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There are Three Waves or Phases of FEMINISM:

- 1. FIRST PHASE OF FEMINISM**
- 2. SECOND PHASE OF FEMINISM**
- 3. THIRD PHASE OF FEMINISM**

First Phase of feminism: pre (1920)-First phase/wave feminism refers to a period of Feminist activity during the 19th and early twentieth century in the United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands and the United States. It focused on de jure inequalities, primarily on gaining women's suffrage.

According to Miriam Shiner, "*Simon de Beauvoir* wrote that the first women to "take up her pen in defence of her sex." *Mary Wollstonecraft* published one of the first feminist treatises, "*A Vindication of the Rights of Women*"(1792) in which she advocated the social and moral inequality of the sexes. Wollstonecraft is regarded as the grandmother of British Feminism and her ideas shaped thinking of the suffragists, who campaigned

for the women's vote. The majority of first wave feminists were more moderate and conservative than radical revolutionary.

The first wave of feminists, in contrast to the second wave, focused very little on the subject of abortion, birth control overall reproductive rights of women. In the United States, it began during the early 1960s and lasted through the late 1990s. It was a worldwide movement that was strong in Europe and parts of Asia, such as Turkey and Israel. It began in the 1980s, and it began in other times in other countries. Whereas first wave feminism focused mainly on women's suffrage and overturning legal obstacles to gender equality, second wave feminism broadened the debate to a wide range of issues; sexuality, family, the workplace, reproductive rights, de facto inequalities, and official legal inequality. At a time when mainstream women were making job gains in the professions, the military, the media and sports in large part because of second wave feminist advocacy, second-wave feminism also focused on a battle against women's shelters, and change in custody and divorce laws.

While, first wave of women's rights movement lasted from 1860 to 1920 with the attainment of franchise, variously called as feminism or Women's Liberation Movement grew out of Civil Rights movements in America and student radicalism in Europe. Formal dating of new feminism coincides with founding of

National Organization for women (NOW) in 1999, under the famous author of “The Feminist Mystique” (1963), by Betty Friedan. Shulamith Firestone and Kate Millett are regarded to be the two pillars of radical Feminism, who exercised enormous influence on developing the women’s liberation movement 1970s. Literature is human experiences through imaginative writing, the early phase of feminism, was marked by autobiographical or even confessional writing which witnessed the relationship of literature to personal experience. It is through literature being a major cultural practice that feminism as critical theory as well as of strong political arguments developed after 1960. One instance of this category is found woman in the attic: the women writers and the nineteenth century literary imagination, written by Sandra Gilbert and Susan Grubber in 1979. Since the resurgence of feminism in late 60s and 70s Marxism provided a framework for major theoretical debates. Marxists believe that nature is not pre existent, it is produced socially. This assumption led feminists to think of patriarchy, not as something naturally given but as different forms of oppression. History shows that this oppression may be from social or religious point of view.