

Q. No 3. Liberal feminists propound women's integration into socio-economic framework but Radical Feminists argue that this approach will not benefit women as society is male dominated. Comment on it. Also tell the difference between Marxist and Socialist feminism (20)

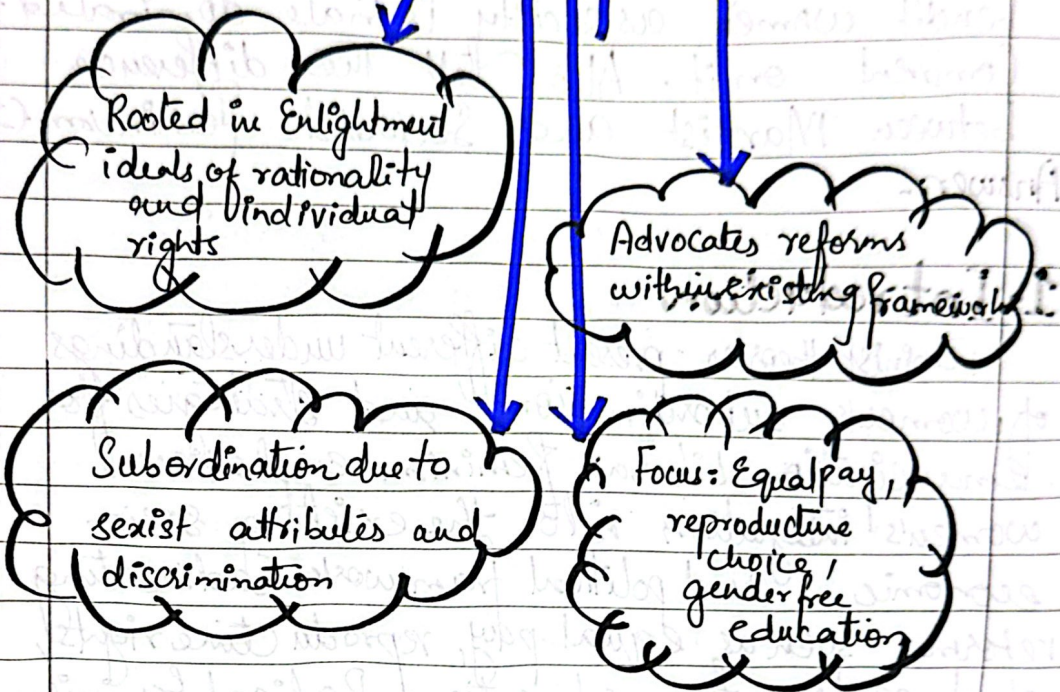
Answer:-

1. Introduction

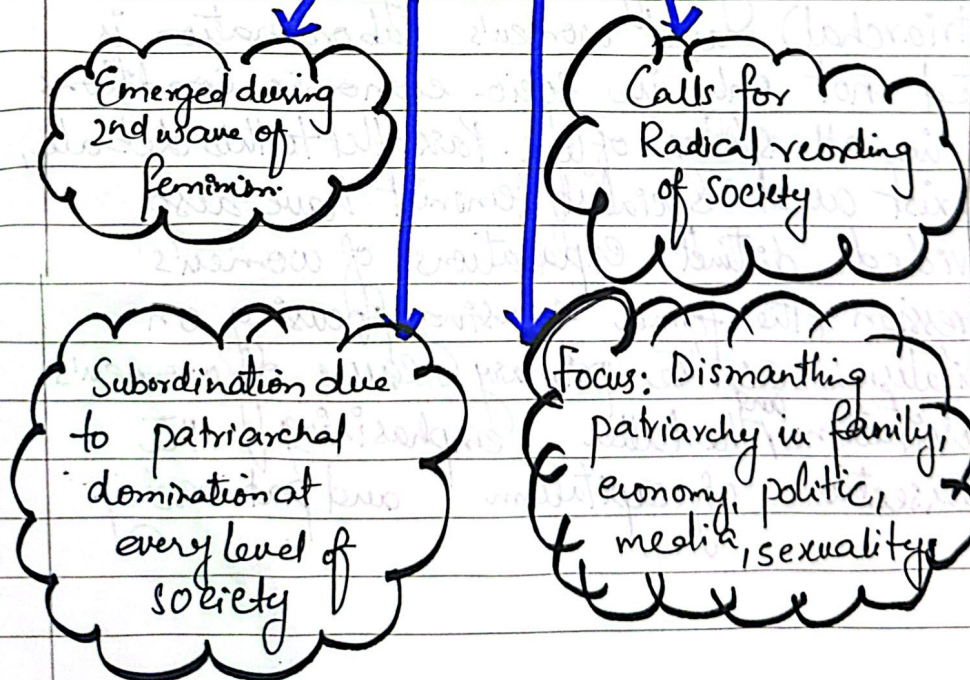
Feminist theories present different understandings of women's subordination and strategies for emancipation. Liberal feminism emphasises women's integration into the existing socio-economic and political framework, advocating reforms such as equal pay, reproductive rights, and gender-free education. Radical feminism, however, argues that such reforms are insufficient because society is fundamentally male-dominated (patriarchal), and women's subordination is rooted not only in socio-economic conditions but in all spheres of life. Parallel to this debate, Marxist and Socialist feminists have also provided distinct explanations of women's oppression, the former focusing on capitalism as the primary cause of women's exploitation and the latter emphasising the intersection of capitalism and patriarchy.

