

Gender Studies - 6

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Feminist movements have played a significant role in providing women with rights and ~~and~~ challenging by challenging the established norms and value based on patriarchal culture. Rooted back to Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, there are three major waves of feminism in the West, shaping major of the current feminist approaches. In Pakistan, the socio-economic conditions of Pakistan continues to deteriorate. A blend of ~~all~~ four Liberal, radical, Marxist and psychoanalytical feminism within the spirits of Pakistani culture and religion would provide a practical step to elevate the status of women in Pakistan.

A brief background before Feminist Movements:

In 1792, Mary Wollstonecraft wrote a book and advocated for women's suffrage and rationality of life. She was inspired by French Revolution of 1779. In 1848, Declaration of Sentiments were presented in Seneca Falls Convention for women. Women started advocating for right to vote after it was granted to men & color.

1st Wave of Feminism:

Outline

Manifesto: legal and Suffrage struggle

Advocates: Susan Anthony

Success: Right to vote, right to inheritance, right to property, ability to divorce, right for custody

Explanation of First wave of Feminist Movement

First wave of feminism started at the end of 19th Century till the beginning of 20th Century. It was a struggle by women to demand active political participation by enabling them the legal permission to vote. The main advocate was Susan Anthony. The struggle continued for decades until the US amended its constitution to allow women to vote. In addition, it enabled women to inherit rather than transferring it to her husband. The right to divorce and custody were among the initial emancipation of women from the claws of patriarchy. However, it was based on liberalist ideas and struggle of white women.

2nd Wave of Feminism:

Outline

Manifesto: Equal pay, anti-harassment laws, equal education opportunities

Success: Won legal battles and passed new laws that ensure women economic rights were preserved. Domestic violence was criminalised. Gender studies adopted.

Explanation of 2nd Wave of Feminism:

2nd Wave of Feminism started around Cold War, after the world war ended. This wave revolved around the Liberal world order. Liberal feminism was at play. Efforts were being made to bring women equal to men in the existing social structure. Voices were raised against unequal pay, inequality in education, harassment, etc. Equality and Equity became the voice of this movement. Hence, laws were passed in U.K to establish laws that ensure fair wages, protection to women. Education for girls were equated to that of boys. Woman Studies became a subject. However, it was criticised for accepting the status-quo structure which was problematic altogether and needed revolution. It was biased on white middle class women.

3rd Wave of Feminism:

Outline

3rd Manifesto: 'Do it 'k yourself', intersectionality, derogatory terms symbolised, 'punk' as resistance.

Form: Radical Feminism

Success: Debunking the current structure, embracing diversity, intersectionality, technological ~~boom~~ presence

Explanation.

The third wave of feminism started in 20th century and is still going on. It questioned the current system as being too problematic that is rigid and bipolar to man and woman. It raised the issue of gender and sex, stating that sex and gender both are social construct. It embraced the derogatory sexist terms like 'bitch' as a symbol of resistance. The main idea revolved around the ~~strong~~ concept of no clear structure to feminism. Hence, it provided flexibility of the cause in terms of race, sexuality, geographical location, etc. The movement is still going on with diverse approaches to undermining the ~~the~~ patriarchal toxic masculine structure and proposing gender fluid approach.

Types of feminism to alleviate the socio-economic structure of Pakistan

Pakistan is an underdeveloped country with diverse cultures. Patriarchy dominates the society and the culture has deeply embedded sexist elements. Therefore, no one type of feminist approach is realistic. Rather, a blend of liberal, Radical, Marxist and psycho-

analytical approach to feminism must be adopted to elaborate socio-economic conditions of women.

Liberal feminism and the idea of equality:

The word 'liberal' constitutes to 'free'. Liberal feminism is the approach where equality to all is advocated in the present functionalist social structure. Pakistani women must have equality in education, health, economy, corporate sector, justice and opportunities. For example, a woman should have equal opportunity to work in field as man without sex ~~disc~~ -biases.

The question of equity with liberal feminism:

Liberalism align with the phrase "survival of the fittest." However, women has historically been compromised and made submissive force. Hence, to make the idea of equality reality, equity must be ensured. For example, a quota system for political participation must be ensured to provide platform for change.

