

Perception Of Young Females Of Patna On Contemporary Feminism

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Abstract - Feminism is defined as a range of social movements, political movements and ideologies that share a common goal: to define, establish and achieve the political, economic, personal and social equality of the men and women alike. This paper is aimed to study the respondent's awareness about feminism and their perception towards contemporary feminism and its impact. Today the society is driven by extreme notion of feminism and thus do not consider themselves a part of it. The study was carried on 200 females belonging to 18-29 years age residing in North-western areas of Patna being qualified more than intermediate level. The data collection method adopted for the study was questionnaire cum interview method and the collected data was analysed using descriptive statistics. The awareness is positively correlated to age, working status and educational qualification. The respondents were of the opinion that contemporary feminism had both positive and negative impact on the society.

Index Terms - Young females, Perception, Society, Contemporary feminism.

I. INTRODUCTION

The word feminism was first coined by a utopian socialist and French philosopher, Charles Fourier, as 'féminisme' in 1837. Feminism is defined as a range of social movements, political movements and ideologies that share a common goal: to define, establish and achieve the political, economic, personal and social equality of the men and women alike. The word feminism, with the passage of time, has changed its meaning because of its changing goal in the society. It is defined by different people differently according to their own view of feminism as an ideology and need of society to change the status of women.

Over the passage of time several sub-types of feminist ideology emerged. Major sub-types include liberal feminism, radical feminism, socialist feminism, cultural feminism, eco-feminism and global feminism. The feminism what we see today has travelled through four waves since its origination. In the context of India, feminism is divided into two phases, namely pre- independence and post-independence phase. The goals kept changing with time as society is dynamic in nature.

The current issue with feminism is the fact that third and fourth wave of feminism has created a negative connotation about feminism due to the way it is portrayed. The online nature is excluding many sections of women including old aged, poor, illiterate and those who are unfamiliar with these technologies and trends. Also, today feminism is more about "me, me, me and what I think is right" rather than giving it a collective identity.

According to 2014 Ipsos poll covering 15 developed countries, 53 per cent of respondents identified as feminists, and 87 per cent agreed that "women should be treated equally to men in all areas based on their competency, not their gender". Sociological research shows that, in the US, increased educational attainment is associated with greater support for feminist issues.

II. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study aims to explore the awareness of female youths regarding the concept or ideology of original feminism and its goals. This will help to study the perception of the respondents about contemporary feminism and their view towards its prevalence in the society. It will also study the perception of respondents towards impact of contemporary or fourth wave of feminism on the society.

Today's individualistic nature of feminism has made people feel disconnected to it. Hence, it is very important for the people to be aware of true concept of this ideology and its purpose so that they can connect to it in a positive way and play their role in society. Youths are the future of any nation and hold the power to voice the

change in society. Their ideologies will shape the society and its structure which has been altered by the changing concept and goals of feminism.

III. PROBLEM OF THE STUDY

Feminism is an ideology which originated with the purpose of providing equal rights to both men and women. It has progressed with changing goals according to the changing society and time. Something that started as collectivism is now focussing on individualism. Since the current wave of feminism is an online and technology influenced concept, various sections of women are left out.

A major issue is also the fact that only a few sections of the society are aware, other sections including illiterate, poor, low caste, etc. are still not getting their basic rights. It has created an imbalance in the society by empowering the already empowered and leaving out the rest. The feminism today is being led by celebrities and social influencers rather than qualified sociologists, who focus on self rather than working on root problems of the society.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- To study the demographic profile of the female youths under the study.
- To assess the respondent's awareness about feminism and its goals.
- To study the perception of female youths towards contemporary feminism.
- To study the perception of female youths on impact of contemporary feminism in the society.

V. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

RQ.1 What is the awareness of respondents regarding feminism and its goals?

RQ.2 How do the respondents perceive contemporary feminism?

RQ.3 What is the perception of respondents regarding the impacts of contemporary feminism on the society?

VI. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design - This study was based on descriptive and exploratory research design so as to have a better understanding since the problems regarding feminism has not been clearly defined previously in any study.

Sampling Method - The sampling method adopted for the study was simple random sampling which is a type of probability sampling to have a better depiction of the population under the study.

Sample Size - A sample of 200 female respondents was selected randomly between the age of 18-29 years with their consent to participate in the study.

Inclusion criteria were females being married or unmarried and having qualification that is more than intermediate level, i.e. either pursuing graduation or above graduate level.

