

# Gender Studies

C.88 2025

Question no: 4

Discuss the key principles, goals and Strategies of the different Waves of feminism. How these waves have an impact on Women's lives?

Answer

## Introduction

Feminism, as a social and political movement, advocates for the equality of women in all spheres of life such as, political, economic, social, education and cultural. Over time, it has evolved in four distinct waves, each with unique principles, goals, and strategies, yet collectively



Contributing to women's empowerment

Elaborate introduction

## 1. First Wave of feminism (1848-1920s)

First wave of feminism focused on equality and women's rights as Citizens. This wave of feminism ended when women made some legal gains in North America with regards their children, the right to own property and inherit property and <sup>(1917 to 20)</sup> vote between

### (i) Principles of FWF

Focused on legal equality and women's rights as citizens. They emphasised <sup>the</sup> rationality and natural rights of women, because they believe that women should participate in public life like men.

### (ii) Goals of FWF

- (a) Suffragist (right to vote)
- (b) Property rights (ownership, inheritance)
- (c) Access to education and professional

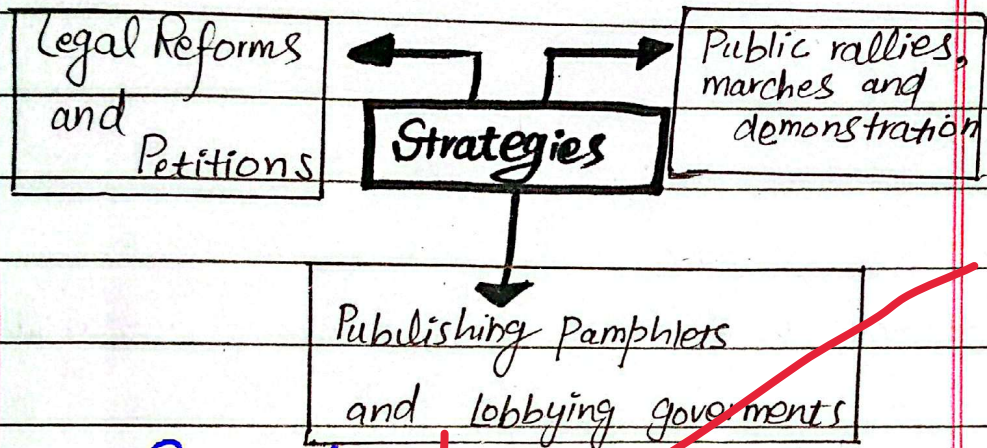


opportunities

Add slogan as well

(d) Political rights to work equally with men.

### (iii) Strategies of FWF



## 2- Second Wave of feminism

Focused on broad range of issues in the 1960's to 1970's and early 80's, including discrimination in workplaces and in broader society. The fight for reproductive choice included a fight to have information about and access to birth control and abortion.

### (i) Principles of SWF

In SWF, women feminism movements focused on social and cultural inequalities. They highlighted the "The personal is political", domestic oppression and



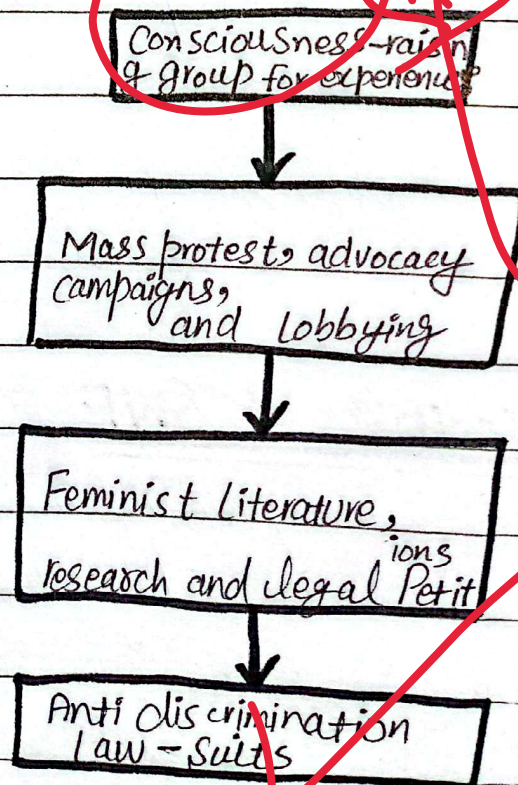
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reproductive control. The Said also,  
 "Patriarchy as a systemic issue beyond  
 law."

