



External and Internal Virtue Laid for Woman: Arguments and Criticism Through Feminist Theorists Mary Wollstonecraft and Simone de Beauvoir

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(Received: 07 October 2023)

(Revised: 12 November)

(Accepted: 06 December)

KEYWORDS

Feminism, gender inequality, injustice, patriarchy, depression, necessity.

ABSTRACT:

This paper aims to argue about the goals of feminism and the feminist education that include dismantling the system of oppression in the society it highlights class, gender and the disparities and its main focus is to seek new way of constructing knowledge. Feminism is based on two premises one is gender difference and inequality between sexes this gender difference is the foundation of structural inequality between men and women due to which women suffer social injustice. The inequality between the sexes that is male and female is not because of biological necessity and it produced by the cultural construction of the term called gender and its differences. Sex here refers to the identity that based on biological category that is male and female. So, woman should be tender, soft, domestic, submissive, good wife and a mother as like woman man also restrained into some stereotype that if you are a man, you should not cry, he should be bold. So, patriarchy is a belief that both nature and culture have made men superior to women. woman have historically been treated as inferior and secondary unto men for three such reasons. One is she explains that the society teaches woman that all female should fulfil male's need and therefore exist in relation to men. The second thing is to follow external cues to seek validation of their worth. Her third reason is that females have historically had far fewer legal rights and therefore less public influence. This paper argues and concludes that she has been oppressed and taught and childhood depression and the necessity of modesty and the distinguish between external virtue and the internal virtue. she although points out the duties of motherhood and domestic life seen as vital building block and the society's pressures against women to care primarily about the external beauty for long time that leads to unhappiness and family bond. She also argues for women that they deserve protection of civil law in order to support them in fulfilling their duties. They should also have the option of studying medicine, politics, and business.

Mary Wollstonecraft's criticism and arguments

Mary Wollstonecraft in her book "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" points out that women are only taught that pleasure is overriding goal of their lives and instead of learning to rely on the reason they are allowed to be driven by emotions and sensibilities which do not prepare women to be good wives and mothers in their families. This cause them to be vulnerable and even if they widowed or if they seduced and ruined by man. So, when they are amidst of problems and difficulties, they could not develop their knowledge and they would rely on reasons. While relying they are neglected or else, they are ruined by man. So, Mary Wollstonecraft in her book "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" criticizes the concept of Jean-Jacques Rousseau as he argues that woman is only need to be educated that only requires her as it prepares them to serve men. Wollstonecraft dismisses his sentimental sermons and the rules of decorum. She also argues that states that Feminism is a belief in the social, economic and political equality of all gender. Feminism is based on two premises



one is gender difference and inequality between sexes this gender difference is the foundation of structural inequality between men and women due to which women suffer social injustice. The inequality between the sexes that is male and female is not because of biological necessity and it produced by the cultural construction of the term called gender and its differences. Sex here refers to the identity that based on biological category that is male and female. So, woman should be tender, soft, domestic, submissive, good wife and a mother as like woman man also restrained into some stereotype that if you are a man you should not cry, he should be bold. So, patriarchy is a belief that both nature and culture have made men superior to women.

Waves of Feminism by Mary Wollstonecraft

Mary Wollstonecraft in her book “A Vindication of the Rights of Women” states the four waves of feminism the first wave of feminism occurred in 19th century and in early 20th century. It was mostly concerned with women’s right to vote. So, before this period women are not allowed to vote therefore the first wave of feminism concerned for women for their right to vote. It also prompts that woman should have equal property rights and it opposes the ownership of married woman. so it promoted equal property rights for woman opposing ownership of married by their husbands. Before this first wave of feminism husbands treated their wives as a property so this first wave of feminism by ‘Mary Wollstonecraft’ vehemently opposed these types of practices and promoted equal property rights for woman opposing ownership of married by their husbands.

The second wave of feminism occurred in 1960’s and 1970’s and it refers to women’s liberation movement for equal legal and social rights. Second wave feminism had a slogan called “the personal is political and it criticized the idea of that woman and that could find fulfillment only through child rearing and home making. It built on first-wave to the next level feminism and it challenged what women’s role in society should be. This was inspired by the Civil Rights movement and protests against the activists who focused on women’s liberation movement for equal legal and social rights. Second wave feminism focused on the institutions that held women back. This meant taking a closer look at why women were oppressed and the reason behind their oppression that promoted social rights.

Third wave feminism began in early 1990s and it argued that the second wave feminism over-emphasised the experience of upper middle class white woman. And this third wave of feminism criticized the second wave of feminism because the second wave feminism only focuses on upper middle-class woman and it does not fit to lower middle class woman. in the third wave of feminism woman in all countries, all races, all religions, all colours were given equal importance. Thus, third wave feminism focuses on women lives as an intersectionality and demonstrating how their races, ethnicity, their class, religion, gender and nationality are all significant factors when discussing feminism. So, this third wave feminism take consideration exclusively the working-class woman and all race of woman.

