

## Is it a theory of feminism or feminisms: An overblown cyborg?

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### **Abstract**

Feminism is not a deserted abstract concept, but instead a diverse and multifaceted grouping of ideas, and indeed conviction-oriented phenomena. Women enjoy a major presence in the world with their right to dignity. Their rights and duties have been given priority by the concept of popular sovereignty and a good number of international conventions. Feminism has a history of its own. It has brought revolutionary changes in the globe. It is worthwhile to assay that in global terms, an important humane milestone came with the development of the doctrine of human rights. These rights are guaranteed to both men and women. Women need more rights to protect their interests. However, this is sometimes not readily understood by members of the public in general or is rather misunderstood or totally overblown.

**Keywords:** Feminism, Women, Human, Rights and Feminists.

### **1. Introduction**

As of now, there is generally no agreed definition of feminism and no easy and categorical answer on what feminism is or ought to be and feminists or non-feminists should not create their own definitions of feminism to best suit their selfish interests. Literally it is a troubling concept. The task is made extremely difficult because many of the different strands and diverse aspects of feminism seem not only to be diametrically opposed but sometimes [1] forcefully opposed as well, in diversity, differences and specificity. [2] A good theory is needed to understand the nature of many of the problems the women face in confronting the society today. There are a variety of feminist approaches recognised world-wide, presently. Mainstream theories of what feminism is, are basically the representations from the female experiences of power for women empowerment which may be identified as; Liberal, Marxist, Radical and Socialist. Besides these four major categories there are two more schools of thought, which include Black Feminism and Functionalist Feminism.

It has a history of its own. Feminists have experienced dominant relations of power between men and women, how that power is tilted towards women aggression, and how that interaction has been historically implemented and socially settled over time. [3] The genesis of this concept is embodied in

patriarchy. Patriarchy is a system in which females are made subordinate to men, rather they are dominated and subjected to a variety of oppressive commands by virtue of the macho power and inappropriate behaviour, and which is based on the arrogance and assumption that “it is right and proper for men to command whatever they like to women to obey their hegemony.”

In global terms, no single theory can gel for all aspects of the rights of the women or diverse concept of feminism. It is in this context, that law can be seen as a form of that discourse which ought to reflect the values and interests of a particular society at a particular timeline, particularly women on the basis of the general will of the people. Women have not found their right to work to be as meaningful as feminist utopian visions suggested. [4] The framework of rights and duties set out by the law of a particular country should have their foundation in human rights and humane approaches, and “ought to” aim at establishing and upholding what are called “normative standards”, by which is meant the kind of behaviour which is obviously deemed acceptable and desirable in a particular society.

Feminism cannot be a deserted concept, but instead it does have a diverse and multifaceted grouping of ideas, and indeed convictions. Feminism has a history of its own. It has brought revolutionary

changes in the globe. It is worthwhile to consider here that in global terms, an important humane milestone came with the development of the doctrine of human rights. These rights are guaranteed to both men and women. Women need more rights to protect their interests. However, this is sometimes not readily understood by members of the public in general or is rather misunderstood or totally overblown out of proportions.

Women enjoy a major presence in the world with their right to dignity. Their rights and duties have been given priority by the concept of popular sovereignty and a good number of international conventions. Traditional liberal feminists believe that we should make laws against sexual discrimination or sexual harassment (law as a superstructure), for the sake of changing arrogant attitudes and criminal and delinquent behaviour. This commitment to anti-discrimination or anti-harassment laws as a focus of enquiry in classical political philosophy takes the ideal form because the theory assumes that rights alone can produce good results in the society. [5] It tries to carve the niche through their own actions and choices and code of conduct for women in the home and offices and advances in economic welfare and civil rights through a fundamentally libertarian political agenda.

Marxist Feminists believe that capitalists are the root cause of female exploitation, discrimination and misery. It is a theory of power and its distribution to check disparity between capitalists and proletariat. [6] Those men who tend to dominate positions of power and influence are actually exploitive in nature. Whilst men and women should stand shoulder to shoulder to play their respective roles in life, not in an isolated but in an actively mingling and interdependent form; women are unnecessarily pushed to the wall directly and indirectly to unpaid domestic labour and socialised into mere responsibility of child-rearing, housework and so forth. [7]

The Socialist feminism addresses the social amnesia of denial of equal access and equal opportunities to the women. The Socialist feminists opine that feminism is embodied in the fact that women's lower status in relation to men is the reason that they are generally economically dependent upon their male counterparts in the sense of monetary support and all necessities. It is advanced by the mythical and patriarchal arguments and beliefs about the status and role of women in most of the societies in the current framework. It believes that her female body should not be an objectifying asset for mere personal fulfilment of a man. She is not an object of exchange or gratifying of lust. She has a

choice and expression of self-esteem, identity and dignified flourishing. The bedrock of the theory is that woman has legal equality with men. There are many laws in India and Britain which prove this fact. The concept of the rule of law and many doctrines in Indian Constitution is the touchstone for this emancipation.

The Radical feminists assert that men are the enemy of women. This school asks for a massive reform and is linked to the radical voices of women's empowerment and differential rights. Firestone argues his strategy with fire that, female emancipation can be achieved by autonomous technology and women can be freed from childbirth and other forced bondage. Moreover, women should have the power to alter the legal conditions of aggressors of their rights and the ability to produce the certain results under the given circumstances? Further, it is said that, radicalists believe in women emancipation through strong dissent, campaigns, agitations and movements, considering the highest esteem of women. [8]

Feminism needs to be argued with more conviction to enhance the quality of our lives and women folk on all levels. As an illustration from Indian Penal Code, 1890, women cannot be forced for marital cohabitation without their consent. In fact that amounts to marital rape. It is not a fad. It gives the family a true sense and a meaning.

There is no denying the fact that in today's world woman is made an exhibit in all walks of life. [9] It is worthwhile to mention here, that the doctrine of human rights has indeed shaped, influenced and arranged the development of the various legal systems of the world through various legislations, theoretical praxis and feminist doctrines. At the same time, we should restrict ourselves to the discussion of the central message of feminism, rather than an overblown message of feminisms.

## 2. Conclusion

Therefore, women, missus and girls alike, "ought to" utilize their rights, privileges, immunities, liberties and any other claim to which they are legally entitled to against any kind of male aggression, keeping in view the central normative concept of modernity and how specific rights should be justified with specificity and conviction. However, it should not become an overblown Cyborg? In the sexual harassment discourse of India it imperative for every employer to ensure a safe, harassment free working environment for the women which must be read to promote the objects of the Constitutional Guarantees. Women can leave the ranks of subjugation by pursuing her genuine claims through a dose of

remedial emancipation at appropriate times to have a meaningful and good life which is an important task of the present feminist movement.

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