

Feminist Fiction

The word feminism comes from French word féminisme and according to the Cambridge online dictionary feminism is “the belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power, and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way, or the set of activities intended to achieve this state.” The term ‘feminism’ itself is used to describe a cultural, political or economic movement aiming for equal rights for both women and men. Nonetheless, the terms ‘feminism’ and ‘feminist’ did not gain widespread meaning use until the 1970s when they started to be used in the public parlance more frequently.

The feminist movement involves sociological and political theories concerning with gender difference issues. The movement has been here for many decades, and British women have started to fight against the oppression during mid 1850s when the first feminists started to advocate their thoughts about inequality and when the first suffragette movement emerged, since then women have started working on accomplishing their goals to have the same rights and to have the same position in society as men have. The feminist framework also indicates

how problems are defined and the kinds of questions to be asked. For example, according to definition in *Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Development* written by Jane L. Parpart et al. inequality results from “the need to establish unequal incentives to motivate the most talented people to do the most important jobs efficiently in society,”⁴ other definition from the same book also says that the inequality results from “the practice of providing differential rewards to keep a less powerful working class fragmented by gender and race.”

Feminism is a movement influenced by the ideas postulated, popularized and precipitated by thinkers and authors like Alice Walker, Naomi Little bear, Judith Felterbey, Michele Wallace, Lillian Smith, Elaine Showalter, Simone de Beauvoir, Kate Millett and others. It is a modern movement expressing protest against the male domination. The aim of feminist is to understand women’s oppression keeping in mind race, gender, class and sexual preferences. Feminism tends to be thought of as a movement of women, and many feminists absolutely reject the idea of allowing men into it. It is not concerned with a group of people it wants to benefits, but with a type of injustice it wants to eliminate. Two of the most important works of contemporary feminist theory- Simone de Beavooir’s ‘*The Second Sex*’ and ‘Mary Daly’s ‘*Beyond God the Father*’ drive their ideological premise from the twentieth-century philosophical

movement, existentialism. Toril Moi has used the term 'post-feminism' to cover the different Configuration of feminism and post-modernism present today.

God created human beings and divided them into man and women, with a few basic differences in body and mind. It was only civilization who brought this difference to such a level that the principles of feminism have been articulated. The term 'feminism' was first used with regard to the issues of equality and Women's Rights Movement. Jawaharlal Nehru once said; "You can tell the condition of a nation by looking at the status of its women." Women of any nation is the mirror to its civilizations. The change in the status of women in India is a slow, steady and continuing process. It began a century and half ago when Raja Ram Mohan Roy and his followers focused attention on the social evils.

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