

## UNIT- 2 ( Sociology)

### TOPIC:- HISTORY ,GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT OF FEMINISM

The term feminism can be used to describe a political, cultural or economic movement aimed at establishing equal rights and legal protection for women. Feminism involves political and sociological theories and philosophies concerned with issues of gender difference, as well as a movement that advocates gender equality for women and campaigns for women's rights and interests. Although the terms "feminism" and "feminist" did not gain widespread use until the 1970s, they were already being used in the public parlance much earlier; for instance, **Katherine Hepburn speaks of the "feminist movement" in the 1942 film Woman of the Year.**

**On 26 August 1920, 19th Constitutional Amendment in the American Constitution.** The struggle was almost stretched 72 years from 1848 to 1920. Women's suffrage the legal rights of women the right to women to vote was established nationally in the United States with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution in August 1920.

**The chief exponent of this movement were Lucy stone, Elizabeth Cady, Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. They all fought for rights against women .**

According to Maggie Humm and Rebecca Walker, the history of feminism can be divided into three waves. The first feminist wave was in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the second was in the 1960s and 1970s, and the third extends from the 1990s to the present. Feminist theory emerged from these feminist movements. It is manifest in a variety of disciplines such as feminist geography, feminist history and feminist literary criticism.

Feminism has altered predominant perspectives in a wide range of areas within Western society, ranging from culture to law. Feminist activists have campaigned for women's legal rights (rights of contract, property rights, voting rights); for women's right to bodily integrity and autonomy, for abortion rights, and for reproductive rights (including access to contraception and quality prenatal care); for protection of women and girls from domestic violence, sexual harassment and rape; for workplace rights, including maternity leave and equal pay; against misogyny; and against other forms of gender-specific discrimination against women.

The **history of feminism** comprises the narratives of the movements and ideologies which have aimed at equal rights for women. While feminists around the world have differed in causes, goals, and intentions depending on time, culture, and country, most Western feminist historians assert that all movements that work to obtain women's rights should be considered, even when they did not (or do not) apply the term to themselves. Some other historians limit the term "feminist" to the modern feminist movement and its progeny, and use the label "protofeminist" to describe earlier movements.

Modern Western feminist history is conventionally split into three time periods, or "waves", each with slightly different aims based on prior progress:

- **First-wave feminism** of the 19th and early 20th centuries focused on overturning legal inequalities, particularly addressing issues of women's suffrage
- **Second-wave feminism** (1960s–1980s) broadened debate to include cultural inequalities, gender norms, and the role of women in society
- **Third-wave feminism** (1990s–2000s) refers to diverse strains of feminist activity, seen by third-wavers themselves both as a continuation of the second wave and as a response to its perceived failures

Although the "waves" construct has been commonly used to describe the history of feminism, the concept has also been criticized by non-Anglo-Saxon feminists for ignoring and erasing the history between the "waves", by choosing to focus solely on a few famous figures, on the perspective of a white bourgeois woman and on popular events, and for being racist and colonialist.

### **First wave ( 19<sup>TH</sup> and 20<sup>TH</sup> Century)**

First-wave feminism refers to an extended period of feminist activity during the nineteenth century and early twentieth century in the United Kingdom and the United States. Originally it focused on the promotion of equal contract and property rights for women and the opposition to chattel marriage and ownership of married women (and their children) by their husbands. However, by the end of the nineteenth century, activism focused primarily on gaining political power, particularly the right of women's suffrage.

In Britain the Suffragettes and, possibly more effectively, the Suffragists campaigned for the women's vote. In 1918 the Representation of the People Act 1918 was passed granting the vote to women over the age of 30 who owned houses. In 1928 this was extended to all women over twenty-one. In the United States, leaders of this movement included Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony, who each campaigned for the abolition of slavery prior to championing women's right to vote; all were strongly influenced

by Quaker thought. American first-wave feminism is considered to have ended with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution (1919), granting women the right to vote in all states.

The term first wave was coined retrospectively after the term second-wave feminism began to be used to describe a newer feminist movement that focused as much on fighting social and cultural inequalities as political inequalities.

- **In 1821** Emma Hart Willard found the Troy female seminary in New York the first endowed School for Girls.
- **In 1833** Oberlin college becomes the first Co-education College in the US. In 1841, Oberlin awards the 1st Academic degrees to three women. Early graduates include Lucy stone and Antoinette Brown.
- **In 1839** Mississippi passed the first women's property Act.
- **In 1848** the first Women's Rights Convention in the united states is held in Seneca Falls, New York. Many participants sign a Declaration of sentiments and Resolutions that outlines the main issues and goals for the emerging women's movement. There after's women rights meetings was held on a regular basis.
- **In 1866** Elizabeth Cady stanton and Susan B. Anthony from the American Equal Rights Association, an organisation for white and black women and men dedication to the goals of universal suffrage.
- **In 1868** the 14th amendment is ratified which extends to all citizens the protections of the Constitution against up just state's laws. This Amendment was the first to define "citizens" and "voters" as males.
- **In 1872** Susan B. Anthony is arrested and brought to trial in Rochester, New York for attempting to vote for Ulysses S. Grant in the presidential election.
- **In 1920** the 19th amendment is ratified. Its victory, accomplished National American Woman Suffrage Association(NAWSA) ceases to exist, But its organisation becomes the nucleus of the league of women.

