



Munich Personal RePEc Archive

## **Feminism Today**

Subhani, Muhammad Imtiaz and Osman, Ms. Amber

Iqra University Research Centre (IURC), Iqra university Main  
Campus Karachi, Pakistan, IQRA UNIVERSITY

2012

Online at <https://mpa.ub.uni-muenchen.de/37661/>  
MPRA Paper No. 37661, posted 26 Mar 2012 15:36 UTC

---

**Accepted in**

**European Journal of Scientific Research (EJSR), 2012**

## **Feminism Today**

**Amber Osman**

*Iqra University Research Centre-IURC , Iqra University- IU,  
Defence View, Shaheed-e-Millat Road (Ext.) Karachi-75500, Pakistan*

E-mail: amber.osman@yahoo.com

Tel: (92-21) 111-264-264 (Ext. 2010); Fax: (92-21) 35894806

**Muhammad Imtiaz Subhani**

*Iqra University Research Centre-IURC , Iqra University- IU,  
Defence View, Shaheed-e-Millat Road (Ext.) Karachi-75500, Pakistan*

E-mail: drsubhani@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: (92-21) 111-264-264 (Ext. 2010); Fax: (92-21) 35894806

### **Abstract**

Feminism has been noticed at various stages of time and still is unnoticed. The acts of sexism are apparently at large and only dialogues are delivered without any prompt action. This paper highlights the stage of feminism now and its prospects for the better. This topic talks about women from all walks of life and their thirst of justified identity. One has to develop in the conscious of mankind that women are equal to man and their suppleness to adapt to the environment does not give a sign for sexism.

**Keywords: Feminism, Sexism, Victimization, Discrimination, Society**

### **1. Introduction**

Even in this century of modernism and broad-mindedness towards life, sexism prevails in this society and to date incidents happen, in which women are suppressed and abused and told to shut themselves in darkness and vain. This statement is by a common educated professional woman witnessing the society's brutal attitude towards women and men's superiority complex and frustration as seen on media. May it be house, organization, educational institution and other governing bodies', women are a mere attraction of self-satisfaction, a threat for men's complex and competition/professional jealousy by birth and old-rotten beliefs of society to always condemn women (Griffiths, 1995). The outcomes of feminism are positive and just to voice and demand the rights for women to breathe just like a normal human being on this planet.

The prime concern within the feminist learning is the 'intersectionality' that is the leading painful issue of all the feminist theories and studies in all these years. It explains the impact of race, class and gender on women's individuality, struggle for empowerment and experiences. These are the realities of women of today and they somehow translate the power and relations in their life (Davis, 2008).

This paper cautions indicators on sexism and provides a broad spectrum on feminism. Also, to showcase that feminism has a lot to do with power, politics and last but not least knowledge.

## 2. Literature Review

The current movements for change have numerous portions in this modern society and one of them is feminism. The debate is yet on fire. Feminism has two sides of striking feminists. The one feminist (greedy) that is eager for opportunities, asking for a larger share for women, access and liberty. The second feminist (arduous) is not into question of power/distribution but seeks in developing personality traits. The greedy feminist can fall on the negative part on women as there is a class of women wanting to be heard and then demand for special aid and interest than man to move further and just because they are women (Parsons, 1917).

### 2.1 Gender Inequality and the Social relation

MacKinnon's (1989) argue in favor of feminism that when we talk about gender, it is not a difference but a hierarchy. It is important to understand this difference and dominance should not be mistreated and misunderstood as some authors on pro-feminism write about equal treatment for women as special treatment, which then changes the fundamental justifications and theory of gender inequalities. It should be noted that women cannot be like men and men cannot be like women as it's the rule of nature. The gender equality is seen through the concept of dominance approach that one cannot simply abolish the arbitrary favoritism/discrimination but one has to give an end to the male domination (MacKinnon, 1989).

It is understood in our society that ascertained by many philosophical authors that a social relation between men women has been arranged in a way that men may lead and dominate and women ought to submit and accept. With this notion that has been developed in the cultures of west and east, women lives in suppression and are a cause for sexual harassment that may happen through following on streets, inherent threats, indecent calls etc.

