**Feminism**

**Theory**

Feminism is basically the movement of protecting women’s rights against discrimination and giving them protection. This ideology was first proposed in the late nineteenth century and aimed to have equality between men and women such as having the wages as men, and rights to have a divorce. The feminist theory is inspired by the feminist movement; feminist theory takes in different forms, like understanding the inequality between men and women and explores the roles of women in sociology, economics and philosophy.

Feminism history is formed by the feminist theory which is very much influenced by the feminism. Like feminism geography, feminism history wants to reshape the past by looking at the history from a more pro-female perspective. As women were usually excluded from historical tradition and its relation to feminine, like the “witch hunt” this is an example of discrimination against women. Feminism history wants to have a more balanced viewpoint of women from various perspectives. They do so by relooking at the past works of female writers such as poems, plays and books which can give people a more detailed recount of the past and filling in the gaps that have been neglected for centuries, to have more diverse information about the past. On the other hand, feminism philosophy is about the approaching philosophy from women’s perspective and criticizes philosophies which have a negative impact on women like oppression.



**Forms of Feminism**

Feminist movement deals with issues like women’s right to abortion, other reproductive issues, protection of women from sexual harassment and forms of violence. Feminists eventually want women to have the same status as men in society. Liberal feminism is the main stream of feminism which hopes to assert equality between the two genders through legal form. Liberal feminism hopes women will be able to achieve equality without really changing the structure of society. Feminists in this area also work to create better laws and to protect women from any inequitable laws. Another form of feminism is radical feminism which also hopes to stop oppression in the society, but radical feminists are more extreme, they see capitalism as a barrier to stopping oppression in the society. They aim to uproot the current system in order to make significant changes to the society.

Feminism was started mainly by white women and targets mainly gender issues; hence racism is sometimes neglected. Black women too, experienced oppression in the society and this is far worse than the oppression to the white. Black feminists believed that sexism and racism are connected, in order to stop oppression; both of the issues have to be solved.

**Origins**

The waves of feminism are largely related to the progress of mankind, as each feminism movement is inspired by an industrial revolution. Feminism was started in France, England and USA from nineteenth century to early twentieth century known as the first wave of feminism., It was very unpopular when it was first started, described by Queen Victoria as “mad, wicked folly of ' Woman’s Rights ' ”\* at that time and the term “Women’s Rights” was first appeared in this phrase. The term “feminism” and “feminist” only appeared in 1890s, which came from France. This movement was mainly about the right of women’s suffrage, in three countries, women’s suffrage or the right for women to vote was granted.

However, within 70 years after the first wave, the second wave started, the reason of its occurrence is due to the failure of the first one. Many of its aims are not achieved like the fact that equality among the sexes is not achieved, women hoped to be given more opportunities in the workforce. During World War II, because of the lack of manpower in the workforce, women joined the workforce and work with men side by side. This gave hope to women to achieve more, and solving other issues in order to put an end of this discrimination. In 1991, Anita Hill, who was a colleague of Thomas Clarence, claimed that he had made provocative comments about her. He was nominated to the Supreme Council in United States. This led to the Senate hearing, however she lost, and the third wave of feminism started.

\* cited from [Letter to Sir Theodore Martin 1870. Cited by Amartya Sen, in Many faces of gender inequality. Frontline 18(22) November 9 2001](http://anonymouse.org/cgi-bin/anon-www.cgi/http:/www.globalpolicy.org/socecon/inequal/gender/2001/11sengender.pdf)

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