Radical feminism and the problem with current structure:

The main reason for persistent underlying problem of socio-economic adversity of women is the deep

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rooted patriarchal structure of Pakistani society. Men are the head of family and is the main authority to decide women's education, justice, health, etc, as she is financially dependent on him. This causes exploitation and ineffectiveness of equal opportunities available. Hence, there should be a gradual radical shift to ~~create~~ eliminate the sexist element, from culture.

Marxist feminism and the dominance of man on economy

Marxist feminists advocate for women's equal economic opportunities. In Pakistan, elite class include men currently. The list of richest people in Pakistan include M. A. Mansha and Riaz Malik. Hence, men control women. Moreover, unpaid domestic labour is another exploitation source. Women, ~~in add~~ therefore, are dependent on men financially. Therefore, steps should be taken to emancipate women from abuse by setting institutions that supports women's education and train them to earn sufficient. Government should encourage greater participation of women in SMEs.

Conclusion

The first, second and third wave of feminism resulted in development of women and gender in the West. Many theories formed and evolved such as Liberal, Marxist and

radical feminism which can be blended and tailored to improve the condition of Pakistani women.

Q5- According to Global Gender Gap, Pakistan has been ranked 145th out of 146th in the gender equality index. Although Pakistan has committed to narrowing this gap in its constitution and through Sustainable Economic Goals (SDGs) of UN, the country failed to resolve the deep seated issues. There are many reasons for gender disparity. It revolves around cultural, political, economical and social reasons. If not addressed timely, the conditions of women will deteriorate further.

Cultural and social reasons of gender inequality

The dominant presence of Patriarchy:

The family system is still dominated by a male, who is the head of the family. He controls the affairs of the house and has the last say in familial disposals. For example, it is upto men to push for early marriage of daughters. They decide if ~~there~~ the women can receive education or not. The main reason being financial dependence and illiteracy.

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The path to equality is considered deviant in the present social structure:

If the woman resists inequality, the society look down upon the family. Many term it as loss of families dignity and social status. This is especially prominent in rural areas. In her documentary ^{re} regarding ~~card attack~~ love affair, Mrs Shauheen mentions how the family regain their social status by killing the girl who ran away with someone she loved. If the case is reported to police, there are threats to security of life.

Political representation of women in Pakistan

Lack of true political standing of women:

Women in politics do have historical prominence. The current Prime Minister of Punjab is a woman. Pakistan's got Benazir Bhutto as woman Prime Minister even before the liberalist U.S country. However, most of the women do not truly represent women. They run on parties agendas and priority is given to those agendas. These agendas are devised by man in power. For example, N-League runs is led by a male rather than Maryam Nawaz herself. Hence, women are not able to create policies, legislature, or amendments

that improve women's condition.

Nepotism and cronyism in women politics:-

1. Women politics of Pakistan run on Nepotism.

Berazio Bhutto came in power because of her father. Maryam Nawaz is the daughter of Nawaz Sharif who became Prime Minister several times. A woman of upper

class cannot truly understand the grievances, problem and gaps of women from lower social class. Hence, they cannot make effective policies being from privileged backgrounds.

Economical disparities that affects women adversely:

Economic conditions of Pakistan and IMF:

Pakistan faced deteriorating economic conditions since the third decade of 21st Century. It had to take huge loans from IMF valued

at \$10 billion. However, Structural Adjust-

ment programs of IMF resulted in

inflation, unemployment and poverty. Women

were more affected because women were

the first to lose their jobs as or were

offered lesser pay or no increments. Moreover,

the removal of subsidy was also imposed

on Sanitary pads and other medications needed by women. Hence, the cost increased and women's basic needs deprivation exacerbated.

A fall in education of women:

Due to severe economic circumstances, many students were not able to continue education.

Therefore, dropout rate of women increased.

They were either married-off or were assigned in unpaid domestic labour. Hence, women were deprived of aspiring their careers.

~~strongly~~

Poor health sector:

Women's had to face the ineffective health structure of Pakistan. There are lack of sufficient beds, rooms, nurses, etc to cater the need of women especially when she is pregnant.

A wide absence of doctors and nurses exacerbates the issue. Moreover, the cost of medications increased.

due to economic irregularities. Hence, the maternity death rate increased, and many women faced prolonged time to recover.

Conclusion

Pakistan, on papers, have made wide range of commitments to develop women's state. However, in reality, it is engulfed with underlying issues

Q sexism, political inequality, economic hardships, ineffective education and poor health system.

