HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

IMPACT OF FEMINISM ON SOCIETY AND THE CHANGING INTERPRETATION OF ITS PRINCIPLES

Tuychiyev Sardor Batir Öğli
Academic Lyceum of Tashkent State University of Law named after H.K. Mukhitdinova
Email: sardortuychiyevb@gmail.com
Tel**:** +998(20)003-34-48
Scientific Director: **Sultonmamitova Diyora Adhamjonovna**
doi:https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23761170

Abstract: Feminism has developed from a movement focused on legal and educational inequality into a broad field of social and ideological debate. This article examines how the objectives and interpretations of feminism have changed since the eighteenth century and how these changes shape its perceived impact on society. Using a qualitative comparative literature review and thematic analysis of two online sources, the study contrasts a historical overview of feminism with a critical perspective on its contemporary forms, particularly in relation to family, marriage, and employment. The analysis shows that feminism's historical demands centered on legal equality, education, and political participation rather than on marriage or child-rearing, while contemporary debates draw on a wider range of cultural and ideological positions. The article argues that distinguishing legal equality from broader debates about cultural values is essential for evaluating feminism's social impact.

Keywords: feminism, gender equality, women's rights, Mary Wollstonecraft, legal equality, social change

INTRODUCTION

In contemporary society, feminism continues to gain prominence as a social, political, and intellectual movement. However, the interpretation and application of feminist principles have evolved significantly throughout history. Although feminism originally focused on addressing gender-based inequalities and advocating for women's rights, its objectives, approaches, and public perception have expanded and diversified over time. These developments raise important questions about how feminism has influenced society and why its contemporary interpretations may differ from its historical foundations.

METHODS

This study examines the evolution of feminism through its historical waves, focusing on the transformation of its objectives, methods, and ideological perspectives. Particular attention is given to the distinction between the original principles of feminism and some of its contemporary interpretations. The historical analysis begins with early feminist thought in the eighteenth century, particularly the contributions of Mary Wollstonecraft, whose influential work A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)[1] challenged the unequal educational and social conditions imposed on women. Her arguments helped establish an intellectual foundation for subsequent feminist movements.

By examining the historical development of feminism and its changing social context, this study seeks to understand its impact on society and identify the factors that have contributed to the evolution of feminist ideas and practices.

HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

This study employs a qualitative research approach based on a comparative literature review and thematic analysis. Two online articles were selected to examine the historical development of feminism, changes in its interpretation, and its influence on contemporary society.

The first source, Young Moon's "Feminism: Understanding the Movement and Its Impact," published in Global Media Journal in 2025,[2] provides an overview of feminism's historical origins, major waves, fundamental principles, and social consequences. It is used to establish the historical framework of the study and identify changes in feminist objectives and methods over time.

The second source, Huda Z's "Feminism and How It Impacts the Building Blocks of Society," published in Crescent International in 2020,[3] presents a critical perspective on contemporary feminism, particularly its relationship with family structures, marriage, employment, and social expectations. This source is examined to understand criticisms of modern feminist interpretations and to compare them with the movement's historical objectives.

The analysis follows three main stages. First, the historical development of feminism is examined to identify changes in its central demands and priorities. Second, the social consequences and objectives discussed in both sources are compared thematically. Third, the differences between the sources are analyzed to explore how ideological perspectives, cultural assumptions, and changing social conditions may influence interpretations of feminism.

The study relies on secondary sources and does not involve surveys, interviews, or original statistical analysis. Consequently, its findings are based on the interpretation and comparison of published material rather than on independently collected empirical data. The differing perspectives of the selected sources are considered when evaluating their arguments, and claims about the social consequences of feminism are not treated as established causal relationships without additional supporting evidence.

