

Modern Feminism; A Critical Force in Achieving Systematic Gender Justice in Women Empowerment

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Abstract

Modern feminism represents a evolving and comprehensive movement addressing the layered challenges of gender equality in the 21st century. Grounded in the principles of intersectionality, it recognises how gender intersects with race, class, sexuality, and disability to shape unique experiences of discrimination. Leveraging the power of digital platforms, modern feminism amplifies global advocacy through various campaigns like #me-too, while also tackling issues such as online harassment and misinformation.

The movement redefines traditional gender norms advocating for transgender and non binary rights, workplace equality, reproductive autonomy and equitable cultural representation, additionally, global feminism highlights issues like gender based violence, educational access, and economic disparities across nations. Despite its progress modern feminism grapples with debates on equality versus equity and balance between inclusiveness and specificity in addressing diverse identities. As it evolves, modern feminism remains a critical force in achieving systematic gender justice and women empowerment.

Feminism does not mean placing women above the men it means placing both the genders on equal footing so that both are able to access equal rights. Feminism is not a thing of past it continues to be the most important aspect of women's rights yet changing its forms and waves. In today's time equal opportunities are there for women yet its access to marginalized section of women's especially in rural areas is not appropriate. Modern feminism now has taken a drastic shift in workplace environment. Modern feminism has evolved from traditional feminism; Social media significantly has played a very important role in it.

This paper is focused on how feminism has emerged in today era as a transformative and critical force in addressing systemic gender inequalities and fostering women empowerment. By challenging entrenched patriarchal structures and advocating for the political, social, and economic rights of women and the significant role played by social networking platforms in fostering the concept of feminism.

Keywords: Modern feminism, Intersectionality, Digital Activism , Workplace equality, Reproductive autonomy.

INTRODUCTION

As it is said that “Feminism is not fragile it's fierce.” The ideology of feminism which promotes gender equality has changed significantly over time . Feminism is still relevant today as it was earlier, the current state of feminism laid focus upon the accomplishments, difficulties and the everlasting fight for gender equality in the modern society. Feminism's first wave began with the suffrage movement in the mid 1800s

looks vastly different today than it did generations ago. Thanks to the the use of technology the adoption of alternative feminist philosophies into mainstream.

Feminism is the belief in the equality of people of all genders, a set of values aimed at dismantling gender equality and structures that uphold it . Talking' about inequalities they may be pay inequality, gender – based health care inaccessibility, rigid social expectations or violence that is gender centric still impacting people everywhere to this day . One of the most recognised movements in the United States of America is the feminist movement, which fights for the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes .Since it's inception there have been three waves of feminism. The first wave emphasized woman's suffrage. Women should not be second class citizens. Second – Wave feminism broadened the concept to inequalities women face in all aspects of life such as workplace discrimination, reproductive rights domesticity, marriage inequalities and many other things. The third wave which is currently taking place is about enforcing social change which marked it's beginning by the cases of sexual harrasment and people becoming more willing to talk about womanly things.

Modern feminism refers to a diverse and evolving movement advocating for gender equality and the rights of women in political, social, economic, and cultural spheres. It builds on earlier feminist movements while addressing contemporary issues such as intersectionality, reproductive rights, workplace equity, and combating gender-based violence.

Key Features Of Modern Feminism

- **Intersectionality**

Modern feminism recognizes that experiences of oppression and privilege are shaped by multiple, overlapping identities such as race, class, sexuality, ability, and more. Intersectionality seeks to address how these factors interact in shaping individuals' lives.

- **Inclusivity and Diversity**

Unlike earlier waves, modern feminism strives to be more inclusive of marginalized groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and women from different cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- **Focus on Structural Inequality**

It emphasizes dismantling systemic barriers, such as unequal pay, discriminatory workplace policies, gender-based violence, and lack of access to education and healthcare.

- **Global Perspective**

Modern feminism addresses global issues, including human trafficking, child marriage, reproductive rights, and access to education for women worldwide, highlighting disparities across the Globe.

Objectives Of Study

- To understand the evolution and phases of feminism
- To critically analyze it's role in Gender Justice
- To examine the impact of feminism on women empowerment

Statement Of Problem

- This study seeks to analyze the effectiveness, challenges, and limitations of modern feminism as a transformative force in addressing entrenched gender inequalities and ensuring sustainable empowerment for women across diverse contexts.

Hypothesis

- Modern feminism serves as a critical force in achieving systematic gender justice by challenging structural inequalities
- It is for women's empowerment, and dismantling socio-cultural, economic, and legal barriers to gender equity.
- Its intersectional approach addresses the diverse experiences of women, ensuring inclusivity and sustainable progress in achieving comprehensive gender justice.
- The role of feminist movements, policies inspired by feminist ideologies, and measurable outcomes in gender parity across various sectors such as education, employment, legal rights, and political representation.

