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FEMINISM: JOURNEY FROM DEPENDABILITY TO EQUALITY

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Abstract: The present paper focuses at the historical background of the feminism and the rise of feminism, women's movement and gender discrimination in India. The feminism and women movements are each inspiring and enriching each other. Not only in India but overall the world nations there is an interconnectivity among feminism and women movements. In the context of India, while the women movements are relatively an ancient concept but the term feminism has emerged as a new trend. In India the pre-independence era throws light on the women's movement began on social reform movement in 19th century. At this time, the western idea of equality, liberty, fraternity was imbibed by Indian educators and at the same time they study the English and came in contact with west. Feminism is a modern phenomenon, which is an amalgamation of political, social, cultural movements, moral philosophical aspects, gender inequalities and equal rights for women. Feminism has been widely discussed subject in world sphere yet it lacks acknowledgment and women are subjected to problems and crave for recognition in various fields of life. In a country like India with its deep rooted prejudice of tradition and culture, women play a crucial role in the expansion of the society. Women writers have imitated the western ideas in their writings. The major problem in Indian feminist's writers is that they follow the footsteps of western writers. The male domination has taken over with the westernization of the country. The concern for equality and poverty mitigation and gender issues were subsume in poverty. The women movement has concerned with dowry, women's work, price rise, land rights, political rights for women, Dalit women and marginalized women's right, growing fundamentalism, women's representation in media. Various women studies and gender studies and feminist are struggling to attain equal rights. Though there is a need lot to be achieved in the field of women studies.

Index Terms - feminism, freedom struggle, gender discrimination, literary feminism, westernization, Women movements.

A woman was for home and a man was for the world – outside the home. The society in which we live still considers marriage as a great institution especially for women, but modern day women are reluctant to exist within the confinement of this institution or changing rules according to their comfort.

"I believe that it is as much a right and duty for women to do something with their lives"

-Lenisa May Alcott.

Women – A living creature in our midst endowed with all that is necessary to turn a child into a responsible citizen as a mother. If for some reason the link between the child and the mother is interrupted, his development is held back and sometimes even brought to a standstill. Expensive medication will lose its value or may not be as successful as expected but with mother's touch that will be equal to impossible. Trends, fashion, lives are changing with breakneck speed, but the expectations of a mother never change.

The dogma of marriage was to bring about the be-all and and-all for women in many works of literature also particularly in fiction where wedding bells provide a suitable ending. With changing trend the submerged ideology is changing. There are many motion pictures as well as mythological stories gets the credit of allocating century's worth tradition of a fictional character that can alter every girl who likes to be on the facade instead of waiting for Prince charming.

To administer the change, growth assimilated via social experiences towards positive and acceptable - will be never ending tasks of mother/women. When financial hardships compelled women to supplement the family income they chose to find work they could do at home mostly. The most common female occupation was taking care of others. Initially domestic or care taking position were the commonly held types of employment. The psyche of the women is changed and changing towards the diversified options.

When financial hardships compelled the woman to supplement the family income they chose to find work they could do at home mostly. The most common female occupation was tang care of others. The task of keeping one's home clean and pleasant is an unspeakable task. Initially domestic or caretaking positions were the commonly held types of employment. Household tasks have become equal to impossible which raised the concept of readymade/ ready to coo as well as nuclear family. Domestic help is a luxury many could not afford but still cooking a three meal a day that too three course is compulsory.

Multi-tasking has become a synonym for women. Be it cooking chores bringing up the kids or organizing not to forget the never-ending tasks of mentoring and motivating are like daily activities. Young or adolescence - By default girls are expected and thought the traits that would mold them into a suitable companion and role model for the coming generations Of course not only domestic but also professionally. It is easy for them since there is no leisure time or personal time when it comes to sharing of responsibilities.

Reign to Respect and to be Respected

Fashion industry is place where we see a mixture of beauty with brains, and of course with emotions. Wardrobe malfunctions can be simple errors or gross mistakes. But because it is the fashion industry everybody gets extra curious about the same and suddenly the malfunction becomes the talk of the town. But, a strong woman emerges victorious even in such cases as she knows very well how she can conduct herself in embarrassing situations like this too.

Insulting terms of address are used for people who are stupid or irritating or ridiculous. The most frequently used cuss words are mother fucker, whoson, son of a bitch, sissy, and bastard. Adjectives used for describing or note for a woman is item, fire cracker, sexy, sex bomb, bombshell, hottie, smoking etc. Recently coined word bootylicious (booty+ delicious) is this respect? Men are mentioned with simple words like dude, bro, hunk. Question is who is respecting whom???

Micro credit and micro finance are the latest buzz words in the women's world. It's a weapon used to bring up financial talent in women. Government initiated these ideas to lure uneducated women in taking credit or lending money to start or run their own businesses. It really empowered and many are motivated to do more. Even though it's controversial and constantly debated upon, women opted and proved it is really helping them in achieving success in the field of choice and comfort.

