



Relevance of Feminism in Current Era

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ABSTRACT:

This study explores the complex terrain of modern-day feminism, looking at the development of feminist movements, obstacles encountered, and effects on the social, political, and cultural domains. Using a qualitative methodology, the study makes use of surveys, interviews, and literature analysis to provide readers a thorough grasp of the range of viewpoints present in the feminist debate.

The first section of the paper traces the historical origins of feminism and highlights significant turning points in its development. After then, it concentrates on the situation of feminism today, taking into account how gender intersects with racial, socioeconomic, sexual, and other variables. Important topics including gender-based violence, workplace equality, and reproductive rights are thoroughly examined to show the difficulties and advancements achieved in resolving these concerns.

Keywords: *Feminists, Discrimination, analysis, evolution.*

INTRODUCTION

The Latin term "femina," which means to have, is where the word "feminism" originates.

There are numerous different uses for the notion of feminism, and there is constant discussion over what it means. For example, although the exact list of injustices against women is debatable, some writers use the term "feminism" to refer to a specific political movement in US and European history. It is a term used by other authors to allude to the idea that women are the victims of injustices. We have attempted to provide a succinct overview of some of the term's most important definitions that are relevant to contemporary feminist philosophy in this page. For a historical synopsis of feminist thought, see "Feminism, history of". The term "feminism" was initially coined in the mid- 1800s.

What is the feminist movement?

With a focus on correcting the historical and structural injustices that women have endured, feminism is a social and political movement dedicated to advancing the rights, opportunities, and equality of all genders. Prejudices, power imbalances, and gender-based discrimination against women that have historically disadvantaged them are at the core of feminism's goals. Feminism is the belief in and pursuit of equality among all genders in every aspect of life, from healthcare and education to politics and employment. It encompasses a range of ideas aimed at dismantling oppressive systems and fostering inclusivity. Rather than a single concept, it's a diverse movement united by the goal of building a fairer society where individuals aren't restricted or judged based on their gender. Feminists use various methods such as campaigning, activism, and cultural critique to advance these ideals.

Feminism during 21st century

The feminist movement has dynamically changed in the twenty-first century, combining past achievements with new issues. The digital era is crucial because it has given rise to social media movements like #MeToo that have raised awareness and sparked activity about issues like sexual harassment and assault. With the acceptance of intersectionality, the conversation has changed to acknowledge the interdependence of discrimination on the basis of gender, race, class, and other variables.

Feminist agendas have gained international traction as a result of globalization, which has encouraged cross-border cooperation to address shared problems including employment inequality and reproductive rights. There has been progress in eliminating gender inequities as laws and regulations adjust to feminist activism, but issues including internet harassment and opposition to gender.

The following are some essential facets of 21st-century feminism:

Technological Impact: The emergence of social media and the internet has greatly influenced the conversation around feminism. Online forums are being used as platforms for mobilization, advocacy, and the exchange of different viewpoints. With the rise in popularity of hashtags like #MeToo, discussions regarding sexual harassment and assault have become more widespread.

Intersectionality: Intersectional feminism has become more well-known for identifying and addressing the connections between different types of oppression. Proponents stress how crucial it is to acknowledge and solve gender-based discrimination in light of intersecting issues such as race, class, sexual orientation, and others

Globalization of Feminism: Feminism has expanded into a global movement in the modern era, with activists collaborating across borders. This globalization has facilitated discussions on crucial issues like gender-based violence, reproductive rights, and workplace disparities, fostering solidarity and shared strategies among feminists worldwide.

Policy and Legislative Changes: Moreover, feminist advocacy has influenced policy and legislative reforms aimed at promoting gender equality. Initiatives spearheaded by feminists have led to efforts to address sexual harassment in workplaces, narrow the gender wage disparity, and improve parental leave provisions. These changes reflect the impact of feminist activism on shaping laws and regulations to create a more equitable society.

