

**FEMINISM IN MODERN SOCIETY: CONFLICT OR NECESSITY?**AUTHOR: **Muqaddamxon Salimova**

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**Annotation:** When the topic of feminism or gender equality is raised, conflicts inevitably arise among people. Some say that feminism is right and should be supported, while others argue that this issue does not exist at all and that feminism leads society toward conflict. So, what exactly is feminism? And what is the difference between it and gender equality? Let's take a closer look.

**Keywords:** Feminism, Gender Equality, Women's Rights, Social Justice, Women's Protection, Equal Opportunities, Women's Health, Education for Girls, Workplace Equality, Psychological Support, Social Development, Women's Safety, Economic Equality.

**Introduction:** The first wave of feminism emerged as an active movement in the 19th century and the early 20th century. In Great Britain and the United States, this movement began to focus on promoting equal rights for women in contracts, marriage, parenthood, and property ownership. What is considered quite normal today once caused major debates in the past, and women engaged in significant discussions within society. **Feminism is a system of socio-political movements aimed at establishing political, economic, personal, and social equality between genders.** It includes movements that oppose the dominance of male perspectives in society and the unfair treatment of women. To change this situation, feminism seeks to challenge gender stereotypes and create equal educational and employment opportunities for women, just as they exist for men. In this sense, feminism can be said to differ somewhat from gender equality by focusing on these specific issues.

**Main Part:** Now let's look at why feminism is supported in the process of wage distribution. According to UN Women (the United Nations entity focused on women), "women earn approximately 20% less than men worldwide." In other words, on average, for every 1 dollar earned by men, women earn about 0.80 dollars. (Source: [knowledge.unwomen.org](http://knowledge.unwomen.org))

According to statistics from the United Nations, "for every dollar of labor income earned by men, women globally receive approximately 51 cents." This is quite low, isn't it? (Source: [unstats.un.org](http://unstats.un.org)) Looking at a regional example, in the Middle East, women earn approximately 14% less than men. (Source: [theunn.com](http://theunn.com))

Feminists consistently speak out strongly against such inequalities. Women are physically weaker than men. Men's biology is also stronger than that of women, and for this reason, in my opinion, women's wages should be equalized or increased.

Looking at it from another perspective, let us say that during biological changes in women, they are not as productive as men. This is not because they do not want to be or because they are weak, but simply because their bodies are structured that way. Feminism is not about having exactly the same rights as men, but about having rights that protect women. For example, it is necessary to have hygienic products in women's restrooms in schools, lyceums, and universities. Or female workers should be given at least 2–3 days per month with reduced working hours or additional days off to relieve stress, because their bodies and psychology need it. Currently, there are special seats for people with disabilities, the elderly, and pregnant

women on buses, and we are only happy about this, and such practices should be applied to other public transport as well. For instance, there should be at least one designated seat for pregnant women in metro and other public transport. **One may say that people will voluntarily give up their seats, but what if they do not? Should we put women's health at risk by relying only on people's good behavior?**

In many societies, women also face difficulties in balancing family responsibilities with education or professional careers. Even today, in a large number of households, women are expected to take primary responsibility for childcare, housework, and caring for elderly family members, regardless of whether they are students or full time employees. This often creates an invisible burden that limits their opportunities for personal and professional growth. According to research conducted by international labor organizations, women globally spend significantly more hours on unpaid domestic work than men. As a result, many women experience higher levels of stress, exhaustion, and emotional pressure, which can directly affect their academic performance, mental health, and career advancement.

For this reason, feminism also emphasizes the importance of creating supportive environments rather than simply demanding equal treatment in every situation. Equality does not always mean treating everyone identically; sometimes it means understanding differences and providing fair conditions based on real needs. For example, many developed countries have introduced maternity protections, flexible work schedules, and mental health support systems for women. These measures are not privileges, but necessary steps to ensure that women can participate in society without sacrificing their health and well-being.

Education is another important area where feminist ideas remain highly relevant. In some regions of the world, girls still face barriers in accessing quality education due to poverty, cultural expectations, or safety concerns. Even in countries where girls have access to schools and universities, certain stereotypes continue to influence career choices. Women are often discouraged from entering fields such as engineering, technology, politics, or leadership positions because society traditionally views these professions as "male" occupations. However, studies show that diverse workplaces and institutions often perform better because they benefit from different perspectives and experiences.

In addition, the issue of women's safety should not be ignored. Harassment in public places, online abuse, domestic violence, and workplace discrimination remain serious concerns in many societies. Feminism seeks to address these problems not by creating conflict between men and women, but by encouraging respect, legal protection, and social awareness. For example, stronger laws against harassment, accessible support centers for victims, and educational programs about mutual respect can help create safer communities for everyone.

Healthcare is also deeply connected to feminist discussions. Women's physical and mental health issues are sometimes underestimated or ignored due to lack of awareness and social stigma. Conditions related to reproductive health, hormonal changes, or psychological well-being are often treated as private matters rather than public health concerns. Feminism encourages open discussions about these issues so that women can receive proper medical care, information, and emotional support without shame or fear.

Furthermore, feminism is not only beneficial for women; it can positively affect society as a whole. When women are educated, healthy, financially independent, and protected by law,

families become stronger and communities become more stable. Children raised in respectful and equal environments are also more likely to develop healthy attitudes toward others. In this way, feminism is not about promoting superiority of one gender over another, but about building a society where every individual has dignity, safety, and fair opportunities.

**At the same time, feminism should not be misunderstood as hatred toward men. Many men also support feminist ideas because they understand that social progress requires cooperation between both genders. Healthy societies are built not on dominance, but on mutual understanding, empathy, and shared responsibility. Respecting women's needs, protecting their rights, and listening to their experiences should not be considered controversial; rather, these actions reflect humanity, justice, and social development.**

**Conclusion:** In addition, there should be at least one separate subject taught in schools for at least one year, which educates girls about their bodies and psychology. Many girls do not properly understand the hormonal and psychological changes they experience; most people simply call it a “growing period” and leave it at that. However, this is not correct. Women and girls sometimes do not know how to help themselves, and moreover, they must know what to do in cases of sexual violence, how to prevent it early, and what actions to take if it is already too late. This is not only about attention to them, but it can also help prevent violence against women and girls today, as well as cases of suicide among them.

Also, it should be explained to girls that boys are not allowed to joke rudely about them, insult them, or speak inappropriately without their permission. So, what do you think now—is it wrong for feminism to promote protecting and safeguarding women?

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