2. Overview of Liberal and Radical Feminism

Liberal feminism



Radical Feminism



3. Perspective of Liberal and Radical Feminism on Subordination of Women

3.1. ~~Segregation~~ Segregation of Women on basis of socio-economic conditions VS Suppression of women on basis of patriarchy

Liberal feminist argues women's segregation is primarily due to socio-economic conditions, such as unequal pay, restricted careers, and exclusion from public life. While Radical Feminist argue that suppression of women stems from patriarchy itself, which operates as an autonomous system of domination embedded in family, sexuality, culture, and institutions.

3.2 Women are oppressed only in socio-economic fields VS. Women are oppressed everywhere

According to liberal feminist, women's oppression is mainly confined to socio-economic areas like employment, politics, and education, where reforms can ensure equality. Radical feminists argue that women face oppression in every aspect of life - within families, marriages, sexuality, religion, and even cultural practices - making patriarchy universal and pervasive.

3.3 Women's subordination stems from sexist attitudes VS Women's subordination stems from patriarchy and control over reproduction.

Liberal feminists locate the roots of subordination in discriminatory practices, sexist attitudes, and ~~prejudice~~ prejudices that restrict women's access to opportunities. Radical feminists, on the other hand, trace it to patriarchal family systems and men's control over women's bodies and reproductive capacities, which they see as the foundation of gender oppression.

3.4. Women's emancipation is sought through reforms VS Women's emancipation requires radical confrontation with patriarchy

For liberal feminists, emancipation lies in reforming laws and institutions, such as enforcing equal pay, reproductive rights, and gender free education. Radical feminists reject reformist approaches, arguing instead of solidarity among women, self-reliance, and active confrontation with patriarchal domination, sometimes even through separatist strategies, emancipation can be achieved only by radically changing society and destroying patriarchy.

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4. Difference between Marxist and Socialist Feminism

Aspect	Marxist Feminism	Socialist Feminism
Main Focus	Capitalism is fundamental cause of women's oppression	Both capitalism and patriarchy intersect to oppress women
View of Patriarchy	Seen as secondary, serving capitalist interests	Seen as equally important alongside capitalism
Identity	Marxist first, feminists second	Feminists first, socialists second
Oppression	Women are oppressed as unpaid labours in domestic spheres and exploited workers in economy	Women oppressed both as workers (class) and as women (gender)
Key Thinkers/Ideas	Margaret Benston: Women as reserve labour force for capitalism	Hartmann's "Capitalist Patriarchy": patriarchy and capitalism form an unhappy marriage



5. Conclusion

Liberal feminists see women's subordination as a product of discriminatory practices that can be remedied through reforms within existing frameworks. Radical feminists argue this approach is inadequate, as patriarchy permeates all structures of society and requires a fundamental restructuring.

Similarly, while Marxist feminists locate women's oppression primarily in capitalism, socialist feminists argue both capitalism and patriarchy overlap to reinforce gender inequality. Together, these perspectives show that women's subordination is multi-dimensional, requiring not legal and economic but also social, cultural, and structural change.