our society. In another place a famous politician said that "Women place is in house, not in public office". It is another example of women perception in society.

## Endocentrism:

Endocentrism means looking at everything from masculine point of view. We are aware of the fact that from ancient past, endocentrism has prevailed. We can understand it from the following quote of Aristotle "The relation of man to women is of superior to inferior; of a ruler to a ruled one". Even great

philosophers and thinkers have not given much importance to women. Plato did not even allow women to attend his school.

Due to these reasons the feminist theory began and rose. To understand it fully we must learn its rise and progress.



### 1<sup>st</sup> wave of feminism:

Mary Walecroft back Vindicta of women right in 17th<sup>th</sup> is said to have given birth to first wave of feminism. The Women suffrage conference formally started 1<sup>st</sup> wave. They demand 2 things, 1, Equal <sup>full</sup> citizenship, 2, Right to vote.

In 20<sup>th</sup> century women did not have the right to divorce, property, free will or anything. They were treated as second class citizen. Therefore in 1<sup>st</sup> wave, women asked for their political rights.

### Political Rights of Women:

As a result of first wave of feminism

women demand to vote was given.

189 - in New Zealand

1918 - in UK

1920 - USA.

When United States granted right to vote, it ended the 1<sup>st</sup> wave of feminism.

Second wave of feminism:

Women thought that by gaining political rights they would also gain social and economical rights but it did not happen. The condition of women did not improve. So it gave birth to the second wave of feminism.

2<sup>nd</sup> wave of feminism

Liberal feminism

Radical feminism.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminist were divided into two groups with different demands.

Liberal feminism

They demanded social, cultural, and economical rights for women. They said that women should have equal opportunities like men in every sphere of life. The public places should be safe and open for women to work freely.

Radical feminism:

Radical feminist focused on the objectifying

of women. They said that women should not be used as an object.

The example of this can be seen even today when in TV commercials women are portrayed as an object of beauty.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of feminism ended in 1980s with their demands met. It must be kept in mind that J.S Mill a parliamentary member tried to pass bill for women right but could not succeed but at last feminist got their rights. so, this results in the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of feminism.

Rise of 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of feminism:

It is said that post modernism gave birth to 3<sup>rd</sup> wave of feminism. Their demands were a little different from latter 2 waves.

The modern feminist rejected first two waves and argued that the problem of rich and poor are different. They argued that women are not only persecuted on the basis of gender but also on the basis of religion, color, cast and their status.

At the first 2 waves were mainly based in Europe and US. The 3<sup>rd</sup> wave gave a universal concept. It was the outcome of 3<sup>rd</sup> wave that we saw the rise of,

- 1, Black feminism
- 2, Dalit feminism
- 3, Asian feminism

They spoke for all the women and asked women  
to fight for their rights. As every woman need is  
different so they could fight their way on their own.