Methodology

- The current study's technique, which includes some empirical work as well, is mostly based on doctrinaire research. This research is theoretical in nature .

Research Question

- To what extent has modern feminism served as a critical force in achieving systemic gender justice and advancing women's empowerment?
- How has modern feminism influenced legal, social, and economic frameworks to promote systemic gender justice?
- What challenges does modern feminism face in ensuring intersectional approaches to women's empowerment and systemic gender justice?

Chapterization

1. The concept of Feminism

Feminism most simply can be defined as equality of sexes . The definition of feminism encompasses the political, ideological, and socially driven movements proposed to designate and establish equality between sexes on all basis of human life . As a social movement the main characteristics and demands include equal pay in work place, reproductive rights, women suffrage, the right to education, fighting against gender stereotypes , right to own property and many more . The core principle that underlies feminism is respect , kindness, and equality for everyone regardless of their gender. Originating in 18th century Europe, Feminist movements have campaigned and continue to do that for women's right. **Marry Wollstonecraft** is seen as a founder of feminism due to her **1792** book **A vindication of Rights of women**. There are three waves of feminism as mentioned above . While talking about Modern Feminism emphasis on gender equality and aims to create s ore just society. It advocates the integral complementary of women and men not the superiority of men over women . Now the concept shifted to the more expanded rights of women like it holds that women should be valued in their role as child bearers that women and men are individuals in worth and that in social economic , legal all the spheres they should be on equal footing , with the acceptance of differences between them.

2. Modern Feminism and it's role in women empowerment

Women empowerment refers to the process of enabling women to gain control over their lives, make their own choices, and achieve equality in all areas of life, including social, economic, political, and personal spheres. It involves giving women the tools, opportunities, and confidence they need to exercise their

rights and live free from oppression and discrimination. Modern feminism plays a crucial role in the formulation and implementation of policies by raising voices for gender equality and addressing systematic discrimination. Feminism, in its core, seeks to achieve equality for all genders, focusing on dismantling social, political, and economic structures that have historically marginalized women and other gender minorities. Gender stereotypes commonly include portraying women as emotional, dependent whereas men expected to be strong, rational and the marginalized gender fluid individuals. Feminism nowadays challenges all these stereotypes by expanding the role of every individual departing from the old traditional societal obligations and thus empowering women and navigating a new path towards attainment of rights.

3. Challenges for achieving systematic gender justice

Achieving systematic gender justice involves addressing several complex challenges that span across social, political, economic, and cultural domains. The key challenges include cultural norms and the prevalent stereotypes in the society. The various opportunities and expectations based on gender. The legal and institutional gap non enforcement of laws, lack of awareness, various economic disparities, barriers to economic opportunities, the gender based violence. In the covid 19 pandemic a sudden rise in the cases of domestic violence was seen. Moving towards digital era social media has played a significant role in the surge of harassment cases against the women online. The whole concept of feminism is needed wrong in the mind of people it's not about shouting with regards to women rights every now and then it's just about giving equal rights and opportunities to them. Although broke has changed and women's have access to various new paradigms yet the issues they place at workplace and the situation in the rural areas still remains the same and lack of awareness is the major setback for it.

4. Evolving nature of feminism in 21st century

The nature of feminism in the 21st century has evolved significantly in response to shifting social, political, and cultural dynamics. Although we have crossed the barriers yet society needs an upgradation. Reproductive rights gained importance i.e the issue of pregnancy and abortion since women are involved in both when it comes to this issue women's have found freedom to take a stand in choice of both. The feminist perspective here throws light that women enjoy the benefit of decision making. Further the #MeToo movement which raised awareness about sexual violence and harassment here we can clearly see the contribution of social media while advocating the feminist ideology for women. The untold stories that were silenced or were not told came upon the surface. Feminism not being a new concept is still here in the veins of this century the difference is that with the march of the time women are getting aware about their rights yet at some places and with regard to certain rights the struggle goes on.

CONCLUSION

To conclude modern feminism plays a pivotal role in advancing systematic gender justice and empowering women across the globe. By challenging deeply embedded social, political, and economic inequalities, it speaks for equal opportunities and rights for women, dismantling patriarchal structures that have historically limited their progress. Feminism's intersectional approach, acknowledging the diversity of women's experiences, further refines its potential to create inclusive, persistent change. Through continuous activism, legal reforms, and social awareness, modern feminism has proven to be a critical force in transforming societies, safeguarding that gender justice is not merely an ambition but an never-ending process for accomplishing true equality.

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