

Pseudo feminism

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Abstract - This article talks about how people are unknowingly combining feminism and pseudo feminism. It also talks about how it's impacting the actual meaning of feminism.

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A few bad eggs spoil the basket, in this case, pseudo-feminism is a bad egg, and it tarnishes the true sense of feminism. If you pick up a dictionary, this is the meaning you're going to find for the word, Feminism (n): an ideology that promotes social, political and all other rights of women equal to those of men.

Here I would like you all to emphasise the word 'equal.' The definition indicates that there should be no discrimination to either sex. But, lately, a new trend of feminism is emerging, rightly called pseudo-feminism. Pseudo feminists have a deep urge to redress all injustices committed to women, mostly by lashing out and dehumanising men. What they forget is the literal foundation of the feminist movement: equality. Pseudo-feminism spreads disinformation, dabbles in shaming and, to some degree, renders "feminism" synonymous with misandry. In my opinion, another form of pseudo-feminism is feminism of convenience. The biggest example of this is: men who pay for the dates. If we are as equal as we claim to be then why can't the restaurant bill be split between the two? The reason is simple-men are too stubborn to let a woman pay, and it inevitably becomes a man's responsibility to pay for a few women.

We don't realize it sometimes, but pseudo-feminism is all around us, hiding behind feminism in the underground. We're women standing for fair rights all over the world but still we don't waste a minute telling a guy sitting in a Ladies Reserved seat to get rid of it. Why do we need reservations for coaches in general? Men who do 9-5 jobs, who burn their hours working hard to earn, are as drained as we are. It's such a ludicrous idea. Like it's correctly said, two wrongs don't make a right.

Another good example of pseudo-feminism is that the tax on wages is higher for women than it is for men. A woman earning up to 3,000,000-3,50,000 is excluded from paying taxes, as proposed by the Narendra Modi Government. If both men and women earn the same amount, then why should only men pay tax on it? Exceptions to the situation exist, but I firmly believe that if the true value of feminism is to be practised, then equality must be taken into account. If a man pays tax on the same income that a woman often receives, a woman should also pay.

If real feminism was followed, then we would treat all the victims fairly. Victims will cease to be women or men, but only victims of abuse. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Pseudo-feminism cries out clearly that men can't be raped, men can't be tormented, and men who claim to have been exposed to such crimes are lying scammers. When a woman is set on fire, when she is abused, brutalised, stripped naked on the streets, forced to abandon her studies to marry a man three times her age, when she is threatened of being assaulted or mocked, when a woman is viciously bullied for refusing to pressurise her parents to pay a dowry when she is assumed inferior to her male colleagues, there is a need to speak out and same goes for the situation when a man goes through all such activities. It doesn't matter if the victim is a guy or a girl, sexual abuse is not a slap on any gender's face rather it's a slap on humanity. As Gloria Steinem rightly said, a feminist is someone who respects the dignity and full humanity of women and men.

Real feminism wants a society in which men are no longer told that crying is for girls. Feminism started out as a concept to give women opportunities, to give them equal rights, no more and no less but equal.

Feminism is not misandry, nor is resentment of men or women who desire control over men in society. These are two words that I think have been commonly misunderstood by both men and women. Society sees "feminism" as a dirty word generated by angry women, which has no real meaning. In this era of social media, I think we have overlooked the true sense of feminism and unknowingly fused the two meanings together. The reality is that even most women don't have any idea what Feminism actually means, but that's not necessarily their fault, given that there's no sound sense for the word feminism, and hardly anyone on social media understands what feminism is all about, and they all just end up being fake feminists.

In this era of social media, with people manipulating circumstances only to build content, it is incredibly difficult to distinguish between true and false. We feel confident about joining the cause without really understanding what we're supporting or fighting against.

Many pseudo feminists say that men can't be feminists, but you know who is a feminist, a man or a woman, or a trans, who believes in the equality of women. A feminist is a father who treats his daughter and his son equally. A feminist is a husband who encourages his wife to make decisions without forcing his views on her. A transgender woman who, like any other human being, deserves fair rights and respect is, in a sense, feminist.

We all know that our society is not perfect and inclusive, and that it has always been biased in favour of the other sex, so it's time to dig in and make the necessary changes. I request you all to give some serious thought to what feminism is, what the concept is, and not to become a part of pseudo-feminism.

