

Not Main Prof. Asma Akbar

Day:

LITERARY MOVEMENTS

FEMINISM

"Feminist literature is fiction or non-fiction which supports the feminist goals of defining, establishing and defending equal political, economic and social rights of Women."

HISTORY OF FEMINISM

The history of feminism comprises the narratives of the movements and ideologies which have aimed at equal rights for women.

While feminist around the world have different in causes, goals and intentions depending on

time, culture and country most Western feminist historians assert that all movements that work to obtain Women's right should be considered feminist history is conventionally splits into three time periods or "waves" each with slightly different aims based on prior progress.

- First-Wave feminist of 19th and early 20th centuries focused on overturning legal inequalities particularly addressing issues of Women's suffrage.

- Second -wave feminist (1960's - 1980's) broadened to include culture inequalities Gender norms, and the role of women in society.

- Third wave feminism (1990's - 2000s) was a reaction against second wave of feminism and as a response to its perceived failures.

ORIGIN OF FEMINISM

Charles Fourier an utopian socialist and French philosopher is credited with having coined the word "Féminisme" in 1837. The words "Féminisme" ("Feminism") and "Féministe" ("Feminist") first appeared in "France" and the "Netherlands" in 1872, Great Britain in 1890's and the United States in 1910.

Characteristics of Feminism:-

As a social movement,
the main characteristics and
demand of feminism include

- 1 ● Equal pay in Workplace
- 2 ● Reproductive rights
- 3 ● Women's Suffrage
- 4 ● The right to an education.
- 5 ● Fighting against gender stereotypes and reformative behaviors.
- 6 ● Protection against sexual harassment and assault.
- 7 ● The right to own property.

Types Of Feminism

The four main types
of feminism are:-

1. **Radical Feminism**
2. **Marxist Feminism**
3. **Cultural Feminism**
4. **Liberal Feminism**

There are other important types of feminism like Black feminism and eco-feminism.

1. Radical Feminism:-

Radical feminism focuses on the rejection of the patriarchal ideal that the private sphere (for women) focuses on childrearing, marriage and the maintenance of household.

2. Marxist Feminism:-

"Marxist Feminism analyzes the ways in which women are exploited through capitalism and the individual ownership of private property."

It focuses on the topics such as women's work in "domestic and public spheres", "Women's role in marriage", "Women's sexual practices", and "The sexual reproduction of labor power".

3. Cultural Feminism:-

"It is a variety of feminism which emphasizes essential differences between men and women, based on biological differences in reproductive capacity."

Cultural feminism seeks to understand women's social locations in society

by concentrating on gender differences between Women and men.

4. Liberal Feminism:-

Liberal Feminism
advocates for
women's legal
and political
rights."

Liberal Feminist embrace
this value and this role
for the state and insist
on freedom for women.

Major Figures In Feminism Literature

- "A Vindication of the rights of Woman" By "Mary Wollstonecraft"

● "A Room of One's Own"
by "Virginia Woolf".

● "Feminism is for Everybody"
by "Bell hooks"

● "Bad Feminist" by
"Roxane Gay"

● "Little Women" by
"May Alcott"

● Conclusion:-

Feminism is critical in literature because it allows women to speak up for their rights. It gives them voices that introduces an alternative to traditional Society.

WAVES OF FEMINISM

First Wave (1848) :-

→ The first wave of feminism took place in late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

→ It was about emerging out of the environment of urban industrialism and liberal, socialist politics.

→ The goal of this wave was to open up opportunities for women, with a focus on suffrage.

⇒ Sojourner Truth,

Elizabeth Blackwell,
Jane Addams, Dorothy

Day are some of the early activists of feminism.

⇒ The first wave

of feminism is primarily led by white women in the middle class, and it was not until the second wave of feminism that women of color began developing a voice.

• Second Wave (1960's - 1980's)

→ It was a reaction to women returning to their roles as housewives and mothers after the End of Second World War.

→ After having worked and been independent of male dominance during the War, women didn't want to resume these roles and this brought about the second wave of feminism.

→ This movement initially spread in united

state of America and then spread to other western countries.

→ The second wave focused more on both public and private injustices.

→ Issue of reproductive rights, rape, domestic violence and workplace safety were brought to the forefront of the movement.

→ Women became more involved in protests and advocacy for equality by creating local, state and federal feminist organizations.

• Third Wave (1990's - 2000's):-

→ The third wave of feminism was greatly focused on the reproductive rights for women.

It was a reaction against perceived failures of second wave.

Feminist advocated that it is a basic right to have access to both control and abortion.

It was led by so-called Generation Xers who born in **1960's and 70's** in the developed world, came of age in media-saturated and culturally and economically diverse milieu.