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Paper: Gender Studies

Q4:

Compare and contrast Liberal Feminism and radical feminism?

Answers

Introduction

For centuries women suffered from all sorts of oppression whether it is political, economical, social or domestic. After centuries of struggle women finally got the legal rights ^{and free political rights} in the 1920 after the passing of the 19th amendment, in the US. This paved a bright hope for the women development in the other spheres of life. In the 1960's the 2nd wave of feminism started which demanded women further rights in the socioeconomic and domestic affairs. With it came 2 most prominent feminist theories i.e. the radical form and the liberal form. The objective of both feminist movements were the same to have women the equal opportunities in all spheres of life but their methodology was a bit different.

What is feminism?

Feminism can be defined as a movement for equal opportunities for all genders in political, social, economical and domestic arena of life.

Overview of Liberal Feminism

Liberal Feminism took place during the 2nd wave of feminism. The demands of liberal feminists were for equal opportunities for all genders on man or women. They were not against the prevailing patriarchy but said that man and woman are ~~no~~ same and hence both should get an equal opportunities in all spheres of life. They demanded equality for all genders without changing the system.

Main goals of Liberal Feminists

- Individuality

Every individual is a human being whether man or woman and should be given full autonomy

- Discrimination

Discrimination against women should end and also against man of every class or background

- Equality

All genders should be treated equally as differences are only socially constructed

- Public-private sphere

Equal opportunities for both man and woman should be given in the public and private sphere of life.

Prominent Figures

- Mary Wollstonecraft
- Harriet Taylor
- Elizabeth Cady
- Betty Friedan

Main Features

- Man and woman are not biologically differentiated but the difference is mostly socially constructed
- Major emphasis on ^{both} equality and equal opportunities for ~~both~~ all genders
- Demanded reform by legal means
- Not Not much focused on patriarchy

- Focused much on individual autonomy

An overview of Radical Feminism

Radical Feminists also were born during the 2nd wave of feminism. The radical feminists ~~was~~ demanded equal opportunities for women and an end to patriarchy. They stated that the oppression of women in the political, social, economical and domestic arena of life is due to her biological ~~etc~~ and physical differences. They stated women were objectified ~~in~~ and sexually assaulted by the male dominated patriarchal system in every spheres of life. Things can not get better until we end this patriarchal system of oppression.

Main goals of radical feminists

- End to patriarchy

The system of patriarchy should be demolished to achieve a feminist society.

- Change of the whole system

The whole system of gender based should be changed and become feminist.

- Women should enjoy their womanhood

Women should embrace and love themselves for who they are.

- End of women objectification

It generally started after the Miss America's contest which according to many radical feminist was objectifying women as a showpiece and not as a human. This needs to be ended.

Prominent Figures

- Kate Millett
- Judy Lorrens
- Betty Friedan (Also a liberal feminist)

Main Features

- Patriarchal system main cause of women oppression
- * - End to women objectification
- Equality for women
- Change of the whole system for reformation
- More extreme form of movement

- Have promoted lesbianism
- Women should love themselves for who they are
- Not focused on any other gender

Summary of comparison b/w radical and liberal feminism

Liberal feminism	Radical feminism
- Equal rights for both men and women	- Equal rights for women
- Social system is holding women back	- Patriarchy is holding women back
- Accepts the systems of patriarchy but feels it needs to be changed	- Hatred against patriarchy
- Men and women are not differentiated due to biological system but due to socially constructed thoughts	- Women are oppressed due to their biological and physical differences
- Movement through legal and social changes change	- Movement to change the whole system or because it is all patriarchal based

- Like women men are also oppressed from patriarchy

- Men benefits from patriarchy

Conclusion

The oppression against women is the most prominent in the human history in all cultures and societies. Women won the legal and political right after the end of 1st wave of feminism but the social, and economic and domestic oppression still continued. This brought a need for another ~~move~~ movement in the form of the 2nd wave of feminism which brought with it different school of thoughts in the form of extreme and liberal approaches. Both had their own way of thinking but both goals were to achieve equal rights and end to oppression of women.

Q8:-
Write short notes on the following

- a) Social construction of gender
- b) Feminist movements in Pakistan during the 1980's

(a)
Social construction of gender

Answer

Introduction

Many people think that sex and gender are the same thing but it is different. Sex is something that you are biologically born with while gender is something which a society gives you. They are totally different things. ~~For years~~ There are many cultures and societies in the world and every one of them have their own masculinity and femininity characteristics which they assign with male or female. Gender is fluid and can vary and it is indeed assigned by the society.

What is Gender?

Gender can be defined as an identity which an individual absorbs by the societal norms and social construction

of masculinity or femininity assigned with man or woman

We are born with a sex of male or female but we become a man or woman according to social construction of attributes of masculinity (assigned to man) and femininity (assigned to woman).

Difference b/w sex and gender

Sex

- Biologically determined
- Difficult to change
- Difference in genitalia, hormones, physical appearance, internal reproductive organ
- Example of sex are male, female, intersex

Gender

- Socially constructed
- Variable since gender identity is determined by society
- It is assigned according to the society about what roles and attributes it assigns with masculinity and femininity
- Example of genders are man, woman, LGBTQ (gender fluidity)

Gender a social construct

Gender is entirely a social construct.

