

## Feminist Movement In Modern India

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### Introduction:-

Without reformation of women's position, who were living in tragic position. Indian social life cannot become dynamic. In this awareness women emancipation movement was commence of men's compassionately in 19<sup>th</sup> century. Indians who was influenced from western thoughts, especially in Bengal and Maharashtra's reformers firstly gave attention on the women emancipation. Raja Rammohan Roy, Ishwarchandra vidyasgar, Jotiba Phule, Dhondu Keshav Karve, Pandita Ramabai, Tarabai Shinde & Savitribai Phule was started to protest the unjustify on women

### Rise Of Feminist Movement :-

In 1792, Mery wollstonecraft wrote a book 'A Vindication of the Rights of Women' in England. She was inspired with French revolution. This is the beginning of western feminism. Simone-de-beuvoir wrote a book 'The Second Sex'. This book makes foundation of modern feminism.

### Rise Of Feminist Movement: Indian Context:

Before 10,000 B.C. we can saw footsteps of women emancipation while rising of Mother Goddesses. From 12<sup>th</sup> century's Mahaisa to 19<sup>th</sup> century's Bahinabai in that times poetess expressed their thought of women emancipation. In 1882, Tarabai Shinde wrote an essay 'Stri-Purush Tulana', these essay established the foundation of Indian Feminism.

### What Is Feminist Movement? Definitions?

The feminist against inequalities which legal, economic and social restrictions on the basic right of women have existed thought history and in all civilization. Feminist consciousness is the central concept of feminist theory, It constitutes women's awareness about patriarchal norms practiced in every field of society. It is an attempt to make society aware about injustice and oppression women have to undergo their secondary status, perception of processes of gender construction and women's subordination in the family and the society.

**1. Simone-de-Beuvoir:-** "Those women or men who fight to change position of women in liaison with and yet outside the class struggle without totally subordination that change to a change in society."

**2. Ruth Brandwein-** "Feminism is a perspective a thought structure, a value belief system that is **an alternative way to viewing of the world.**"

**3. Gail Aamvidte** - "Feminism means totally destroy on sex discrimination biased exertion split."

**4. Sharda Sathe** - "Feminist movement is not only operated by women's for women's but Also It Is A Stream Of Human Liberation Movement."

### Concept of Feminism-

The term 'feminism' took from the Latin word 'femina' (women) originally meant. It began to be used in reference to the theory of 'gender equality' and the movement for women's tight. Mary wollstonecraft firstly use this concept in her book.

### Nature Of Feminist Movement In India-

In India, between 1820 to 1950 there was happened four agitation related to women's question. These are,

- a. Social reform movement

- b. Anti-cast movement
- c. Independent women's movement
- d. On the leadership of communist & socialist party

This is the nature of Indian feminist movement

#### **Scope Of Feminist Movement-**

Feminist movement recognize that thinking of women's question cannot alienation which other question. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, scope of feminist movement have been increased. Along with women emancipation, labour's strike, chipko movement, against famine and death movement, against oppression of Dalit and peasant movement etc.

These are shows the working scope of movement.

#### **Streams In Feminism-**

**1.Radical Feminism-** To put up a offensive fight against men who doing absorption of women and to insist make change in the social system promote of this stream is Sandra Gilbert, Suzan & Goober.

**2.Liberal Feminism-** Instead of change in social system give equal opportunity to women.

**3.Essential Feminism-** Women's can prove theirs superiority rather than men more powerfully.

**4.Environmental Feminism-** The proper relation of women's body and the vegetation, creatures have some and theirs procreation, nature and growths are same.

**5.Classical Marxist Feminism-** The considers, the oppression of women historically and currently direct result of the institution of private property.

**6.Modern Feminism-** As did historic feminist on the need for separate women movement to combat women specific oppression. The demand that maternity must be an option and not a social duty, led to a 'Free Love' debate in the early feminist.

**7.Socialist Feminism-** History of socialist feminism depends on cast, class, gender seeks the answer subordination sub of type. This stream evaluates the secondary position of the women in the society. Because a women is also integral whole part of society.

#### **Background Of Feminist Movement In India-**

The I<sup>st</sup> Phase of women emancipation was started in 19<sup>th</sup> century by male reformers, Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar Championed female education and led the Campaign to legalize widow remarriage, khwaja Altaf Husain introduced education for girls. In South India, R Venkat Ratnam Naidu opposed the devdasi system while Virasalingam Pantulu worked for marriage reform, Raja Rammohan Roy opposed the sati system in Bengal. Jotiba Phule started first school for women in 1848. The II<sup>nd</sup> phase of women emancipation was started by direct participation of women in the leadership of Saraladevi Choudharani, Toru Dutt, Swarnkumari Devi, Pandita Ramabai, Ramabai Ranade, Tarabai Shinde and Janakka Shinde. Pandita Ramabai was started the 'Aarya Mahila Samaj' in 1882, they gave organizational shape to the women's movement. Tarabai Shinde's book 'Stri-Purush Tulana' established the foundation of feminism in India. In the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century between 1910-1920 the number of social organization for women grew rapidly, called by various names – Mahila Samits, Women's Club, Ladies Societies.

