

Q Write a note on

- 1- Marxist Feminism
- 2- Psychoanalytic feminism

## MARXIST FEMINISM

Marxist feminist are those feminist who ally themselves with the psychological and economic theories of Karl Marx, who discovered the economic laws underlying the capitalist system in his masterpiece, *Capital*. Marxist feminism is same as the socialist feminism and materialism feminism as explained by Shahrzad Mojab in his publication, *Marxism and Feminism*.

Marxist feminist sees the capitalist system as the root cause of female subjugation. The traditional nuclear family came out with capitalism, female being part of household and subjugated part followed the capitalism. In this way, women are doubly marginalized and subjugated by both nuclear family and capitalism. The work of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels and Jacques Taroni rework on Marx theory is the foundation of marxist feminism.

The violent shift of communal and matrilineal to capitalism, where private ownership



is the key. The women shift from respected part of society to 'powerless domestic slaves'. Engels describe it as 'the world historical removal of women sex'.

## Strands of Marxist Feminism

### 1. Socialization and socialism

Women are oppressed by male workers of the capitalism. The working class receive bare minimum of their production. Women serve the worker and the source of continual reproduction of labour.

### 2. Women: The reserved labour army

It is evident in history as well that women are used as alternative when men are not available. They are reserved army of labour to fulfill the thirst of labour of capitalism. For instance, in two world wars when men were busy in war, women worked in factories.

### 3. Women: Slave of slaves

Men are the slave of capitalist class and women serve those slave, being slave of the slaves. They <sup>do</sup> work and <sup>also</sup> become victim of oppression of the slaves of capitalism.

#### 4. Productive and Reproductive Labour

The productive labour is the one which results in wages (economic gain). Whereas, the reproductive labour is the work of house which is unpaid. Males do the productive labour and women do the unpaid and unvalued work in her life.

#### 5. Center of Production

In history, the society was matriarchal and center of production was 'domestic life and family'. The time changes, the society converted into patriarchal and center of production become 'capitalism'.

Write women  
exploitation  
under capitalism

#### Belief of Marxist Feminism

- 1- Women is treated as commodity and a slave force.
- 2- Women become victim of the man and the capitalism system.
- 3- Women do not get any reward of her reproductive work.
- 4- Women is the source of reproduction of labour to the capitalism.

#### Accomplishment and Activism

Marxist feminist criticise the hegemony



of capitalism and highlight the status of women

### 1- Wages for Housework

Women throughout her life serves the family and not even get acknowledgment. She must be paid for childcare and house chores. Charlotte Perkins Gilman is the supporter of this and worked for the very idea of wages for housework.

### 2. International wages for Housework Campaign

The idea spread internationally and an organization established in Italy in 1972 for this purpose. The significant name in the campaign are of Selma James and Della Coarda.

### 3. Sharing of responsibility of reproductive labour

Heidi Hartmann explains the idea of the women operation as mother is ignores and regards of women operation as work force.

Nancy Folker emphasises the marxist feminist includes both reproductive (private) labour and the work force (public) labour.

### Marxist Feminism Theorist

Jillet Michall in her publication, 'Women's Estate', highlights four areas of women

Better to make a flow chart to

name theorist

oppression including labour, sexuality, workplace and the reproduction of children. Alison Jaggar in his publication, 'Political Feminism and Human Nature', shed light on women as suppressed by male and capitalism. They faced racism as well but the main source of reproduction but not get value for it.

### Denouement

Marxist feminists give the soft solution that women should be given reward for childcare and housework. They also gave hard solution of abolition of capitalism and ushering in Communism.

The marxist feminism focuses on 'community' not on 'individual' like liberal feminism.

They criticize patriarchy and capitalism.

Marxist feminist demanded a whole new setup and economic growth for women.

### Psycho Analytical Feminism

#### Exordium

Psychoanalytic feminist believes on 'the acting of women depends on the psyche and is deeply rooted in the psyche of women'. Psychoanalysts find the ideal human is the blend



of positive feminine and positive masculine traits. 'The Interpretation of Dream' (1900) by Sigmund Freud is the foundation of the psyche of human. Jacques Lacan also worked on the theory of Freud. The psychoanalytic feminist believes that males have natural development for subjugation of women. They traced the reasons of male oppression and women subjugation in the psychic development of both. The role of social, familial and individual is important in deciding the <sup>role of</sup> the master (male) and role of slave (female).

**Two Sections of Psychoanalytic feminism:**

**Micro level:** It includes the environment in which a child grows and decides their respective roles.

- 1- Children development in formation
- 2- Early sexual traits
- 3- Relation with parents
- 4- The establishment of masculinity and femininity.

At micro level, in childhood with these relations and imposition of masculinity and femininity leads to the development of psychology in certain way.

## Write two approaches Freudian and Lacanian

### Macro level

It includes the gender construction of an individual, the role of society in constructing the gender.

- 1- Examining the masculinity and femininity
- 2- Establishing adult sexuality
- 3- Reinforcement of Patriarchy

All these factors at macro level associate certain traits to certain sex and demand to behave in that way for perfect gender construction.

Patricia Elliot in her publication, "The From Masterly and Analysis: Theories of Gender in psychoanalytic feminism" describes the psyche of male and female to be a dominator and a victim respectively.

### Gender Roles

The behaviour of both sexes is according to their psyche and roles given to their gender. Theorists highlight the role of mother in this way, mothers construct the role to specify gender in household.

The females and daughter are treated differently, they are supposed to serve the male members and their job is to stay at home. The role assigned to males are that



they must be aggressive, independent and responsible to fulfill economic needs.

## Masculinity and Femininity

The attachment with mother and family is associated to femininity. However, the distance with mother and father is masculinity.

The traits assigned to masculinity and femininity must be achieved otherwise society would not accept opposite traits. (It is also explained that during pre-oedipal stage the)<sup>4</sup> It is considered as masculinity to maintain an attitude and not involve in girlish activity. For instance, since childhood mother bought 'dolls' for a girl and 'cars' for boys. So, from different activities family and society fix these masculinity and femininity in mind of an individual.

## Development of sexuality

It is evident by many theorists that during the pre-oedipal stage there are equal chances of a person to be homosexual. The role of mother and other family activities develop this 'heterosexual' idea. So, sexuality is also developed by the development of psychology of an individual.



## Psychoanalytic theorists

- 1- Nanette Chodrow, "The reproduction of Mothering"
- 2- Dorothy Dinnerstein, "The Mermaid and the Minotaur"
- 3- Judith Butler, "Gender Trouble"

All these early theorists contribute in identifying the role of mother in development of psyche.

The female becomes victim of subjugation in hands of males. The males have natural development and need to oppress women. These roles of males and females are not natural but due to development of psyche by different social, familial and individual treatments. The theorists highlight the role of mother and give it as the solution to change the psyche of an individual. The role of family can change the trend of subjugation of female in hand of male because of their psychic development.

Give and ending  
Write two approaches  
mentioned