Media and Politics Representation: Diverse and genuine representations of women in media, entertainment, and politics are increasingly in demand. The visibility and portrayal of women from diverse origins and experiences have been advocated for by feminist groups.

Obstacles and Reactions: In spite of its advancements, feminism in the twenty-first century still faces obstacles and opposition. The continuous need for activism and education is highlighted by problems like online harassment, the prevalence of gender-based violence, and opposition to feminist ideals in some areas.

In general, 21st-century feminism is a vibrant and varied movement that aims to tackle both established and new obstacles in the fight for gender parity. It includes a wide range of viewpoints and opinions that are brought together by the desire to build a society that is more just and equal for people of all genders.

Emergence of Feminism in India

The history of feminism in India dates back to the 19th century, when social reform movements started to question the repressive customs that were then common in Indian society. Prominent female reformers of the time, such as Pandita Ramabai and Savitribai Phule, pushed for women's education and the outlawing of customs like child marriage and sati. However, the feminist movement really took off in the early 20th century.

The social and political awakening that occurred during the fight for independence from British colonial authority was one of the turning points in the history of Indian feminism. Women took an active part in the nationalist movement, calling for social justice and equal rights for all. Leaders like Sarojini Naidu and Kamala Nehru's efforts were vital in drawing attention to the problems.

Following the country's independence, the Indian feminist movement underwent a transformation when the 1950 Constitution was ratified, establishing a legal basis for gender equality. Feminist activism saw a comeback in the 1970s, spurred on by international feminist movements. Advocates focused on issues such as dowries, domestic abuse, and unequal access to jobs and education.

Women's groups and organizations that actively combated gender-based discrimination began to emerge in the 1980s and 1990s. Women were disproportionately affected by the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy, which raised awareness of the connection between environmental issues and women's health. In addition, there was a major movement for legal reforms in the 1990s, which led to the passage of legislation addressing domestic abuse, workplace sexual harassment, and dowry harassment.

Indian feminism has changed in the twenty-first century to tackle more topics. With the recognition of the variety of experiences that women have according to caste, class, and religion, the movement has grown more inclusive. The engagement of younger generations, social media campaigns, and grassroots movements have all contributed to the growth of feminist activism in India.

Even if there has been improvement, issues including gender-based discrimination, violence against women, and unequal representation in many sectors still exist. Indian feminists are still fighting for structural adjustments, questioning patriarchal traditions and promoting a more just and equal society. The rise and development of feminism in India is a reflection of the continuous fight for gender justice and women's rights within the multifaceted cultural and social context of the nation.

Conclusion

The study on feminism's continued significance in the twenty-first century, in conclusion, emphasizes this point. Feminism continues to be a major influence in forming society attitudes, laws, and cultural norms, as shown by a careful analysis of its historical foundations, present-day struggles, and ongoing changes. The movement's adaptability and dynamism are demonstrated by its capacity to embrace intersectionality, adjust to changing circumstances, and use technology for activism.

Feminism's significance is demonstrated by the ways it has challenged discriminatory practices, changed laws and policies, and promoted a more comprehensive understanding of gender equality. Feminist initiatives are driving significant progress in a variety of areas, including reducing gender-based violence, promoting reproductive rights, and tackling employment inequality. Furthermore, modern feminism's inclusiveness, which acknowledges the movement's capacity to address systemic injustices holistically is strengthened by the different experiences of individuals based on intersecting identities.

As the study makes clear, feminism is a dynamic and ever-evolving discourse that addresses the intricacies of the modern world rather than a rigid doctrine. It has spread internationally, encouraging cooperation and solidarity across national borders. The interdependence of national and international feminist movements highlights how crucial it is to upend patriarchal systems and advance inclusivity everywhere.

The study highlights ongoing obstacles and the necessity of continued activism, even in the face of notable advancements. Feminist activists continue to be drawn to issues like deeply embedded cultural norms, unequal representation, and online abuse. The inference made is that feminism is still relevant today because of the continued efforts to eliminate systemic injustices and create a society in which people of all gender identities can live freely.

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