Virginia Wolf has rightly pointed out "a room of one's own room" about women getting personal space. Different shades of a color – a shift from depending on self-struggling to standing confidently with success. Even though every step s filled with struggles, going back over century or decade women fought to get property rights voting rights and equality in civil rights before the law which are very common and can be gained as a human... but still? India for that matter is still struggling to overcome female infanticide dowry system (yes even though it's against law) we can visualize the sea change of perspective and success in many factors lie widow remarriage purdah (veil system) child marriages sati system. The new thing in the block is to overcome divorce system through the internet in Muslims.

Felony against Females!!!

The crimes against women lash unanswering orchestrating women empowerment. Alarming statistics are seen in the report by National Crimes Records Bureau against women. Even though such cases are discouraging there is an astonishing approach taken by many organizations and there is even a technology to protect in critical situations. Targeting the issues directing by giving solutions prove the overarching status of women in India. All major crimes n the recent past such as "Nirbhaya" is prima facie cases of information for creating alert and confidence to fight back.

Aspire to be inspired:

Indian women writers are prejudiced for depicting their own identity. Fact is that they have always chosen to raise their voice in depicting the problems and issues faced by male dominated society as the main theme. The diversified themes like the complexities between man and woman, psychological aspects to create awareness that proclaims with definite precision, the heart and souls of Indian cultures, values and traditions and realistic approach. From Sarojini Naidu to Rama Mehta, Kamala Das, Anita Nair , Anita Desai, Nainatara Sehgal to contemporary writers like Shobha De, Arundati Roy...the essence of their writings is of disapproval and outburst of reservations and polluted minds of society to flare up the spirit of India women in choosing a path or understanding the mind set of women.

Rules to Rule...

First, many people think that discussing women empowerment will inevitably lead to imposing one's feministic views on others. The heritage of civilization with a combination of East and West give people the widest possible freedom in certain aspects to form an understanding and awareness without choices.

In the Indian context, the interplay of many opposing cultural forces makes Women Empowerment more complex. For instance, education is choice often decided by the individual whereas in India traditionally girl is expected to be married by twenty years for that career choice and related education will be optional and discretion of parents and relatives. Of course, it changed gradually over the years with entry and demand of educated bride.

To cultivate a relationship and thereby coming to an understanding is equal to impossible. To fill or to eradicate these gaps for happy relations there is not enough time to manage the visible and subtle issues- but still able to balance personal, professional by empowered women.

Set standards for women as a mother for parent's, husband, children, and society- yet leading by example is like turning and returning to the next generations as if civilization is relayed on. Complexities in postmodern societies driven by media and technology have led to a high interest in the value system that provides a platform for professional empowering. There are some fundamental assumptions that shape the discussion on women in the professional area. Starting from the time of education to surviving in the dog eat dog corporate world. There are many landmark experiences of famous women be it work, entertainment, education, politics, beauty, the business where women have multi-dimensions attached to it.

Expressing Power From Within

Politically even though there is minimal chance of winning, while competing fairly is equal to impossible but women didn't stop with just right to vote instead moved a step forward and proved to be great.

Politics – A work that involves being known to many. A life that is always public but never private or personal. Once a great politician was compelled not to shed tears or moan for the loss of her beloved as it may be considered as a weak point that can be a threat to other members of family and for the party itself. Tears are not a weak point of a woman but it's a way to sharpen the weapon of boldness by losing the emotional side...a great emotional intelligence trick followed by many generations and will continue.

Facts in Fiction:

Disney gets the credit of serving centuries worth tradition or a fictional character that can turn every little girl who would like to be on the front lines instead of waiting for the Prince charming. "The Princess Dairy"- a story about a princess of Genovia who is geeky, clumsy and reluctant in accepting the change. Unsaid dream of every little girl to wake up as a princess came true for Mia. Accepting the unexpected life and royal title was a bit excessive, but her late father's message worked as a gentle reminder that "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something is more important than fear is enough for any to tackle any situation that comes to our walk of life".

"Mary Poppins" – a story of a babysitter named Mary Poppins who gave a hope to the world of babysitters that one day their wards will be doing their own work. Right example if one knew what they are capable of can be confident and self-reliant to demand

respect and justified to be respected. "Frozen"- A modern-day Cinderella who has subjugated the fears and proceeds accordingly is seen. Being unique not always boon if one can't accept or unsure of one's potential. Elsa the protagonist learns to accept and embrace self with a charm and builds a kingdom. Bizarre yet unanticipated thought for all those who doubt themselves, even after blessed with many good qualities with good quantity. Identifying one's own strengths and weakness is the first step to destined success. "A Stitch on time saves at nine", imagine one loose loop can lead to a disastrous ending.

Innovative solutions to Problems:

However, the performance and presentation are due to factors within our complete control. If we are one of those fortunate to have the ability to identify both strengths and weakness we must not take it for granted. Once in a while, the mantra of not listening to people not only chills innovation but also boasts feelings of responsibility, control, and importance. Creativity in the choice of words can be mesmerizing and encouraging to one another in order to build and to promote inspired thought process and relations. Born to express epithetical skills (while expressing thought process) born to perform with patience, born to be sensitive and strong, born to achieve without alternatives – in short, "Beauty with Brains" is outdated and rephrased as "Beauty with best in the World".

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