

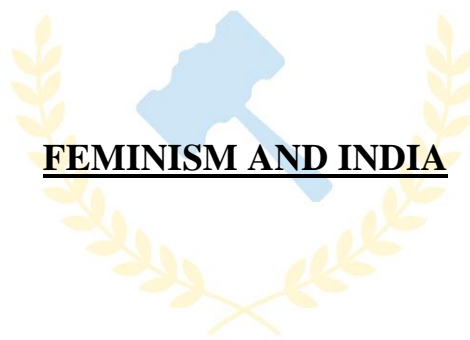
**DE JURE NEXUS LAW JOURNAL**

Author:

Dhruv Soni

Symbiosis Law School, Noida

1<sup>st</sup> Year, BBA LL.B.

**Abstract**

*Feminism is a movement that demands gender equality and is quite popular worldwide. In India too, there have been some feminist movements that have brought changes which can be seen today. In the below discussion we have talked about the definition of feminism and looked at what constitutes feminism. Then we saw the rise of feminist movements in India in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when the status of women started getting talked out with other social issues of that time. The history of feminism in India is also being discussed along with the patriarchal system that was widely followed at that time and we saw the rise of different organizations in India that campaigned for women's rights.*

*In the current status of feminism in India, it has been talked about the changes which were brought in our society through advocacy of gender equality. These changes included increased participation of women in many fields and laws were passed for their safety. Despite many efforts from these movements, there are many women even today who are not given equal rights are treated unjustly. There is a question in the minds of many, that do we still need feminism? We have seen some of the factors because of which feminism is prevalent even today. Many women are not well educated, they are not adequately represented and they are subject to cruelty and are still in need of equal rights. Today, these issues are being focused mainly by the feminist movements.*

## **Introduction**

Feminism is a movement that campaigns for women's rights which is basically based on gender equality and equality of sexes. Feminism is a range of social movements, political movements, and ideologies that aim to define and establish the political, economic, personal, and social equality of the sexes.<sup>1</sup> Feminism as a movement is aimed to improve equality on the basis of gender in society.

But the idea of feminism is not limited to this, feminism is a movement that demands for equality in social, political as well as in economic terms. The feminism movement includes the efforts to speak up and fight against the stereotypes, especially gender-related, which women across the world are facing for a long time. Through this movement, feminists across the globe try to create a level playing field between the genders which shall eventually lead to gender equality.

The movement also includes the fight against many social issues like domestic violence, discrimination, the safety of women at the workplace, etc. Through this movement, the feminists aim to institute opportunities for women, especially in professional fields like education, etc.

The main idea of feminism is gender equality which many people take as a misconception. The idea is to create an equal surrounding and not to showcase that any of the genders is superior to others. Hence, in simple words, the purpose of the feminist movement is to attain gender equality and equal opportunities and rights for women across the world and prevent social issues like discrimination, violence against women and raise voices against them.

## **Feminism and India<sup>2</sup>**

Inequality of gender is a social issue for a long time across the world and India is no exception to it. Earlier, in Indian society, the role of women was limited to looking after children and

---

<sup>1</sup> *Feminism*, (Nov. 14, 2021), <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminism>

<sup>2</sup> *Feminism In India: What You Need to Know*, (Nov. 14, 2021), <https://www.sociologygroup.com/feminism-in-india/>

performing household work. There have been many developments in the country but still, the unjust treatment towards women and depriving them of their rights exist.

This is occurring because of the patriarchy which is running for ages. Patriarchy, in simple words, means a system in which the father is the head of the family and is descended by the eldest male. The role of women in heading the family is missing. In India, many families are still male-dominated, and thus, many times women are subject to cruelty and unjust treatment. Despite the changing times, one can still witness child marriage and sati practices in many parts of our country.

It was the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when India saw the rise of feminist movements. This was the first time when the status of women in Indian society was discussed and included in the social reform movements which were led by prominent reformers like Rajaram Mohan Roy, B.G. Tilak, etc. For demanding equal rights for women and gender equality many organizations like the All India Women's Conference (AIWC), National Council for Women, etc. started raising their voices. The rise of the Dalit feminist movement was also seen. Savitribai Phule, a Dalit woman who tried to educate herself and started the first school for girls, is many a time referred to as the mother of the Indian Feminist Movement.

The feminist movements in India have yielded many positive results. They are now getting influential positions, representation in politics, jobs in the professional and educational world, and many more. Laws to protect women from exploitation are made functional, for example – Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 & Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005.

Thus, the upliftment and liberation of women can be seen as a result of the feminist movements. But still, there are many parts of the country where women are being oppressed, treated unjustly, harassed, and not given equal rights as men. The feminism movement in India today tries to prevent this from happening and is focusing on issues like domestic violence, the safety of women, and discrimination.

### **Why do we still need Feminism?**

Feminist movements are taking place for many years and are still actively running in many parts of the world, including India. Many people question the need for these feminist

movements now. There are many factors for which feminism is still needed in India. Some of the reasons are:

**Education:**

Women in many parts of India are still uneducated and the percentage of educated women stands low. One of the main reasons for this, despite a woman's will to educate herself, is the patriarchal nature. It is completely wrong to think that women should confine themselves to household works. One of the main reasons why feminism is still needed is that a large part of women in India are still not educated and thus are unable to liberate themselves and become independent politically, socially, and economically.

**Equal representation:**

We have seen the increasing pace of development in many aspects in India today. But the representation of women despite many attempts remains inadequate. This representation can be in terms of educational, political, etc. Representation of women in politics today is a matter of concern as there is a low women's participation. To uplift the status of women in our society, women's participation and representation in politics need to be increased and thus, feminism can help.

**Unjust Treatment and demand for Equal rights:**

Today, despite so many efforts to stop cruelty towards women, many women are still being treated unjustly and are subject to cruelty. This is hindering the overall development of our nation. The feminist movement has always focused on this issue and tried to prevent this. Feminism has always placed gender equality and equal rights at the utmost focus and is trying its level best to provide equal rights to women in India.

**Conclusion**

The feminist movements across the globe started for demanding equal social, political, and economic rights for women. The aim was to create opportunities for women similar to that of men so as to reduce the existing gender disparity which was leading to oppression of women and was hindering their welfare.

Patriarchy was a system that was largely followed in India earlier, which has the dominance of males in families and society. The feminist movement in India started to speak up against the difficulties which women have to face because of the patriarchal system.

Even today the fight to attain equal rights for women and to achieve gender equality is active and many people are supporting the movement and demanding equal rights for women. On the other hand, there are some people against it. There is a common misunderstanding that feminism aims to get superior to men. This is actually wrong as feminists aim to attain gender equality so that no gender is superior to the other.

This movement is aimed at improving the position of women which was made miserable through patriarchy. The movement has already brought some positive changes in favor of women in India as well as the world and it aims to continue doing so.

Many people assume that through feminism, it is being tried to bring up that women should get more power than men and to degrade the position of men in society. This is not true and people claiming this have a lack of knowledge about the true meaning of feminism. Further, awareness about the campaign is necessary so as to ensure its success and development for all.

---

# De Jure Nexus

---

## LAW JOURNAL