

# What is the second-wave of feminism.

## I. Introduction:

Second wave feminism is a term used to describe a new period of feminism. It unfolded in the context of <sup>Anti-</sup>Vietnam war and civil rights movements along with growing self-consciousness of minority groups around the world. The term second wave feminism was coined by "Marsha Lear", and it refers to feminist efforts of UK, US, and Europe from 1960, till 1990s. Second wave feminism combat social and cultural inequalities. They popularized the idea that "Personal is political". It asserts that women's political inequality is equally important as personal ramifications such as relationships, sexuality, birth control, marriage, and childcare.

## II. Factors Leading to 2<sup>nd</sup> wave Feminism

- ① 1<sup>st</sup> wave ended on assumption that "Right to vote" will bring equality.
- ② Vietnam War Protests
- ③ Civil Rights Movements
- ④ President Kennedy's Policies

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

⑤ Introduction of Birth Control Methods 1960s

⑥ Influence of Betty Friedan "The Feminine Mystique" 1963.

⑦ Influence of Simon De Beauvoir "Second Sex" 1949.

### III. Important Developments in 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Wave Feminism

Some of the actions undertaken by 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminists were:

#### Protest against Miss America Pageant in 1969

Second wave feminists denounced Miss America Pageant by saying that it reduced women to mere objects of beauty and further strengthened patriarchy, which in turn caused women oppression. The feminist protest, organized by New York Radical Women, including tossing symbolic feminine products, including makeup, corsets, false eye-lashes, naps, and other items into a "Freedom Trash Can" on the Atlantic City boardwalk.



## Formation of National Organization for Women (NOW):

The National Organization for Women (NOW) was founded in 1966 by Betty Friedan. There were many influences contributing to the rise of NOW.

Such influences included:

- ★ President's Commission on the Status of Women,
- ★ Lack of enforcement of Civil Right Act 1964,
- ★ Movement to pass Equal Right Amendment to US constitution, and
- ★ Betty Friedan's book *The Feminine Mystique*.

## Approaches of 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminism:

Second wave feminism consists of two types of feminist approach:

### Liberal Approach

### Radical Approach

Betty Friedan's Book *The Feminine Mystique* marks the birth of liberal feminism in 1963 as it focuses on discrimination of genders and external restrictions. Moreover, second wave is the extension of first wave that expanded from political equality to social and economic equality.

Radical Approach started in 1968 till 1980s.

The major event about radical approach was Miss America Beauty contest in 1968.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Sisterhood

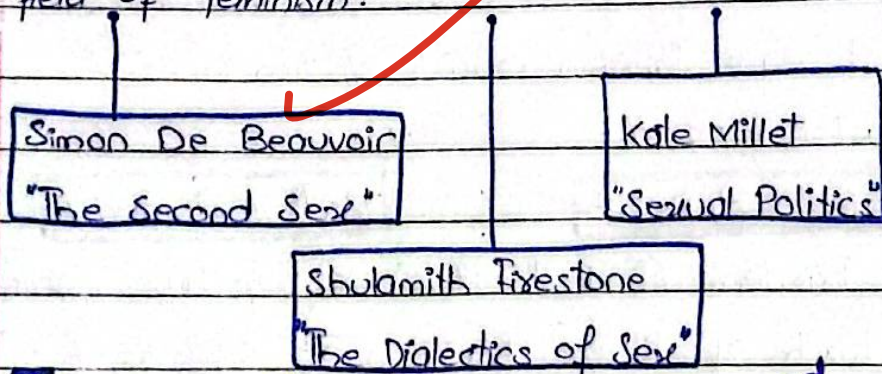
## Important conceptual Tools developed by radical approach:

Second wave feminism introduced conceptual tools that were radical in nature and did not developed before it. They were:

- \* Patriarchy
- \* Gender-Sex distinction
- \* Public-private divide.

## Start of Academic Field of feminism:

As radical approach was highly theoretical in nature, it dismantled various structures of oppression. It was also the start of academic field of feminism:



## Important Features of 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminism

The important features of 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminism was:

### Oppression:

Women all around the world face male dominance and are oppressed.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Sisterhood:

Due to similar experience of women all around the world of oppression, women form a united group or social class.

### Liberation:

Women's oppression will only end through Liberation. No laws, no social class reform can change the patriarchal values and institutions.

### Difference Approach:

Women cannot be accommodated in a society based on men's principles.

## Criticisms on Second Wave feminism

### White Middle class <sup>women</sup> centric:

Some black women felt alienated by the main planks of the second-wave feminist movement, which largely advocated for women's rights to work outside the home and expansion of reproductive rights. In this regard:

Bell Hooks wrote 'Ain't I a woman?'

Black Woman and Feminism 1981

Tsint T Minh 'Woman, Naive, other: writing'

### Radical and Militant:

Other criticism is about its radical and militant nature - too extreme.

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the universal category of women represent all women of the world?

## Critical Analysis and Concluding Remarks:

In analysis, second wave feminism was more representative than the first one since it drew in women of colour and of developing countries as well. Unlike the first one, second wave was multi-dimensional. It extended the struggle beyond the political domain and called for complete women empowerment in domestic and personal lives. After all this, second wave faced criticism on being too theoretical in nature. Moreover, its importance was overshadowed by the other events like Vietnam war etc.

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

end the answer with conclusion.....