

Feminist Criminology/1036

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**Question 1**

Feminism is the idea or belief that men and women are equal and should be treated as such in all opportunities, respect, treatment and social rights. Feminists are people who acknowledge that social equality should exist based on gender. Feminists campaign for the cessation in social inequality and assert that, in most cultures in history, men have received more “accolades” than women.

However, some people do not understand or accept feministic positions while others have a distorted perception of feminists as angry and bitter women who want to subjugate men and get on top of the society. This form of thinking offends actual feminists. Thus, it should be noted that the difference in the perception of the real feminism and its stereotypes is due to the existence of different types of this phenomenon. This paper will offer insight into the major types of feminism that exist in the modern society. These are radical feminism, socialist feminism, cultural feminism, and liberal feminism.

Radical feminism is a movement that asserts that sexism is deeply engraved in different cultures, and the only way of eliminating this inequality is to remove the concept of gender completely. Radical feminists are of the opinion that certain changes such as finding technology that allows babies to grow outside the body of a woman need to be accepted by the society. According to their view, it will promote equality between men and women. The introduction of this technology will eliminate the need for women to carry the fetus or get the maternal leave thus avoid missing work and being forced to. Radical feminists feel that going on maternity leaves is the major reason women are not promoted as fast as men are. In fact, according to radical feminists, the traditional family concept is sexist. They oppose the system where men

work outside the home while women are supposed to take care of children and take care of the house chores. Radical feminists argue that this traditional system asserts men as economically viable and more powerful than women. According to radical feminists, this traditional family dichotomy should be rejected at all costs.

From the other side, liberal feminism is an individualistic feminist idea that asserts that women can maintain equal status in society through their actions and the choices they make. Liberal feminists believe that the world has a false belief that women are condemned by nature to be less intellectually developed and physically incapable compared to men. Nature, as they think, therefore, does not discriminate women in all places. Liberal feminists assert that the issue of "female subordination is deeply rooted in the society due to customary and legal constraints. Customary and legal constraints prevent women from entering into success fields. Liberal feminists strive for equality through planned instigations of political and legal reforms" (Shan, 2011).

Marxist feminism or materialistic feminism focusses on the system of property ownership in the society and investigates the oppression of women through the prism of capitalism and ownership of private property. Marxist feminists fight for the radical restructuring of the system and believe that, in the capitalist economy, most of the women's work goes uncompensated.

These three feminism approaches campaigners have joined hands with women of color to fight for a just society free from race, gender, and color discrimination. It should be noted that Women of Color is a political ideology that stemmed from the violence against women's movement in the late 70's. The main aim of the Women of Color Movement was to unify women experiencing marginalization based on race, gender, and color.

By joining hands in their fight for equality, these feminists have been able to speak jointly on behalf of all women on matters related to race, class, and oppression of women. They also touched upon the issues of militarism and the idea of women falling victims of war and policing. They also assert that in cases of international or national violence, women suffer the most, from the loss of autonomy and displacement, which causes agony and suffering in families. Feminists and Women of Color also raise the issue of women experiencing violence at home, at the workplace, in the market and many other locations and occasions. According to them, women also suffer from stolen legacies, economic disenfranchisement and cultural and racial appropriation. Moreover, feminists and Women of Color speak about the suffering of women during genocide cases.

### **Question 2**

For the better part of the twentieth century, crime and punishment provided a framework for the worst cases of racial, class and gender differences in America and other parts of the world. Lynchings, chain-ganging, and other punitive measures were common especially in the southern justice systems. Racial minorities were tried by white juries in white court rooms (Shelden, 2008). Many African Americans received unfair treatment in the administration of “justice”. Police and senior officers supposed to ensure equality and rights protection were used by the administration to propagate racist ideas and beliefs. The police were unfair when dealing with African Americans to the extent that they beat up people of different skin color and even killed some of them. In addition, sanctions were imposed on blacks who victimized white people.

Today, there are still disparities in the system on the basis of race, class, and gender. In 2010, the Bureau of Justice Statistics discovered that an estimated 558,700 African American

adults were incarcerated under state and federal jurisdiction. The rate of imprisonment of African American males stood at 3059 per 100000. On the other hand, the rate of incarceration of white male adults stood at 456 per 1000,000 (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2011). If these rates reflect jail, probation, and parole populations, the statistics will show an exponential rise. The probability of an African American child ending in prison is one in three (Sheelden, 2008). Nevertheless, African Americans comprise just about 13% of the American population. This figure shows a disproportionate number of African Americans suffering in the hands of criminal injustice. Criminal justice approach is racist against African Americans and thus unfair in the dispensation of justice.

To reduce cases of gender, race and class discrimination, governments should initiate legislation and laws against perpetrators. The laws to curb discrimination should be upheld and strengthened such that any person who perpetrates violence or unfairness against another person on the basis of gender, race and color should serve a minimum sentence of specified number of years in prison.

It is also important to educate people on the importance of being fair in all activities they undertake. Employers should stop discriminating against women in the workplace and award promotions based on merit only. The media should be at the forefront in preaching against discriminating people on the basis of color, race, or class. It will serve to inform people who will start embracing inclusion in their daily lives (Burton, 2010).

Women representation in parliament and decision-making organs should also be increased to a certain minimum. Increasing their representation will help to assure women that they are recognized under the law.

## References

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