It is what a society assigns attributes of masculinity to man and femininity to woman. According to Judith Butler "A woman is not born a woman but becomes one".

Example

In every cultures of the world it varies. In some cultures such as the traditional cultures of the Scandinavian countries attributes that we considered masculine ~~or~~ and manly such as sword fighting ~~or~~ ^{and} ~~man~~ leading the domestic life (earning bread and butter for the family) were assigned to females. So it varies across cultures.

There are many theories in this regard

Gender performing theory by Judith Butler

According to this theory of Butler she states that we are performing gender at all times. A ~~male~~ child sees his father performing ~~to~~ external works and his mother performing household chores. This constructs an idea in the child that what a man should do and what attributes are assigned with him and ~~what~~ same with a woman. This makes it a normal binary division and a child selects his gender according to the prevailing social norms.

Some parameters of gender with examples

- Gender identity

We get our gender identity according to the prevailing social norms. It can correlate with a person assigned sex ~~and~~ or can differ from it. For example a born female can become a man by adopting masculine characteristics.

- Gender roles

What a society assigns or expects to certain roles from man and woman to be done. For example man should be the bread winners while women should be the caretaker.

- Gender accountability

This is how we measure ourselves up according to our gender identity. For e.g. a man will hold himself accountable if he cries because according to the society it is assumed that he should not cry.

- Gender socialization

It is how teaching a person to behave according to the gender expectations and

roles of a society for e.g. girls should be passive and boys should be aggressive. Its most common agents are media, parents, ^{and} schools etc.

Conclusion

Gender is hence a socially constructed phenomenon and is not biologically determined. A male becomes a man when he follows the socially constructed masculine attributes and a female becomes a woman after following gender roles and expectations, attributed to feminine. It can vary according to a society and a male can identify himself as a woman and a female can identify her gender as a man as well.

(b)
Feminist movements in Pakistan in the 1980's

Answer

Introduction

Pakistan is a traditionally male dominated society. According to the recent global gender parity index 2022, Pakistan ranks the second worst i.e. 144 out of 146 countries. The oppression against women is one of the worst in the world in Pakistan. Feminist movements in Pakistan soon started after 1947 with Fatima Jinnah and Begum Rana Liaquat leading the call. The impact of the 2nd wave of feminism also on the world also had its influence on Pakistan but till today the feminist movements suffer a lot of hindrance and backlash from the society.

History of Feminist movement in Pakistan before 1980's

- In 1951 women were first time given the right to own agricultural land
- In 1949 Begum Rana Liaquat along with Fatima Jinnah formed a non political All Pakistan Women Association.
- In the 1956 constitution women were

given equal citizenship and a right to vote

- In 1961 Muslim Family Ordinance was passed by general Ayub Khan giving divorce rights, rights to keep children, rights to marriage to women
- In 1965 First Fatima Jinnah contested against gen Ayub
- During Bhutto ^{era} the constitution of 1973 provided surplus rights to women and gave them 10% reserved seats plus open contest on general seats as well
- During the 2nd wave of feminism many organizations of women were formed in the 60's and 70's

Feminist movements during the 1980's

During the 1980's after the takeover of Zia in 1978 following ~~to many~~ incidents happened

- In 1979 Hudood ordinance was passed by general Zia

in

~~the~~

Hudood ordinance 1979

The hudood ordinance of 1979 imposed strict implications of Islamic law against the discrimination and oppression against women. Punishments like stoning, lashes and death were imposed for offences like rape, adultery, ~~wine~~ alcohol drinking etc. Women had to present 4 male witness if she is raped to the court to prove her innocence otherwise she had to be charged for adultery and lashed for 100 times. This gave women a disadvantage and encouraged more oppression against her.

The case of Jahan ~~Maria~~ ^{Mina}

In 1983 a 13 year old girl was raped by her uncle and his four sons. She took it to the court but couldn't produce enough evidence and hence was lashed with 100 strips for adultery.

Formation of Women Action Forum 1981

In 1981 hence against the Hudood laws passed by Zia a Women Action Forum was established which strictly protested against Zia laws and equal opportunities for women.

Key points of WAF

- Openly protested against Zia laws
- Ashed for equal rights for women and end of patriarchy
- Focused on women issues related to politics, domestic life, ^{and} socioeconomic life
- Demanded an end to discriminatory laws formed against women

Sindhani te tchreek

The Sindhani te tchreek was formed in Sindh against the patriarchal norms and discrimination against women. They demanded an end to patriarchy and equal opportunities ^{and rights} for women in the political, economical, social and domestic arena of life.

0. Benazir Bhutto era 1988-90

After the demise of Zia, Bhutto was elected as the first female prime minister of a muslim country. During this time WAF activities strengthened and ~~very~~ very active. Benazir also challenged the laws of Haddood ordinance and many developments for women took place such as:-

- Appointment of female judges
- Research culture for female was promoted

- Establishment of All women police stations

Conclusion

Pakistan is a severe patriarchal society and oppression and inequality against women is some of the highest in the world. The global feminist movements have gained a lot of success to win equal rights for women and its operations in Pakistan during the 60's and 70's strengthened. The 80's was a crucial down time for the feminist movements after Zia's Hudood law and Qanoon Shahadat laws which oppressed women. In retaliation the WAF was formed along with many other women organizations which gained more success during the Benazir period.