

Discuss the key principles, goals and strategies of different waves of feminism and its impacts?

Introduction:

The different waves of feminism were the struggles of feminists activists to end gender discrimination. The goals of these waves were to achieve voting rights for women, birth control rights, property rights, incorporating women into social sphere, ensuring gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence. Conventions, writing, speeches, protests, social media and pop culture influence were the strategies used to achieve these goals. The impacts on women's life were the right to vote, birth control, awareness about their rights and property rights.

(I) Principles of 1st wave of feminism are:

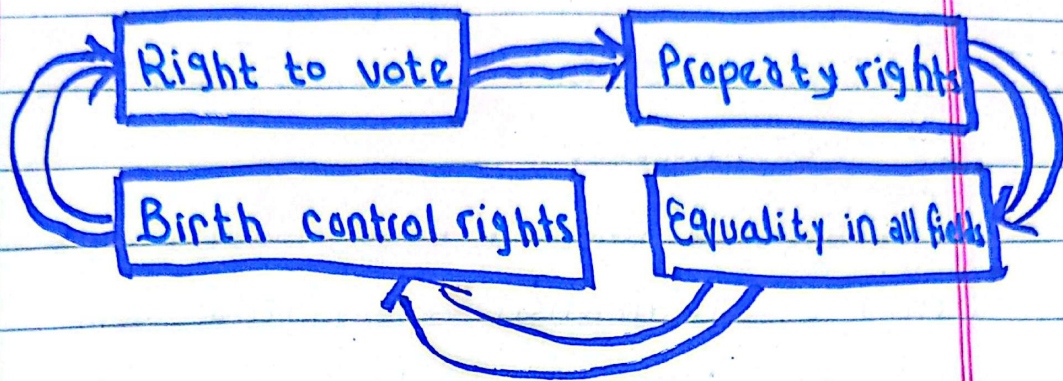
Key principles of 1st wave of feminism are:

- **The suffrage movement:** 1st wave of feminism started in 1848. One of the principle of this wave was the suffrage (voting) rights for women.
- **Challenging gender inequality:** This wave of feminism focused around gender inequality in education, marriage laws, property, employment and healthcare.
- **Rooted in abolitionism:** While struggling for the rights of slaves, women activists (w's) realized that they also deserves rights and opportunities.

(II) Goals of 1st Wave of feminism:

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feminism are:



- **Right to vote:** Women in 1800 had no right to vote. So, the wave was started to achieve voting rights for women.
- **Property rights:** The women of this time period had no property rights and they were dependent on their husbands for economic transactions. Their sufferings made women realize that they should have property rights.
- **Birth control rights:** Women had no control on the birth. Average women gave birth to seven children undermining their health.
- **Equality in all fields:** Main goal was to achieve equality in edu-

cation, jobs, and healthcare.

(III) Strategies Used in 1st Wave of feminism:

- **Writings & Articles:** Mary Wollstone's *Craft's vindication of rights of women* (1792) advocates for women education. Marxist feminist Rosa Luxemburg supported universal suffrage and equality for women.
- **Conventions and Protest:** Seneca falls convention was organised by Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady in 1848 to represent women grievances. Susan B. Anthony and Sojourne Truth (famous for "Ain't I a woman?") led protests to spread feminist agenda.
- **Movements:** Margaret Sanger started birth control right movement. Frederick Douglass a former slave supported seneca falls convention.

(IV) Impacts of 1st Wave of

Feminism on Women's life:

First wave of feminism impacted women's life in following ways:

- i) They got right to vote in 19th Amendment of USA in 1920.
- ii) Achievement of Birth control rights.
- iii) Employment opportunities and Access to higher education was improved.

(II) Principles of 2nd Wave of feminism:

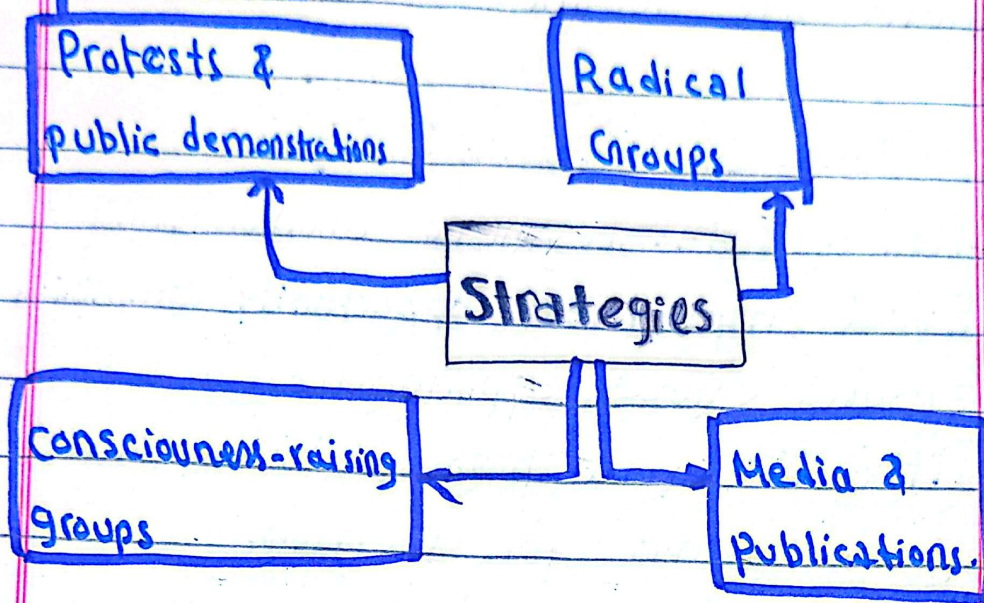
- **Personal is political:** All the oppressions women experienced should be matter of political concerns.
- **Restructuring the society:** To eradicate deeply rooted patriarchal norms and fixed gender roles.
- **Principle of gender equality:** Women should have equal opportunities in both private and public sphere as men.

(II) Goals of 2nd wave of feminism:

2nd wave of feminism started in 1960 with the aims of integrating women into public sphere.

- **Entry into public sphere:** Virginia Woolf in her letter called Three Guineas emphasized women entry into public sphere.
- **Abortion and Birth control rights:** Giving women rights of birth control and abortion.
- **Property rights:** Married women should have property rights and rights of inheritance.
- **Protection against violence:** Granting laws that ensure protection against domestic violence and harassment at workplace.
- **Ensuring gender equality:** Equal employment opportunities for women and removing wage gaps was one of the key goal.

(III) Strategies used in 2nd Wave of feminism:



- **Protests & public demonstrations:** Miss America Pageant 1968 crowned ship to criticize presenting women as object of beauty.
- **Radical groups:** New York Radical women (NYRW), Red stockings and WITCH were the radical groups to fight for women cause.
- **Consciousness-raising groups:** Radical groups formed consciousness-raising groups to share personal experiences.
- **Media & publications:** Simone De Beauvoir (second sex), Betty Friedan (The Feminine Mystique) Germaine Greer (The Female Eunuch)

expressed women frustration from daily life routine.

(IV) Impacts on Women's life:

- **Roe v. Wade:** Legalised abortion right.
- **Equal Employment opportunity Commission:** Ensures equal opportunities.
- **Title IX:** Equal higher education and sports funds for women.
- **Anti-harassment Act:** Ensures no harassment at work place.
- **Anti-discrimination Act:** Ensures no discrimination on basis of gender.

(II) Principles of 3rd Wave:

- **Principle of intersectionality:** This wave of feminism focused on women of different race, class, color, and LGBIQ+.
- **Challenging stereotypes:** Unlike the previous wave of feminism which only focus on basic gender equality, it aims to challenge stereotypes and fixed gender roles.

- **Principle of coalition:** This wave emphasized the active participation of men with women to spread feminism.

(II) Goals of 3rd Wave:

- **Changing media portrayals and language used to define women:** was the main goal of this wave.
- **Increased Political participation:** The third wave started with Anita Hill and Thomas Clarence (alleged of sexual harassment) case. After that case women participation in politics.
- **Challenging everyday resistance:** The previous wave won legal rights but this wave aimed to resist everyday challenges through individual empowerment.
- **Individual empowerment:** The mass protest is not necessary. Individual empowerment will bring change in society.
- **Fighting against rape culture:** The

Wave aimed to fight rape culture and raising awareness about it.

- **Accepting aesthetics and consumerism:**

Previous wave rejected lipsticks, heels, bras as symbol of man oppression.

This wave reclaim it as personal choice. They enjoyed fashion and pop culture while rejecting sexist beauty standards (Lipstick feminism).

(III) Strategies used in 3rd Wave:

- **Media and pop culture:**

Feminists are using social media, blogs, and internet to spread their agenda.

- **Protests:**

Protest like SlutWalks was against the stereotype that women should dress modestly. They responded that men should be taught not to rape.

- **Writings & publications:**

Rebecca Walker's article "Becoming the Third Wave" aroused the feminism.

across world. Naomi Wolf rejected the idea of women victimhood. He believed women have the power to control everything happened to them.

(IV) Impacts on Women's life:

Poor women also participated in the feminism. More improvement in their decision-making and empowerment. Women of different cultures were able to share experiences through social media.

Conclusion:

Hence, from the above discussion we can conclude that different waves of feminism were successful in achieving their aims and improved the women position in society. The oppression against women were controlled through the laws and regulations.