In 1917 to 1947 period, the organization for women generally tried to remain apolitical but many of their members joined in political movement for example- Sarojini Nayadu, Avantikabai Gokhale. In the struggle for independence of India, women's organization claimed that the uplift of women's was essential to the national cause because women are the mother of future generation.

According to Geraldine H. Forbes “Female education, the franchise legal reform, and status of women received more attention than the condition on laboring women, equally pay for equal work, housing for women and equality under the law.”

**Growth And Development Of Movement-** Women’s movement in 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century as no regarded as feminist movement but the movement after 1975 in India is regarded as feminist movement because there sense to be developed of feminist consciousness. 1975 year announcing the international women year by UNO due to movement go ahead strongly in India and movement not only remain in middle class but also spread in labour, peasant and tribes.

**Before Independence Organization-** After 1<sup>st</sup> world war women’s organization were created at national level. There major organizations- National women council in India (NCWI), Women’s Indian Association (WIA) and the All India women’s conference(AIWC) emerged between 1917 to 1927. During the 1930 some assistance centre for women’s emerged. These centers main demand was social equality but these centers don’t against men.

**After Independence Organization-** After independence, the compliance with the objective of India constitution, feminist organization was established on the basis of gender equality at national level – National Federation of Indian women’s (1954) national of women (1966) socialist women federation. State level Maharashtra women Federation, Andhra Mahila Sangha, Punjab women self defense leg, West Bang Democratic women organization was established.

**Women Study Centers & Help –Lines-** All India Association of Women Studies, Vidarbha Association for Women Studies & Research, SPARWO & Aalochna was established for purpose for women studies UGC founded 54 women studies centers in various Universities in India. Help line was stated for women in Pune, Mumbai & Sangli cities.

**Some Examples Of Movement-** In 1954, All India women’s federation sent a petition letter to Govt. with 45 thousand signatures for vindication of Hindu Marriage Act. In 1986, women’s gathered at Chandvad for conference. In 1991, BJP women’s force took 1 Lacks women’s march against the dearthness Adv. Varsha Deshpande started a sting operation against nucleus sex determination test.

**Issues Of Feminist Movement-** Many issues have been front of feminist movement for example dowry victim, domestic violence, rap, sexual absorption, bar girls, equal civil act, gender equality globalization, illiteracy & wine ban etc.

**Challenges To The Movement-** After independence movement have been faced many challenges for example Rupkunwar Sati case, Mathura rape case, dowry victim case of Manjushree Sarada further that one side love murder case just like Nita Hendre, Rinuka Patil, Amaruta Deshpande, Shobha Tandle. Beside that Godhara massacre, Khiralanji massacre, 33% reservation etc.

**Women’s Related Act-** Due to agitation of movement Government had passed women’s related Act for example.

- a. Sati Ban Act - 1829
- b. Widow Remarriage Act- 1856
- c. Special Marriage Act- 1872
- d. Sarada Act- 1929
- e. Hindu Bygams Prevention Act- 1946
- f. The Immoral Traffice Prevention Act- 1956
- g. Equal Pay Act – 1976

- h. The Dowry Prohibition Act – 1961
- i. Sex Determination Act – 1994
- j. Domestic Violence Act – 2005 etc.

**Demerits & Dissidentness Of Movement-** Due to the involvement of women's in the destroy of Bahari Mosque, Gujarat riot, Khirlanji massacre as events, women are naturally unviolent this hypothesis have been split. In the matter of Jecika Lal murder case, Dance Bar Girls Rehabilitation & establishment of women and child protection centers movement have failed to solve this problem. Women's organization celebrate 8 March, 25 Dec. & 3 Jan these various women's day at their level there for Indian Feminist Movement become to dissidentness.

**Dem Ands Of Movement-** Since 1975 to up to date movement presented their various demand to government these are -

- a. Equal pay for equal work
- b. Special efforts for female education
- c. 33% reservation in parliament
- d. celebrate 22 dec. as a gender justice day etc.

**Evolution Of Movement-** After the evaluating of last century's feminist movement, it was success in many case. Females side to be every one event. The effect of that event happen on the female, this concept was accepted.

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The feminist movement reaches far back before the 18th century, but the seeds of modern feminist movement were planted during the late part of that century. Christine de Pizan, a late medieval writer, was possibly the earliest feminist in the western tradition. She is believed to be the first woman to make a living out of writing. Feminist thought began to take a more substantial shape during The Enlightenment with such thinkers as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and the Marquis de Condorcet championing women's education. The first scientific society for women was founded in Middleberg, a city