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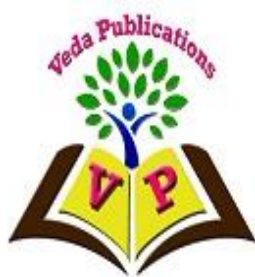
FEMINISM

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ABSTRACT




Feminism, the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. Although largely originating in the West, feminism is manifested worldwide and is represented by various institutions committed to activity on behalf of women's rights and interests. Feminism is about all genders having equal rights and opportunities. It's about respecting diverse women's experiences, identities, knowledge and strengths, and striving to empower all women to realise their full rights. It's about levelling the playing field between genders, and ensuring that diverse women and girls have the same opportunities in life available to boys and men. Feminism is defined as the belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes. The goal of feminism is to challenge the systematic inequalities women face on a daily basis. Though the movement was originally created to ensure basic human rights for women, feminism today is a social movement and belief focused on changing society for the better. This is an attempt to guarantee equal opportunities and equity for both men and women.

Keywords: *Feminism, Society, Equality.*

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Feminism is a range of socio-political movements and ideologies that aim to define and establish the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes. Feminism incorporates the position that societies prioritize the male point of view, and those women are treated unjustly within those societies. Efforts to change that include fighting against gender stereotypes and establishing educational, professional, and interpersonal opportunities and outcomes for women that are equal to those for men.

At its core, feminism is the belief in full social, economic, and political equality for women. Feminism largely arose in response to Western traditions that restricted the rights of women, but feminist thought has global manifestations and variations. Feminism has provided Western women with increased educational opportunities, the right to vote, protections against workplace discrimination, and the right to make personal decisions about pregnancy. In some communities, feminism has also succeeded in challenging pervasive cultural norms about women. Outside of the Western world, activists such as Malala Yousafzai have highlighted issues such as unequal access to education for women.

Feminism is both an intellectual commitment and a political movement that seeks justice for women and the end of sexism

in all forms. However, there are many different kinds of feminism. Feminists disagree about what sexism consists in, and what exactly ought to be done about it; they disagree about what it means to be a woman or a man and what social and political implications gender has or should have. Nonetheless, motivated by the quest for social justice, feminist inquiry provides a wide range of perspectives on social, cultural, economic, and political phenomena. Important topics for feminist theory and politics include: the body, class and work, disability, the family. Feminism is defined as the belief in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes. The goal of feminism is to challenge the systemic inequalities women face on a daily basis. Modern feminist thought still focuses on the destruction of societally expected gender norms and behaviours. It still strives for equality and justice of all people in the eyes of the law, though the strategies and subcategories may vary.

It begins by establishing a link between feminine gender and feminist values, which include cooperation, respect, caring, nurturance, justice, equity, honesty, sensitivity, perceptiveness, intuition, altruism, fairness, morality, and commitment. Feminism advocates social, political, economic, and intellectual equality for women and men. Feminism defines a political perspective; it is distinct from sex or gender. Feminism means very different things to



different people. The many variants of feminism are associated with a variety of philosophical and political outlooks.

We have four broad feminist approaches. Although these approaches differ, they are not mutually exclusive, nor does one supersede any other. These approaches represent basic strategies guiding research, legislation, and policies.

There are four types of Feminism – Radical, Marxist, Liberal, and Difference.

Radical-libertarian feminists believe that it is both possible and desirable for gender differences to be eradicated, or at least greatly reduced, and aim for a state of androgyny in which men and women are not significantly different. Radical-cultural feminists believe in the superiority of the feminine. According to Tong radical cultural feminists celebrate characteristics associated with femininity such as emotion, and are hostile to those characteristics associated with masculinity such as hierarchy. The various alternatives suggested by Radical Feminists include separatism – women only communes, and Matrifocal households. Some also practise political Lesbianism and political celibacy as they view heterosexual relationships as “sleeping with the enemy.”

Marxist Feminism: Capitalism rather than patriarchy is the principal source of women's

oppression, and capitalists as the main beneficiaries. Women's subordination plays a number of important functions for capitalism: Women reproduce the labour force for free (socialisation is done for free). They are more sensitive to differences between women who belong to the ruling class and proletarian families. Marxist Feminists believe that there is considerable scope for co-operation between working class women and men and that both can work together. In Communist society, Marxist feminists believe that gender inequalities will disappear.

Liberal Feminism: Nobody benefits from existing inequalities: both men and women are harmed. The explanation for gender inequality lies not so much in structures and institutions of society but in its culture and values. Socialisation into gender roles has the consequence of producing rigid, inflexible expectations of men and women. Discrimination prevents women from having equal opportunities. Liberal Feminists do not seek revolutionary changes: they want changes to take place within the existing structure. The creation of equal opportunities is the main aim of liberal feminists. Liberal feminists try to eradicate sexism from the children's books and the media. Liberal Feminist ideas have probably had the most impact on women's lives.



Difference Feminism/ Postmodern Feminism

Do not see women as a single homogenous group. Postmodern Feminism – concerned with language (discourses) and the relationship between power and knowledge rather than ‘politics and opportunities. Capitalism rather than patriarchy is the principal source of women’s oppression, and capitalists as the main beneficiaries. Women’s subordination plays a number of important functions for capitalism: Difference Feminism represents a broad spectrum of feminisms that emphasize differences between women and men. This approach arose in the 1980s and 1990s in efforts to revalue qualities traditionally devalued as "feminine"—such as subjectivity, caring, feeling, or empathy. This approach identifies bias in science and technology by seeing what has been left out from feminine perspectives—sometimes expressed as “women’s ways of knowing.” Difference feminisms have been criticized as being essentialist Difference.

This approach fails to take into account that women and men across classes and cultures hold many different perspectives and values. Sex and Gender Analysis enriches science, health & medicine, and engineering research by analysing how sex and gender influence all phases of research, including setting priorities, making funding decisions, establishing project objectives and methods, gathering and analysing data,

evaluating results, developing patents, and transferring ideas to markets This approach prioritizes analysis (not prescription) to guide efforts to achieve gender equality. Simultaneously, this approach employs sex and gender analysis as a resource to stimulate creativity in science and technology, and by doing so enhance the lives of both women and men.

At its core, feminism is the belief in full social, economic, and political equality for women. Feminism largely arose in response to Western traditions that restricted the rights of women, but feminist thought has global manifestations and variations. So long as inequality and male supremacy persist, women and girls need feminism. Men and boys need it too because equality is better for everyone. Even though we're well into the 21st century, women are still under-represented in leadership positions and men are under-represented in caring roles. Gender norms are socially constructed not determined by biology and can thus be changed. Capitalism rather than patriarchy is the principal source of women’s oppression, and capitalists as the main beneficiaries. Liberal Feminists do not seek revolutionary changes: they want changes to take place within the existing structure. The creation of equal opportunities is the main aim of liberal feminists. Liberal Feminists do not seek revolutionary changes: they want changes to



take place within the existing structure. Feminism is about all genders having equal rights and opportunities. It's about respecting diverse women's experiences, identities, knowledge and strengths, and striving to empower all women to realise their full rights.

CONCLUSION

True feminism is feminism that seeks to liberate all women leading inexorably to solidarity politics, solidarity economics, and revolution a global citizens movement, as described by the Great Transition Initiative.

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