### **Second wave ( 1960s–1980s )**

Second-wave feminism refers to the period of activity in the early 1960s and lasting through the late 1980s. The scholar Imelda Whelehan suggests that the second wave was a continuation of the earlier phase of feminism involving the suffragettes in the UK and USA. Second-wave feminism has continued to exist since that time and coexists with what is termed third-wave feminism. The scholar Estelle Freedman compares first and second-wave feminism saying that

the first wave focused on rights such as suffrage, whereas the second wave was largely concerned with other issues of equality, such as ending discrimination.

The feminist activist and author Carol Hanisch coined the slogan "The Personal is Political" which became synonymous with the second wave. Second-wave feminists saw women's cultural and political inequalities as inextricably linked and encouraged women to understand aspects of their personal lives as deeply politicized and as reflecting sexist power structures.

### **Third wave ( 1990s–2000s )**

Third-wave feminism began in the early 1990s, arising as a response to perceived failures of the second wave and also as a response to the backlash against initiatives and movements created by the second wave. Third-wave feminism seeks to challenge or avoid what it deems the second wave's essentialist definitions of femininity, which (according to them) over-emphasize the experiences of upper middle-class white women.

A post-structuralist interpretation of gender and sexuality is central to much of the third wave's ideology. Third-wave feminists often focus on "micro-politics" and challenge the second wave's paradigm as to what is, or is not, good for females. The third wave has its origins in the mid-1980s. Feminist leaders rooted in the second wave like Gloria Anzaldúa, bell hooks, Chela Sandoval, Cherrie Moraga, Maxine Hong Kingston, and many other black feminists, sought to negotiate a space within feminist thought for consideration of race-related subjectivities.

Third-wave feminism also contains internal debates between difference feminists such as the psychologist Carol Gilligan (who believes that there are important differences between the sexes) and those who believe that there are no inherent differences between the sexes and contend that gender roles are due to social condition.

### **WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN INDIA:-**

Women's suffrage in India was a movement to fight for the right for women to gain political enfranchisement. They not only wanted suffrage but the right to stand for and hold office.

- **In 1917** Margaret Cousins, founded the women's Indian Association in Adyar, Madras to create a vehicle for women to influence government policy.

- The organization focused on equal rights, educational opportunity, social reform and women's suffrage.
- The founding members included **S. Ambujammal, Anni Besant, kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Mary Poonen, lukose, Begam Hasrat Mohani, Saralabai Naik, Dhanvanti Rama Ran, Muthulakshmi Reddy, Mangalammi Sadasivier and Herabai Tata.**
- The British Parliament passed the Representation of the People Act 1918, enfranchising women over the age of 30.
- The Montagu Chelmsford reforms were introduced in 1918 no recommendation was made for Indian women's.
- The world population of 49.6% female.
- Globally, only 41 million (1.5)% men provide unpaid care on a full-time basis, compared to 606 million (21.7)% women.
- Mothers are less likely to be employed compared to fathers and women without children,
- Very few women CEO's of the world's largest Corporations. As the May 2019 Fortune list, only 33 Women 6.6% were CEO's of 500 companies.
- Women account for less than a (29) % of senior roles globally.
- Globally, women earn 16 % less than in an average hourly wages and 22% less in median monthly wages, with large variations between countries.
- **WOMEN'S IN PARLIAMENTS:-** Only 24.3 % of all national parliamentarians were women as of February 2019, a slow increase from 11.3% in 1995.
- As of June 2019, 11 women are serving as Head of state and 12 are serving as Head of Government.
- Rwanda has the highest number of women parliamentarians worldwide, where women have won 61.3 % of seats in the lower house.
- Globally, there are 27 states in which women account for less than 10% of parliamentarians in single or lower houses as of February 2019, including three Chambers with no women at all.

### **SOME IMPORTANT FACT ( India)**

- In the population of India women share is 48%.
- 78 women seats of the 543 seats of Lok Sabha which is the 14.3%.
- 25 seats in Rajya Sabha which is around 10% seats of the total seats. Among graduates in 2018 -2019 women represented:- undergraduate degrees- 53% , PhDs -46.3.
- Women earn 65% of what their male colleagues earn for performing the same work.
- India's 158 largest companies.

- Women hold only 15% of the board seats.
- Only 6% of board chairs are women.