

Outline and explain the three major waves of feminist movements in the west. Discuss the influence of these waves on feminist movement in Pakistan.

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION

The world has already witnessed three waves of feminism and now has been experiencing the fourth wave since 2012. The first wave began in late 19th and early 20th century in western countries. The main target of it was to create opportunities for women. The second wave roughly dating from 1960s to the 1980s, involved an expansion of previous ideas and victories of first-wave. The second-wave pushed for equal opportunities in the workplace, home and public sphere. It resulted in creation of APWA and Women Action Forum in Pakistan. The third-wave emerged in mid-1990's. It focused on the inclusion of all kinds of women who belonged to different

racess, ethnicities and gender identities. The far-reaching impacts of these waves are eminent in Palestinian society.

DEFINITION OF FEMINISM:

Feminism is a belief in social, political, and economic equality of different sexes, particularly women.

FIRST WAVE OF FEMINISM

• HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF FIRST WAVE

Simone de Beauvoir wrote that "the first time we see a woman take up her pen in defense of her sex" was Christine de Pisan, a French woman, in the 15th century. First wave referred to an extended period of feminist activity during the nineteenth century and the early 20th century in UK and U.S. It was primarily based on gaining political power, particularly in the right of women's suffrage. In 1794, Mary Wollstonecraft realized that women's role and their efforts in the French revolution has been neglected. Therefore, she wrote her book, "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" to bring to light the struggle of women.

"I do not wish women to have power over men, but over themselves." Mary Wollstonecraft.

OBJECTIVES OF FIRST WAVE OF FEMINISM

This wave revolved largely around gaining basic legal rights for women that today women cannot imagine reality without. Women were confined to their households and didn't retain any control there as well. Unmarried women were seen as a property of their fathers and married were seen as the property of their husbands. They couldn't file for divorce or be granted custody of their children. Lady Stanton asked for four different rights for women.

- 1- The right of suffrage
- 2- The right to education
- 3- The right to own property
- 4- The right of employment

EFFORTS MADE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS

"It was we, the people; not the white male citizen, who formed the union!"
(Susan B. Anthony)

The first wave was connected with the Abolitionist movement in the U.S at that time. Both movement aimed at

social reformation and liberation from oppression. The former from patriarchy and latter from racial bias. The wave is often demarcated as officially beginning with the signing of the "Declaration of Sentiments" at the Seneca Fall Convention, the first ever women's right convention. Suffrage; the right of women to vote in elections become the goal of movement. with the formation of the American Equal Rights Association in 1866. When this organization collapsed, The National Women Suffrage Association (NWSA) was formed in early 1869. In 1850's a group named Lagham Palace group campaigned for the equal rights of women in Britain. In 1951, Senjavers Truth gave a speech titled, "Ain't I a woman?" in which she talked about how women are as capable as men.

• WOMEN SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

The women suffrage movement was a long-fight to win right to vote for women in U.S. After so many efforts the 19th Amendment was passed declaring "The rights of citizens of United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by U.S or any state on the account of sex."

ROLE OF FIRST WAVE OF FEMINISM IN PAKISTAN

The first wave of feminism didn't impact any role in Pakistan, because Pakistan was not independent at that time. However women in Pakistan has started asking for social, political and economic rights after the country's inception.

SECOND WAVE OF FEMINISM

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SECOND WAVE

Second wave was a period of feminist activity that began in the early 1960s and lasted roughly two decades. In 1963, Betty Friedan published, "The Feminine Mystique" which argued that women were chafing against the confines of their roles as wives and mothers. Inspired by the civil rights movements and protests against the Vietnam War, the second-wave called for the revolution of traditional gender roles in society.

OBJECTIVES OF SECOND-WAVE OF FEMINISM

Much like the first-wave, "second-wave" also took place amidst other social and

DATE: ___/___/___

political movements.

• The End of Oppression AGAINST WOMEN

Second-wave focused on oppression based on this common experience, women constituted united groups to end this cause of oppression. The second-wave also took a strong stance against physical and sexual violence in both homes and workplaces.

• REPRODUCTION RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

Another demarcator of the second wave was through legislative measures. The Food and Drug Administration approved an oral contraceptive pill, made available in 1961, that was an important step towards letting women develop careers instead of being forced into family life. A report released by the Commission on gender inequality recommended paid maternity leave, access to education, and good childcare to help women.

