

QNO # 05

Discuss three waves of Feminism. Also, highlight the impacts of these movements on Pakistan.

Three Waves of Feminism: their impacts on Pakistan:

The rise of feminist movements began with Enlightenment, when women started to demand that the new reformist rhetoric about liberty, equality, and natural rights to be applied to both sexes. The apparent pattern of rise and fall of feminism over period of time of time ~~had~~ led to the wave analogy. This wave analogy almost contains three waves of feminism which rose time to time. These waves have far-reaching implications in Pakistani society in general and women in particular.

Reasons of Rise of Feminist Movements:

As many feminists have proposed that gender is socially-constructed which can be socially changed as. This change this socially-constructed gender, there are many waves were seen which are known as waves of feminism.

Waves of Feminism

i- First Wave of Feminism:

First wave was rised from 1848 to 1870. which is also known as liberal feminism. The term - first wave - was coined by Frances Power Cobbe. It focused on legal issues primarily on gaining women suffrage. It is connected with abolishment movement in USA, and rights of women.

Demands of First Wave:

The following are major demands of first wave feminism

- i- Raising voices for gaining voting right.
- ii- Struggle for right to vote and women suffrage
- iii- Attainment of 'equality' through legislation.
- iv- Access to equal opportunities for education, employment, and profession.
- v- Having equal rights to own property, ownership, marriage, and divorce.

Impacts of First Wave of Feminism in Pakistan:

This wave was before the independence of Pakistan. It was mostly restricted to Western Europe and USA. Therefore, it had ~~less~~ ~~impact~~ no crucial impacts on sub-continent women because the grievances of western women and sub-continent women were different. And, sub-continent women were mostly unaware of first wave due to its limited scope in USA and Europe. Thus, it had few impacts on this region.

2nd Wave Feminism:

This feminism is also known as Radical, Socialist, or Marxist feminism. It was began with publishing of Simon de Beauvoir's book *The Second Sex* and Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963. It was started from 1960s to 1980s. This was began in USA and spread throughout Western World and beyond. 2nd wave lost its

movement in late 1980s when most of feminist energy shifted to women studies program.

Demands of 2nd Wave Feminism:

Key demands were:

- i- They wanted paid work, equal rights in political and economic realm, reproductive rights and birth control rights.
- ii- Activists fought against workplace discrimination, segregate employment ads (male-only), etc.
- iii- The central focus was on changing the way society thought about women.
- iv- Protests against the Beauty contests such as Miss America of 1968 and 1969 pageant and its demeaning patriarchal treatment of women.

Impacts of 2nd Wave in Pakistan:

This wave began after the independence of Pakistan which left far-reaching implications on Pakistani women. The following is

decade wise analysis of impacts of 2nd wave feminism.

During 1940s:

During initial era of independence, many feminists like Fatima Jinnah, Begum Rana Liaquat Ali and Begum Jahan Ara Shahmehrez played their role and established various organisations for women like APWA (All Pakistan Women Association) in 1949, WVS (Women-Volunteer Service) in 1948, PUNG, PUNR and others.

During 1950s:

Charter of women rights were included in 1956 constitution. Commission on Marriage and Family Law 1955 was created.

During 1960s:

Women were given political representation in constitution of 1956 and 1962. Fatima Jinnah contested election against Ayub Khan. MELO 1960 was enforced.

During 1970s:

Many developments were occurred in this area too for women empowerment.

iii. Third Wave Feminism:

Third wave term was coined by Yuval Davis. Third wave is diverse which includes liberal, psychoanalytical, post-modernism, post-structuralism, black feminism, men's feminism and intersectional feminism. It is a product of post-modernism which rejects modernism theory and says there should be no generalisation.

Origin:

Generally, beginning of 3rd wave is pegged to two things:

i. Anita Hill case in 1991:

Anita was secretary of Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment. Her trial was televised which impacted women all over America. Rebecca Walker published a piece in Ms. Magazine, supporting Hill and heralding the third wave. She wrote "I am not a post-feminism feminist, I am the third wave."

ii- Emergence of The Riot GRRRL Groups

It was emerged in early 1980s. They are dissatisfied from conditions and existence practices. Their demand was not to take women as weak and dependent but strong and independent.

Impacts of Third Wave Feminism in Pakistan:

This was the era of military dictatorship in Pakistan when third wave was peaking. Various associations of women were established against Hudud Ordinance and Qanon-Shahadat in 1980s. For example, Women Action Forum (WAF) in 1981 in response to Hudud ordinance and strengthening position of women in society, Pakistan Lawyer Association and legal Aid cell to appeal against hudud case, Sindhiani Tahseeth etc.

During 2000s, National Commission on status of women was created for development of women and gender

gender equality. And, many other laws were passed during Musharraf regime which repealed and abolished Hudud Ordinance and its restrictions.

Conclusion:

All in all, different waves of feminism played crucial role in improving socio-economic and political life of women. These waves also depicted their influence on Pakistani women who are now able to raise their voices against patriarchy in our society.

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short note on liberal feminism

Liberal Feminism:

Liberal feminism was against the patriarchy. It demands socio-economic equality of men and women. Feminist believes that equality is possible and will eventually exist. Betty Friedan was advocate and popular in 1950s and 1960s in supporting liberal feminism whose civil rights movement were taking place.

Objectives of Liberal Feminism:

The chief objective was to struggle to change laws, to promote equality, liberty, independence and autonomy.

Issues with Women during Liberal Feminism:

The following are main arguments of liberal feminists:

i- Sexual Harassment:

The demand to end sexual harassment of women in all its forms and types.

ii- Equal Educational and Voting Rights:

The demand equal rights to

education : and vote.

iii- Fair Wages of Work:

They demand fair compensation of work as women were usually paid low wages by employees during this era.

Beliefs of Liberal Feminism:

The following are the main beliefs of liberal feminism:

i- Individual's right:

Liberal feminists believe in individual rights. For example, freedom of expression, thought and life.

ii- Supporter of Heterosexuality:

Liberal feminists were in favour of heterosexuality. They support heterosexuality.

iii- Rejection of Penis Envy Theory:

They rejected Penis Envy Theory in all its forms and basis.

iv- Consciousness Raising:

They are raising consciousness among people. They are mostly considered as consciousness raising.

Criticism on Liberal Feminism:

liberal feminism failed to break down the deeper ideologies of society and patriarchy.

They usually ignored race and class issues.

Similarly they focused on white, middle class and heterosexual women, while ignored homosexual and other classes in the society.

Conclusion:

To conclude, liberal feminism presents various genuine demands of women in society. They tried to abolish patriarchal nature of society and give women equal opportunities for socio-economic development of women.