

Feminist Movements In 21st Century: An Overview

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Abstract

Twenty-first-century feminists need to become a force for literate, civil democracies. They must oppose dictatorships and totalitarian movements that crush the liberty and rights of people, especially women and girls. They would be wise to abandon multicultural relativism and instead uphold a universal standard of human rights. They should demand that all girls have the opportunity to reach their full potential instead of living and dying in the gulags of the sex trade. Twenty-first-century feminists need to reassess the global threats to women and men, rethink their vision, rekindle their passion and work in solidarity with pro-democracy forces around the world to liberate humanity from all forms of tyranny and slavery. Today women who want to differentiate themselves from doormats face some of the same problems. More than 40 years after women's liberation became part of radical politics it seems incredible that there is still so much confusion and division about what feminism is. There have been very great changes in women's lives in the past few decades. They include much more openness about sexuality, millions of mothers going out to work, women breaking into new industries and professions, and acceptance that women will work outside the home, have children outside marriage, and have the right to control their own sexuality. But work and personal life have been distorted by the constraints of capitalism and have fallen far short of liberation. So there is still as much to fight for.

Key Words: *Literate, Opportunity, Rethink, Incredible, Openness*

Introduction

The 21st-century wave of feminism will not be collectively successful in its fight for gender equality if we do not embrace [intersectionality](#) as praxis and create space and support for all girls and women to become actively engaged in the work. Women of color, queer and trans women, disabled women, immigrant women, and poor women must all be called in and allowed space at the table to contribute their wisdom and experiences to the modern feminist movement. To those of us fighting for gender equality, it too often feels that we are losing battles we simply can't afford to lose and for women of color, the urgent need for feminism becomes clearer with every assault on our womanhood and femme identities. We continue the fight started by women generations before us and recognize that our work is part of a continuum of activism that must carry on until we are all liberated from gender-based oppression. Unless we galvanize more people who believe in fighting patriarchy and protecting women and girls, future generations will continue to face tremendous obstacles and suffer simply for existing as female. We can do it, though, by continuing to affirm

feminism, by embracing feminist ideology as a blueprint for liberation for all people, and by amplifying the voices and narratives of feminist women of color.

Objectives of The Study

1. To study the Feminism in the 21st century India.
2. To study the manifesto for 21st century Feminism.

Feminism in the 21st century India

In India, where patriarchy reigns supreme, women have lapped up whatever opportunities they have run into: from being highly educated to breaking the glass ceiling at workplace, new-age Indian women know what is at stake. In a country where feticide, rape, domestic violence, and body shaming are a common scene, women crave more than symbolic significance of feminism: Women have realized their importance in uplifting their status from being domestic creatures to newer roles in business, technology, research, arts, and what not. In the process, they now stand shoulder to shoulder with men. This metamorphosis has come into effect because of globalization: gone are the days when women relied on men to know whatever is happening outside of the four walls of domesticity, information technology has brought about an enormous paradigm shift in how women live and are perceived by the society. General awareness of issues has played a pivotal role in bringing women to the fore: women nowadays are equipped with social media; they know how to voice their opinion

Manifesto For 21st Century Feminism:

1. Globalisation and neoliberalism have had a profound effect on the lives of millions of women. Capitalism itself has created new forms and manifestations of women's oppression.
2. Women's oppression is a product of class society which has existed for thousands of years. It was only with the development of capitalism that large numbers of women developed a consciousness of their position and the ability to do something about it.
3. Women have been drawn into the workforce in millions but working in factories, offices and shops has not led to an improvement in women's lives, far less to liberation. Women suffer exploitation at work as well as still shouldering the double burden of family and childcare.
4. Women's traditional role as wives and mothers has not disappeared but has been reinvented to fit in with the needs of exploitation. They are now expected to juggle all aspects of their lives and are blamed as individuals for any failings in family or work life.
5. The talk of glass ceilings and unfairly low bonuses for women bankers misses the point about liberation, which is that it has to be for all working women and not just a tiny number of privileged women.
6. Although all women suffer oppression and face discrimination, their life experiences are radically different. Women are not united as a sex but are divided on the basis of class. Middle and upper class women share in the profits from the exploitative system in which we live and use this benefit to alleviate their own oppression. Working class

women are usually the people who cook, clean and provide personal services for these women, receiving low wages and often neglecting their own families to do so.

7. Women are more than ever regarded as objects defined by their sexuality. The commercialization of sexuality with its lad and ladette culture, its pole dancing clubs and its postmodern Miss World contests keeps women being judged as sex objects as if nothing has changed since the 1950s.
8. This objectification, alongside women's role as supposedly the property of men, leads to domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse. This abuse is under-recognized and under reported. It was only in the 1960s and 70s that these issues began to be viewed as political.
9. To control their own lives, women must control their own bodies and sexuality.
10. Capitalist ideology prioritizes the family and the subordinate role of women and children within it, while at the same time forcing individual members of the family to sacrifice "family life" because of the pressures of work and migration.
11. The priorities of the profit system and the existence of the privatised family mean that women's oppression is structured into capitalism. Any genuine liberation has to be connected to a wider movement for human emancipation and for working people to control the wealth that they produce. That's why women and men have to fight for liberation. Socialism and women's liberation are inextricably connected.
12. We will not win without a fight. Every great social movement raises the question of women. In the 19th century the movement for women's emancipation took its name from the movement to abolish slavery. In the 20th century women's liberation took its name from the movements against colonialism around the world. 21st century women's liberation has to fight to change the world and to end the class society which created oppression and exploitation in the first place.

Conclusion

It's always been a messy affair to come to a conclusion on a subject that is too new to decide on its fate: Feminism in the 21st century is hardly close to feminism that we witnessed in the 19th century and 20th century. We talk about it, we read about it, we write about it, but the palpability of feminism observed in previous centuries is hard to come by. Feminism is as relevant as ever in the 21st century. We're going to need all the support we can get to make this the century of true gender justice. It is a massive task, but one place we can all start is to select a favorite recent accomplishment of feminist movements in the past ten years and tell someone about it.

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