The idea of dichotomous feminist tool is a western philosophy, which is developed on the binary oppositions logic of men/women i.e. mind/body, reason/emotion, objective/subjective, universal/particular and male/female. This thought has given an association of male with mind, reason, objective and universal and female with body, emotion, subjective and particular. This relates to the same theories as discussed above by the other feminist theorists i.e. to the gender inequality and discrimination. It is for us to decipher these old theories and create new standpoints, which is the truth rather than resting on the dominance of the masculine knowledge.

There is a linkage between the gender and science i.e. through the discovery of different facets of knowledge, it is important for the education bodies to educate the people in the proper social context. To understand the settlements of life in any surrounding, the studies should be proved for the rational (Dr. Carmichael, 2005).

The unequal consequences of men and women is that on social grounds women are taken as an entity for reproducing the area of the family, marriage, motherhood and professionalism (Holub, 2001). Unfortunately, still individual or different sects/class take women as secondary to them and have not given them the liberty and opportunities to flourish till they do not raise their voice or barge for their normal rights as a human being.

Women are as citizens, workers, students and consumers and their experience is different across different cultures. It is for the class who suppress women that women are head strong in any field and in any circumstances. For the class, which is always creating discrimination between men and women should accept that women are not vulnerable. It is their integrity to respect the society but it's the duty of the society to take pride in women who have empowered the whole world like wise men.

An example from the field of education, that world's top higher educational institutions were giving less value and reward to women professors than male though on equal merit. Woman like Hopkins, a victim of gender equity and herself working on the same subject in higher education surpassed this phase actively. Currently, in field of education three out five academic deans are women and heads of departments. Still younger girls are discouraged to study science subjects due to the societal sexist attitudes (Jimenez, 2011). It's the responsibility of the senior officials, educators to bring a gradual

revolution in younger generation and change their attitudes. Many political parties work on the women's movements and rights. It is a positive act to divulge the beauty of feminism and to execute mal-administrators of the society.

### 3. Discussions, Implications and Conclusion

The paradigms of feminism are being discussed on different forums and gradual improvement is seen. The feminist theorists are still expanding their horizons and trying to fulfill the purpose and remove the partiality between men and women and specially depicting a negative and shallow image of women. Different groups, communities around the global realities are trying to increase awareness the true picture of feminism. The most recent act of change on the global platform is the Oscar winning documentary 'saving face' awarded to a bold and righteous lady from Pakistan, Ms. Chinnoy. The award proves that the documentary is respected because of the true depiction women in a developing country like Pakistan and a sense of realization in every individual that demeaning women in any way is simply wrong and unethical! Women should be aware of their rights, feel authoritative and compassionate to revolutionize and to convince the society they live in.

As a society, we should take oath to resolve this issue for once and finish the gender discrimination. Bind energy and continue together for prosperous structural repair, respect and recognize men as a part of assistance and solution and accept women in authoritative roles. This actually will be accomplished when I stand up with this act and start just from now by transforming one's own work attitude, culture, commitment and devotion from every entity and at all levels of hierarchy that lasts and then confers just one image 'women and men alike'.

### References

- [1] Davis, K. (2008). Intersectionality as Buzzword: A Sociology of Science Perspective On What Makes A Feminist Theory Successful. *Feminist Theory*, 9, 67-85.
- [2] Dr. Carmichael, J., V. (2005). Whose Knowledge Is It Anyway? Feminist Epistemology and Science. Department of Library and Information Studies, School of Education University of North Carolina – Greensboro.
- [3] Griffiths, M. (1995). Making a Difference: Feminism, Post-Modernism and the Methodology of Educational Research. *British Educational Research Journal*, 21(2) , 219-235.
- [4] Holub, R. (2001). *Feminist Theory*. University of California, Berkeley.
- [5] MacKinnon, C. (1989). *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*. Harvard University Press.
- [6] Jimenez, L. (2011). To Educate Girls, Use Feminist Approach. Retrieved February 28, 2012 from, <http://www.care2.com/causes/educating-girls-conference-encourages-feminist-approaches-to-teaching.html>
- [7] Parsons, E., C. (1917). Feminism and the Family. *International Journal of Ethics*, 28(1), 52-58.