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## FEMINISM – ‘Technology, Arts and Aesthetics A Literary and Social Transformation’

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### Abstract

*Like any other transformations in this world, feminism has also been a great struggling movement. Till date, society associates women with cultural exploitation, her body and beauty standards are measured to keep the face in the industry. It's been so long that a female is craving for her actual self, yet there is no sign of improvement in her regular societal norms and conditions. For her every walk of life she is demanded an explanatory note. Her jobs are restricted to few professions. Ever since she is a mother it becomes her duty and not a choice. Her mental status is always a funny topic to discuss. Her biological changes are made fun off and what not.*

*Ironically, feminism is miss-communicated by these celebrities as arrogance which is not at all true. Feminism is a humanistic concern and it's all about her liberation to raise voice against violation. The aim is not to substitute Women from Men but to give right place to her as woman as a sex and as body in society.*

*The history of feminism consists of three waves. The wave appeared in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The Second wave appeared in the 1960s and 1970s and the third wave started from the 1990s to the present.*

*The history of feminist literary criticism is extensive, from classic works of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Women authors such as George Eliot and Margaret Fuller. It was representing Women's condition within literature; in particular the depiction of fictional female characters.*

*Feminism isn't about making Women strong. Women are already strong. It's all about changing the way the world perceives that strength.*

**Key words:** *liberation, feminism, strength and exploitation.*

## **Introduction**

Maya Angelou- “Each time a woman stands up for herself, without knowing it possibly, without claiming it, she stands up for all women.” Like any other transformations in this world, feminism has also been a great struggling movement. Till date, society associates women with cultural exploitation, her body and beauty standards are measured to keep the face in the industry. It’s been so long that a female is craving for her actual self, yet there is no sign of improvement in her regular societal norms and conditions. For her every walk of life she is demanded an explanatory note. Her jobs are restricted to few professions. Ever since she is a mother it becomes her duty and not a choice. Her mental status is always a funny topic to discuss. Her biological changes are made fun off and what not.

## **Feminism and Empowered Areas.**

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Women empowerment is the most discussed topic. At earlier time of Stone Age period, they had equal status and power with that of men. But they started facing some difficulties during post Vedic and epic ages. Women’s empowerment as a concept was introduced at the UN’s Third World Conference on Women in Nairobi in 1985, which defined it as a redistribution of social and economic powers and control of resources in favour of women. Hence it became a movement involving respect, honour and recognition.

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Women’s education in the developing world is often denied opportunities for education. According to World Education, education for girls is the single most effective way to improve the lives of individual families. Hence education is the key factor for women empowerment, prosperity, development and welfare.

**In the field of ART:** The practice of humiliating Women through lyrics has always passed on from classical to film music. We have always complained about the absurd lyrics that many movie songs have. We have often noticed the offensive lyrics in Bollywood but even the original classical music doesn't allow a woman to grow out of her suppression. In Hindustani classical music, the style of singing 'Bandish' depicts as someone desperate to please her man. The man, however, is highly disregarding and hardly pays attention to this woman. In an interview an art teacher Rani Jha, a Madhubani 'artist' with Indian Express, stated that women have often used the art form to express themselves. When child marriage was socially acceptable, child widows existed too. They lived under strict rules of widowhood. They expressed their desire for a wishful life by painting Radha's clothes in bright colours and long hair let loose etc. The Rajput Art expressed the feelings of women by the painting them in a very narrow veil and also the depiction of wealth and chastity. They also mentioned about the habits of royal women, smoking hookah and playing Holi are also the explored subjects. In cinemas, feminism is considered as toxic and damaging to the institution of marriage and family. And the vamp is projected as breaking up the families and involved in manipulating women's minds into hating their husbands and other men. Today many celebrities have focused on woman empowering themes to uphold the equality of women with no less than men. But the existing so called Art has become an area of exploiting women's body. Her body is objectified and the moves are sexually benefitted.

Women have proved to be technologically strong by overcoming stereotypes. As girls in mid ages were asked to learn cooking whereas, boys at home were given chance to study technology. Fathers had laptops to do accounts for work, as our mothers used paper and pen to maintain a household's expenditure record. At the same time, making a kitchen a woman's place, Women were encouraged to use household appliances because they helped women be more efficient at housework. Shivani Gupta of feminist approach to technology [FAT] explains how the various technologies in our world can be tools of liberation or oppression.

As a pioneering female designer, Coco Chanel revolutionized Women's wear in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, fashion continues to play a big role. Women wardrobe fashion has become a hub for gorgeous and contemporary fashion. Feminism is the radical fashion that women are people too.

It's always believed women's work to particular genre and associates with culture and to a specific household job which is also an unpaid task. Even today the necessity of woman to work is only if the husband's economic condition isn't on par; otherwise there is no requirement of woman working.

In Shakespearean plays, the presentation of women is often underestimated. His plays proved the difference in expectations between upper and lower class women of the time.

The elite women are always presented as Possessions moved on to the husbands from their fathers. In most cases, they are socially restricted and not be able to discover many things around the world and about themselves, without chaperones. All these women are dominated and controlled by men their lives.

And women, in Elizabethan times were also considered as the responsibilities of fathers and then their husbands or call it as they belonged to them. Women, in the times were not allowed to own the properties after their wedding. This is one of the reasons Queen Elizabeth never as, she didn't want to give up her powers to a man.

'Nagamandala' is one such play by Karnad that raises many questions and issues concerned with male and woman world. It successfully unfolds the psyche of a woman in all its corners.

The irony of the society in the play is, it acts in a dual way of accepting a woman as 'Nothing' and in another way believing her as a Goddess. The very society fails to recognise simple aspirations of a woman like Rani the character and later accepts her as a goddess by trusting some mythical story.

By this, author is trying to tell us how society makes a woman suffer in life without their faults and ensures that it is a patriarchal society.

To Conclude: The voice raised isn't against the men in the society but with the patriarchy and patriarchy is not a gender but a mindset. And not in past or in present and for sure in future Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength.

**Key words: liberation, feminism, strength and exploitation.**

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