

Q: Shed light on first and third wave of feminism:

Introduction:

Feminist movement refers to series of political campaigns to reform issues like reproductivity rights, political rights, and domestic violence. The reason behind these waves are that women are treated unfairly and don't have independence, due to lack of these necessities feminist movement begins in the west and had a significant impact on women's life.

"Feminism is not about women being strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength".
(G.D Anderson).

First Wave of Feminism:

The first wave of feminism arose during industrial revolution and rise of liberal politics in the USA and Europe. It was the earliest wave of feminism which aim to address women political issues.

"The wave formally began at Seneca Falls Convention 1848, when 300 men and women accumulate to demand equal rights for women",
(Pacific University, 2019).

The women at that time were ignored and denied property ownership. They do not even have political, education and voting rights. The movement sought to challenge these legal disparities and secure basic rights for women.

Central Theme of first wave of feminism:

The theme of first wave of feminism is to secure voting rights for women. They thought if women have voting rights ~~everything~~ is, gender discrimination can be solved.

"Enfranchising women would enrich politics with women moral concern and strengthen their role as mother and citizen."
(Mc Gill Research paper, 2018).

Demands And Agenda of First wave of feminism:

The first wave of feminism challenged 'cult of domesticity' a notion that women only belonged to house. The demand of first wave of feminism are ensuing:

- i) Full citizenship like men.

- ii) legal and political equality
- iii) Right to vote.

National Women Suffrage Association:

The formation of National Women Suffrage Association was established in 1869. The aim of this association was to address the issues of women at that women.

Associate with Liberal feminism:

The First wave of feminism is associated with liberal feminism, as both men and women are equal. The liberal feminism argues that if both are equal then both should have equal rights.

"The equality of men and women before the law is a fundamental principle of justice". (John mill).

Liberal feminism perceives men and women as two equal pillars of society and aimed to remove legal and political impediments in the way for equality.

Success of First Wave of feminism:

Suffrage rights:

Women gained voting rights in several countries,

New Zealand (1893), UK (1918-1928), and USA (1920).

Education right:

The women gained right to education worldwide.

Property right:

Property rights are granted to women in several countries. Property Act 2010 (UK).

Drawbacks of first wave of feminism:

The first wave of feminism is often seen as white women waves, as it exclude women of colour and colonial women. The scope is relatively limited.

"The first wave was a white women wave, it spoke of sisterhood but often exclude colonial and women of colour".
(bell hooks, 1981).

Third Wave of feminism:

The third wave of feminism embarked in early 1990s, as a response of limitations in previous waves. The third wave of feminism claims women faces oppression not just basis of gender, but also on basis of race, class, caste and ethnicity.

Theme of Third Wave of feminism:

The core theme of this wave is 'Politics and destabilize categories thinking'.

Fluidity of gender:

The feminist of this wave believes that there are no fixed genders, it's a socially construct notion. They challenge the idea of fixed gender, promoting more inclusive understanding of politics.

"Around 17% of population failed to fall in socially construct genders, possessing various combination of different sex" (Sterling).

Intersectionality:

Intersectionality was introduced by Kimberle, this concept emphasize that how race, class, caste, and ethnicity intersect to affects women experiences.

Key strategies adopted by third wave of feminist:

Digital Activism:

The third wave of feminist utilizes internet and social media to promote their agenda

and to organise feminist movements.

Riot grrrl movement:

Riot grrrl movement was a punk rock subculture accumulating feminism, music and activism to raise awareness about women issues, especially.

- i) Sexual assault and harassment.
- ii) Gender inequality.
- iii) Empowerment of women.

Associated literature with third wave of feminism:

Rebecca walker - Becoming the Third Wave.

Becoming the third wave was the most prominent piece of work associated with third wave.

"To be a feminist is to integrate an ideology of equality and empowerment of female into very fiber of life".
(Rebecca).

Associated with Post-Modern feminism:

Third wave of feminism is associated with post-modern feminism, which asserts that

there should be no generalization and it rejects modernism.

Non-Universalist:

Post-modern feminism rejects the universal categories of genders. According to it these are social made categories and they don't have any value.

Culture relativism:

Post-modern feminism claims that different cultures have different categories and traditions. For example, in Islam, women cover themselves. One ~~you~~ can not criticize them, because this is their culture and traditions.

Conclusion:

Women's lives are significantly improved after the different waves of feminism, as each wave has its own agenda and demands. Women get their voting rights, property rights, and participation in politics. But, still in some parts of the world women are not treated fairly and equally. Nevertheless, the waves are the major step for today's women's freedom.