

Q. What is feminism? In what way Radical Feminism is different from Socialist Feminism?

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Introduction :-

Feminism as a concept emerged in 1974 with Mary Wollstone Craft's *Vindication of women's Rights and* manifested itself into many movements and ideologies. Radical feminism and Socialist feminism were two of the ideologies that emerged with the aim of understanding and tackling the issues of women efficaciously. The two ideologies are similar in that ~~aim~~ they aim for the elevation of women's status in society, but differ in how they project this elevation to workout.

What is feminism

Feminism originally derived from feminism in the 19th century that

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means women; and movement, doctrine, theory.

The belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes.

Feminism focuses on women's rights but also highlights the injustices that women have to face in the society.

A Feminist advocates or supports the right and equality of women.

Definition of Radical feminism

Radical means Revolutionary, Absolute change, Confrontation, structural change.

Radical feminists believe in concept of Sexism in the society

Sexism means our society is divided on the basis of sex and it is Patriarchy dominant. And Patriarchy is the major barrier in

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development of women so in order to develop women, Patriarchy must be Vanished.

Socio-cultural, Economic and Political Demands:-

a) Expanding reproductive rights. It includes not only the right to abortion and birth control but also her right to make those choices freely without pressure from individual men

b) Changing the organizational sex culture, e.g. breaking down traditional gender roles reevaluating societal concepts of femininity masculinity

c) Equal Rights Amendment.

d) Access to credit and equal pay.

Definition of Socialist:

It is one step advance to Marxist feminism. Socialist feminists believed that along with "Classism" the women are suppressed with also "Sexism" and that is deeply rooted in our societies.

Sexism → Society is divided in sexes.

* Socialist = Marxist + Radical
= classism + Sexism.

Goals of Marxist feminism:

Marxist is the antithesis of capitalism. people inspired by Karl Marx they believed that in capitalism, the more resources the more influence in the society which creates huge difference between the haves and have not. And,

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this is the reason women are exploited in the society as our society is mostly patriarchal and resources are in the hands of men.

So must replace this classism with socialism.

- classism → Because of Capitalism, there is privatization of resources.
- Socialism means nationalization of resources. Everything is owned by the State and this creates equality in society.

Economic, Political and Socio-Cultural Demands:

Feminists devoted their activism to fighting for the inclusion of the domestic work within the waged capitalist economy. The idea of creating

Compensated reproductive labor was present in the writing of socialists such as Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1848) who argued that women's oppression stemmed from being forced into the private spheres.

Difference Between Radical and Socialist Feminism

Radical feminism

Socialist feminism

1) Patriarchal structures of society

1) Capitalist system

2) Change in society at large

2) Changes in Economic system.

3) End to gender stereotyping

3) End to Economic Subjugation

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Patriarchy Vs Capitalism:

Radical feminism focuses on how the prevalent patriarchal structures in the society propagate a system of discrimination against any gender that is not male. While socialist feminism talks about how the capitalist system creates a class system where the bourgeoisie are male and proletariat are women and the bourgeoisie exploit the proletariat because they own means of production.

Change in Society Vs. Change in economic system:

Radical feminists seek to bring change in the society at large by overturning the current system of beliefs and establishing norms that would treat women and other gender equally. On

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the other hand socialist feminists want the change to be focused upon the economic system. They believe that if women are provided with equal economic opportunities, their position in society will be elevated automatically.

Gender stereotyping vs. Economic Subjugation:

Radical feminists believe that the socially constructed gender stereotypes help to enforce a system of discrimination and there should be an end to this stereotyping. Contrary to this, socialist feminists believe that an equity based system should come into place where women should be rewarded according to the production done by them and that the class system galvanized by capitalism should be eradicated to give women equal rights.

Conclusion:

To conclude, it can be said that feminism is categorized into a struggle for equal rights of women and the ideologies that give theoretical framework to this struggle. Radical and socialist feminism are two types of ideologies that try to trace the origins of the issues that women face in society. However, the two ideologies are different in their view of the issues and the solutions they propose to the issues.