RESULTS

The research revealed that feminism has developed as a distinct historical movement shaped by influential thinkers, activists, and legal reforms. Figures such as Mary Wollstonecraft contributed to the intellectual foundations of feminism by challenging the unequal treatment of women and advocating for their access to education and equal rights. These early ideas subsequently influenced feminist movements that sought to expand women's legal, political, and educational opportunities.

Furthermore, the analysis indicates that feminism's historical objectives cannot be reduced to questions concerning marriage or child-rearing. Rather, early feminist arguments and subsequent women's rights movements addressed broader issues of legal equality, including access to education, political participation, and the right to vote. These demands challenged existing legal and social restrictions that limited women's opportunities and participation in public life.

The findings also suggest that contemporary discussions of feminism encompass a wider range of social and ideological perspectives than those associated with its early historical development. Consequently, distinguishing between feminism's historical foundations and its diverse contemporary interpretations is essential for understanding its changing role in society.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study indicate that the objectives and interpretations of feminism have evolved significantly throughout its historical development. Early feminist movements primarily focused on challenging legal and institutional inequalities that restricted women's rights, including the right to vote, access to education, participation in political decision-making, and legal protection. Over

HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

time, feminist discourse expanded to encompass a broader range of issues, including reproductive autonomy, individual freedom, and the distribution of responsibilities within marriage. This expansion reflects changes in social expectations and the emergence of new debates concerning gender equality. However, the relationship between historical feminist principles and contemporary interpretations remains a subject of ongoing discussion.

Feminism has played an important role in raising awareness of gender equality and advocating for women's participation in various areas of public and private life. The pursuit of equal legal rights has contributed to debates concerning employment opportunities, political representation, educational access, and protection against forced marriage. These developments demonstrate the significance of examining women's rights within legal and institutional frameworks. Nevertheless, the extent to which particular reforms can be attributed directly to feminist movements varies across historical and national contexts and requires further investigation.

Despite these developments, contemporary feminism continues to generate disagreement regarding its objectives and implications for traditional social structures. One possible explanation for negative perceptions is the divergence between different interpretations of gender equality, particularly concerning marriage, parenthood, and the respective responsibilities of spouses. Some critics argue that certain contemporary feminist perspectives challenge traditional understandings of family relationships. At the same time, supporters of gender equality emphasize individual autonomy, mutual respect, and equal legal protection within family life. These differing perspectives illustrate the importance of distinguishing between the principles of legal equality and broader debates about cultural values and personal responsibilities.

Another important consideration is the relationship between biological differences and social equality. Men and women differ in certain reproductive functions, and research has identified average differences in physical strength between the sexes. However, biological differences do not, in themselves, determine the legal rights or social status that individuals should possess. Consequently, the question of whether men and women should enjoy equal legal protection must be distinguished from discussions about biological characteristics and culturally defined family roles. Recognizing this distinction provides a more precise framework for evaluating competing arguments about feminism.

CONCLUSION

This article has examined the evolution of feminism from a movement initially associated with demands for women's legal and political rights into a broader field of social and ideological debate. Its changing interpretations reflect interactions between legal reforms, cultural traditions, individual autonomy, and evolving social expectations. A balanced assessment of feminism's impact therefore requires consideration of both its historical achievements in advancing women's rights and the disagreements surrounding its contemporary interpretations.

By distinguishing legal equality from wider cultural debates, the study contributes to a clearer understanding of how feminist principles have been interpreted over time. Further research using historical evidence, comparative legal analysis, and empirical studies of public opinion would help clarify the extent to which these developments have transformed modern society.

HSR (LONDON),
HOUGHTON STREET REVIEW JOURNAL
ISSN: 2058-5519|Impact factor-15.9
http://houghtonstreetreview.com/index.php/hsr

REFERENCES:

1. Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (London: J. Johnson, 1792).
2. Young Moon, "Feminism: Understanding the Movement and Its Impact," Global Media Journal (2025), (URL).
3. Huda Z, "Feminism and How It Impacts the Building Blocks of Society," Crescent International (2020), (URL).