EFFORTS MADE FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF GOALS

In 1963, writer and feminist Betty Friedan published "The Feminine Mystique" a nonfiction book in which she contested

DATE: ___/___/___

the post-World War II belief that it was women's ~~identity~~ destiny to marry and bear children. Friedan's book was a best-seller and began to raise the consciousness of many women who agreed that homemaking in the suburbs sapped them of their individualism and left them unsatisfied.

• ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN

In 1966, ~~NOWA~~^{NOW} was formed and proceeded to set an agenda for the feminist movement. Framed by the statement of the purpose written by Friedan, the agenda began by proclaiming NOW's goal to make possible women's participation in all aspects of American life and to gain for them all rights enjoyed by men.

• THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT:

When the second wave began, the civil rights movement was already in full swing. After emancipation African American men and women still had to fight against racism, violence and segregation to exercise their basic human rights.

ROLE OF SECOND WAVE OF FEMINISM IN PAKISTAN

Inspired by the second-wave of feminism in the 1960s, Pakistani women too embarked on a journey of demanding their socio-economic rights. They argued that having voting rights did not guarantee the end of their oppression at the hands of men. The initial influence of feminist movement during second wave in Pakistan was marked by the issuance of Muslim Family Law in 1961. It aimed at protecting women rights. In 1962, the West Pakistan Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Act was introduced. It allowed Pakistani women to inherit all forms of property.

THIRD WAVE OF FEMINISM

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THIRD WAVE

"We have to free half of the human race, the women, so that they can help to free the other half." (Pantchurst)

The third wave emerged in mid 1990s accompanied by globalization.

The third wave was more pronounced about the rights of women and didn't limit to a country. It was founded by Rebecca Walker to support young activists

In 1992, it included women from all nations, colors, races, ethnicities and different gender identities. Trans feminism was brought more into the mainstream in the Third wave.

OBJECTIVES OF THIRD WAVE OF FEMINISM

Following were the objectives of third wave of feminism-

- It focused on reproductive rights for women
- It opposed the derogatory labels.
- It emphasized intersectionality
- It made the trend of feminism transnational.

Efforts made for the achievement of goals

In the summer of 1992, Walker and Shanon Less started the Third wave Direct Action Cooperation. In 1997, the Third wave Direct Action Cooperation became the Third Wave Foundation. The foundation created grants for women projects, abortions, scholarships and creating young women's reproductive rights organizations. Similarly, the 4th world conference on women held in Beijing started a new chapter of equality in 1995. It made a shift from women to gender and reevaluated the entire structure of society.

ROLE OF THE THIRD WAVE OF FEMINISM IN PAKISTAN

"No Nation can rise to the heights of glory until your women are side by side with you" Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

The mentioned statement is the depiction of Quaid's notion about women's status in Pakistan. The rise of third wave caused mushrooming of NGOs for women rights. Similarly many laws such as Women Protection Act of 2006, the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act of 2010 and so on, were promulgated to secure women and other genders from all kinds of violence. Moreover, Pakistan has also become signatory of CEDAW. Some nations consider these waves against the tenets of Islam. However, a moderate approach is the need of the hour of Pakistani society.

CONCLUSION

Since the mid of 19th century, the world has called for greater political, economic and cultural freedom and equality.

DATE: ___/___/___

for women. The concept of the "waves of feminism" first surfaced in 19th century which demanded suffragist rights for women (voting rights) - In the second wave started 1960's women demanded for an end to the oppression against women and seek reproductive rights. they held many demonstrations with the help of NOW. Later in the third wave the outlook of the world changed from rational to transrational - The third wave encompass all genders instead of just women - All these waves has impacted significant challenges in Pakistan.

WAVES OF FEMINISM	Objectives	Role in PAKISTAN
First wave (1948-1970)	To secure basic legal rights for women especially political and civil	No influence, as Pakistan was not independent at that time
Second wave 1960s - 1980s	End of oppression, suffrage rights, Reproductive rights	Issuance of Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961, West Pakistan Muslim Personal Law (Act) 1962, Creation of APWA, Creation of Women Action Forum (WAF)

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Waves of FEMINISM	Objective	Role in Palcestein
Third wave (1990s - 2010s)	• Introduce concept of intersectionality • Make feminism transitional due to prevalence of globalization	• Women's Protection Act 2006 • Protection Against Harassment of women Act 2010 • CEDAW signatory 1996

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