## (ii) Goals of SWF

- (a) Equal employment opportunities
- (b) Reproductive Rights
- (c) legal protection from domestic violence and sexual harassment
- (d) Political participation and leadership

## (iii) Strategies of SWF to get rights





### 3. Third Wave of feminism (1920-2010s)

Emerged in 1990s in part as a response to the backlash from the gains 2nd wave feminism had made in the 1970s and 80s. This wave of feminism focused on intersectionality (race, class, ethnicity, sexuality).

#### (i) Principles of TWF

The third wave of feminism focused on women race, class, colour and ethnicity. They emphasized individuality and diversity in feminist identity. They raised question societal beauty standards and gender norms.

#### (ii) Goals of TWF

- (a) Inclusion of marginalized women
- (b) Reproductive justice beyond mere rights
- (c) Media representation and body-positivity reforms

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(d) challenging cultural and sexual  
stereotypes

### (iii) Strategies of TWF

Coalition-building  
across  
groups

Digital activism  
(blogs, social media,  
online  
communities)

Strategies

Legal advocacy  
for minority  
women

Cultural production  
(Zines, art,  
literature)

### 4- Fourth Wave of feminism (2012 - Present)

After the third wave of feminism and movement, some feminists start the fourth wave in which they focused on cyber equality and accountability in digital feminism.

### (i) Principles of FWF



In this wave, focused on digital rights like, cyber equality and accountability. They campaigned against sexual violence and harassment.

## (ii) Goals of FWF

- (a) Ending sexual harassment and abuse
- (b) Digital and online safety for women
- (c) Equal political, social and economic participation

## (iii) Strategies of FWF

- Social media activism
- public accountability for perpetrators
- Data Drive Advocacy
- Global driven Solidarity networks

## 5. Key Argument of feminism Waves on women's lives

These waves impact on women lives in different ways to get their rights and opportunities as equal to men in their lives. These impact are as follows:



## (i) Legal Empowerment

After the globally movements of feminism impact broadly on women rights such as voting, property, and labor rights improved women legal standing. The US commission of legal estimate 4B People world wide face significant justice issues.

## (ii) Political Representation

Political representation of women after the waves of feminism seem better than other rights because women in parliament rose 11% in 1995 to 26% in 2025 by (IPLI) Report of 2025."

## (iii) Education Access

Women's University enrollment surged worldwide; women now outnumber men in higher education in many countries. "Globally progress in women's education access shows a positive trend, with enrollment secondary level, over 50% million since 2015."

## (iv) Economic Empowerment

Work force participation



increased global female labor participation: 50% (1980) and 63% (2023). It shows that after the waves of feminism, women got their right betterly.

#### (v) Recognition of Violence Against Women

Another. Laws against domestic violence, sexual harassment, and marital rape emerged. Before those were not emphasised accurately for the rights of women and other gender.

#### (vi) Social Norms Transform

Feminism challenged traditional patriarchal norms, redefining women's roles in family, work and society. For example "global survey" show that support for women working outside the home rose from 55% to 77% in 2020."

#### (vii) Media and cultural Reforms



Feminism reshaped media by reducing gender stereotypes and promoting diverse female representation. For instance, "the percentage of top-grossing films with female lead characters increased from 24% in 1998 to 41% in present."

## 6- Feminist Movements in Pakistan

Feminist movement in Pakistan have played a vital role in advancing women's rights, addressing gender based violence and promoting social equality. Organization like the "Aurat foundation" and "Women Action forum" have campaigned for legal reform, education and political participation. Movement such as Aurat March, since 2018, raise awareness on harassment, reproductive rights.

## 7. Impacts of Pakistan Feminist Movements

Feminist movement have empowered women by increasing work-



force participation from 37% in 1960 to 57% in 1990, improving political representation to 26% nationally (2025) IPU Report, expanding education access and reducing gender based violence through legal reforms.

## 8- Conclusion

In Conclusion, the wave of feminism have progressively dismantled legal, social, and cultural barriers, empowering women in all sphere of life. From securing voting rights to challenging patriarchal norms and promoting digital activism, feminism has transformed opportunities and social attitude. Its impact is evident in increased education, workforce participation, political representation, and globally advocacy.

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