Q6. Feminists have been great advocates of women's right. Feminism, in essence, tried to understand how can these rights be secured effectively. This led to formation of various feminist theories. One of them is psychoanalytical feminism. It blends psychology of women with women's struggle to freedom to better understand the issue.

Psychoanalytical feminism:

Psych or Psychoanalytical feminism is a feminist approach to understand the underlying issues of male dominance from the psychology of woman and her relation to that of men. The theory is based on supporting theories of Sigmund Freud and its reinterpretation by Nancy Chodorow.

The 'Penis envy' in gender relations:

According to Sigmund Freud, ~~women~~ when a girl reaches a certain stage, she realises that she does not have a penis. Freud identified penis as a factor that dominates

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one sex over another. Genital inferiority enables a woman to seek penis to satisfy and remove this deprivation. Hence, she subordinates to male in the process. ❏

Lacan's reinterpretation of Freud's concept in symbolic manner.

According to Lacan, 'Penis envy' is the domination of man in every sphere of life. A male has the power and authority. This deprives women of dominance. She becomes a submissive force to man. Through submission, she tries to gain her objectives. Ultimately, it leads to gender oppression.

Nancy Cudrow's view over women's psychology:

Nancy Cudrow states that ~~women~~ a girl interacts with her mother which results in passing down of traditional oppressive roles. Hence, a girl chooses to identify herself with her mother. The aspects of submission and empathy are inculcated. A boy will take the role similar to that of his father. Such role taking continues the chain of oppressive behavior of men and submissive behavior of women. Hence, reinforcing patriarchy and continuing traditional gender role.

The change in parental role becomes necessary:

According to Social Learning Theory, a man person develops an identity through socialization agents. Among them family plays a significant role. Hence, psychoanalytical feminism advocates for change in families. A change in incubating roles on gender ward is bound to invite oppression and patriarchy. Gender fluid actors could be adopted to child's upbringing. Parents should play roles that invites a gender friendly environment. According to Meads, the child will start taking a role play of his parents and incubate the characteristics. But this may result in a more greater tolerance to gender diversity.

Conclusion

In conclusion

Meads and Psychoanalytical feminism tried to underline the psychological aspects that leads to women feeling inferior to men. Rather, such actions could be all together avoided with proper parental upbringing. It would need one person atleast to break the chain and provide a more gender friendly nurture to the child.

Q8-

a) Women and Globalisation

Globalisation can be taken in various context with respect to women. In feminism, it means the presence of intersectionality. Moreover, UN Declaration of Human Rights has set a bench mark for women's rights. Lastly, international actions like #MeToo and the goals of SDGs can also be highlighted.

Feminism and its recognition of intersectionality in globalised world:

Feminism advocates for better life of women. In the last wave, it was able to comprehend the diverse range of cultures, races, class, religion, etc. Hence, feminism became flexible on women to struggle for success in their tailoured environment. Hence, cultural Relativism was embraced within globalised diverse world.

For example, feminism of the west advocates for ~~freedom~~ freedom of body whereas feminism in Islamic world realises that it is more vocal more rights that promotes women literacy, dignity and safety in society.

Universal Declaration of women's rights:

Universal Declaration of Human rights advocates

for gender equality and women's safety. It has set a unprecedented benchmark for the world to follow. The members of the UN are encouraged to comply and ensure rights to women. This is why Social Development Goals have gained traction. Countries like Pakistan are giving targets to achieve gender equality. Hence, the global advocacy for women strengthened.

Globalisation and its vested economic opportunities for women:

Globalisation has diversified the set of opportunities that can be availed in collaboration with technology. If a woman feels deprived of equal pay, unsafe in corporate sector or is restricted to go out, she can avail online opportunities to embolden and empower her. Education deprivation can be eased with ~~re~~ online educational opportunities free of cost.

b) WID, WAD, GAD

Women in Development (WID)

This was the earliest strategic forums that advocated for improved condition of women within existing structures.

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It advocated for equality of women and better legal and social facilities.

Women and Development (WAD)

It advocated for women's equity in development. Women were historically deprived of basic rights. In order to provide better lives, more needed to be done. Equity was provided in the form of paid maternity leaves, quota system and anti-harassment legal system.

Gender and Development (GAD)

A more inclusive approach, it advocated for development of all irrespective of any gender.

It included the provision of right to trans-individuals. Such inclusive approach ensured the inclusion of marginalised communities.

Tolerance to subculture increased as a result of GAD.