Then the fourth wave of feminism began around 2012 and it focused on empowerment of woman and the use of internet tools and it also seeks greater gender equality. It argues for equal pay for equal work and it opposes sexual harassment body shaming and sexiest imagery in media. Till that men and woman are not paid equally for the same work that they are doing thus this fourth wave of feminism argues for equal pay for equal work. And this fourth wave feminism also opposes sexual harassment it also opposes body shaming and sexiest imagery in media.

Simone de Beauvoir’s arguments and criticism

woman have historically been treated as inferior and secondary unto men for three such reasons. One is she explains that the society teaches woman that all female should fulfil male’s need and therefore exist in relation to men. The second thing is to follow external cues to seek validation of their worth. Her third reason is that females have historically had far fewer legal rights and therefore less public influence. Simone de Beauvoir uses comparison saying that “a girl is treated like a live doll” a doll is powerful means of identification through it the girl learns to identified with the condition of being dressed up and made pretty and preened over and they don’t have any agency of her own. She also learns to objectivity herself and just as men objectify woman as she should be tender, soft, domestic, submissive, good wife and a mother that doll also meant to be tender, soft, domestic, submissive and its role is to dressed up neatly and listens to owners’ secrets. This doll plays a role of comforting her owner and Simone de Beauvoir argues that when a girl grows up, she will find herself in the same situation as her doll. As a woman it will be her role to attract her husband as like doll attracts with her beauty and it



should maintain it to ensure her husband. He doesn't stray to quietly listen to his problems as doll listens simply idle and wait at home when he is at work. Simone de Beauvoir stated that even if a woman didn't marry, she should still be held to male standards through external pressures such as beauty, diet and fashion industries which all complicit in perpetuating the objectification of women. To achieve liberation Simone de Beauvoir believed women must recognise many of these social norms as constructions and only then they will have freedom to escape from their context and to determine their own destiny.

Simone de Beauvoir in her book "The Second Sex" in 1949 states that "one is not born a woman but becomes a woman" she has investigated a popular definition of femininity. She has concluded that those definitions that are used to suppress the woman through the ages. According to Simone de Beauvoir the views of individual are socially and culturally produced. Femininity is not an inherent but it is a construction that had been learned through socialisation to keep men dominant. Simone de Beauvoir argued that one is not born but rather becomes a woman is still valid today even it was written during 1949. Simone de Beauvoir in her book defined that the othering is the process of labelling women as less than the men who historically defines and been redefined as the ideal human subjects. As the other she argued that women were considered as second men and therefore she systematically restricted from pursuing freedom. She also includes racial and economic identities as well as the broader spectrum of gender and sexual identities and thus understand today. Simone de Beauvoir's legacy is further complicated by so many accusations of sexual misconduct by her university students in the face of those accusations she had her teaching licence revoked for abusing her position. In this aspect others in Simone de Beauvoir's life remains controversial and her work represents contentious moment in the emergence of early feminism. She also participated in those conversation for the rest of her life writing fiction, philosophy, and memoirs until her death in 1986. Today her works offers a philosophy of life to be reimaged, revisited and rebelled against the response that the revolutionary thinker might have welcomed.

Conclusion

Feminism is based on two premises one is gender difference and inequality between sexes this gender difference is the foundation of structural inequality between men and women due to which women suffer social injustice. The inequality between the sexes that is male and female is not because of biological necessity and it produced by the cultural construction of the term called gender and its differences. Sex here refers to the identity that based on biological category that is male and female. So, woman should be tender, soft, domestic, submissive, good wife and a mother as like woman man also restrained into some stereotype that if you are a man, you should not cry, he should be bold. And thus both the theorists argues for the concept of differences that are yet to devalue and demotivate the success of woman and she is a woman she should be like tender, soft, she should under men even that men is elder or younger that doesn't matter but she has to be under in ladies coupe by Anita Nair there was character whose name is akhila she wanted to meet her boy friend so she told her mother that she was going with her office colleagues but the immediate response of her mother is that she said that she need to ask permission from her brother first. She said why she need to ask her brother even she was elder than her brother but her mother said though you are elder you are woman and they are the men of the family. She felt it was ridiculous and she thought she would not ask anything and she cancelled going. So, the patriarchy that followed is she should be subjective and this paper brings out certain theories that women can be objective. Why she should still be held to male standards through external pressures such as beauty, diet and fashion industries which all complicit in perpetuating the objectification of women. To achieve liberation Simone de Beauvoir believed women must recognise many of these social norms as constructions and only then they will have freedom to escape from their context and to determine their own destiny.

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