Area of the Study - The young females belonging to age group 18-29 years, fulfilling the inclusion criteria, were selected from different areas of North-Western Patna.

Area name :-

- Ashiana Road
- Rukunpura
- Bailey Road
- Boring Road

Procedure of Data Collection - The study was based on primary data. In order to collect data from the defined sample, questionnaire cum interview method was selected for the study keeping in mind the objectives and research question formulated for the study.

Research Tool - To conduct the study, a questionnaire was developed to obtain the required information from the samples and conduct small interview. The questionnaire was based exclusively on the basis of objectives and research questions of the study.

The questionnaire was divided into four sections on the basis of four objectives framed for the study :

1. Demographic data – This section involved questions related to the demographic characteristics of the respondents.
2. Awareness regarding feminism and its goals – This section dealt with questions related to feminism and its real aims and objectives.
3. Perception towards contemporary feminism – This section included questions seeking view of respondents on trends of contemporary feminism and their view regarding the same.
4. Perception towards impact of contemporary feminism – This section was related to the view of respondents on impact of contemporary feminism on the society.

Pilot Study and Pre-Testing of the Questionnaire - In order to direct the issue, the questionnaire was pre-analysed with 10 respondents randomly selected in the specified area of study. The study pointed out some necessary modifications which were incorporated before finalising the questionnaire for the main data collection of the present study.

Coding of the responses - After completion of data collection, the responses were given numerical codes of one (for selected options) and zero (for options not selected). This coding was done on excel worksheet which helped in carrying out the statistical analysis.

Data Analysis - Since the data collected through the questionnaire was quantitative in nature, descriptive statistical analysis was adopted for the data analysis. Frequency distribution and percentage method was used to analyse the entire data collected. Mean and standard deviation of age and socio economic status were calculated.

Formulas used for statistical analysis of data were as follows:

Mean :

$$(\bar{X}): \bar{X} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$$

where, x = observation

n = number of observation

i = 1,2,3,.....n

Standard Deviation (SD) :

$$SD(\sigma) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - \left(\sum_{i=1}^n x_i\right)^2}{n - 1}}$$

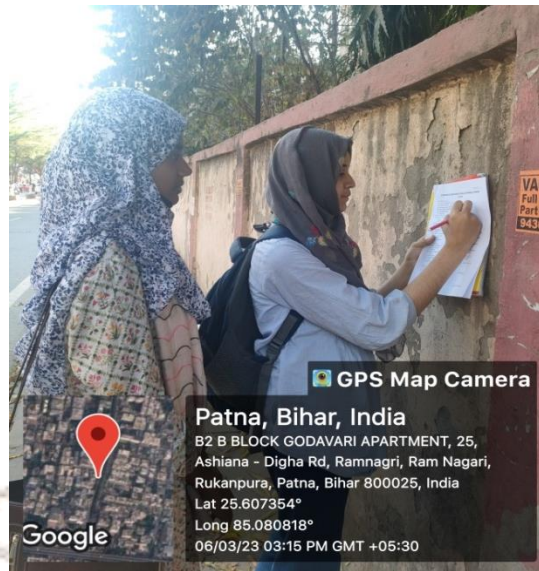


Plate 1.1 Collecting information from respondent

Area – Ashiana Road

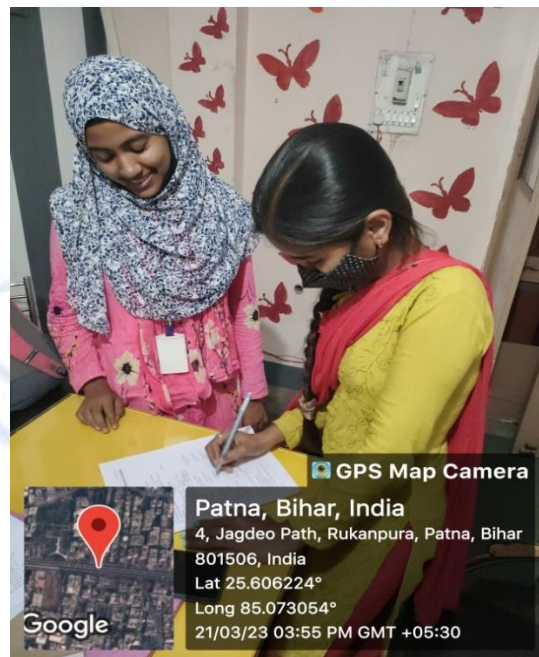


Plate 1.2 Collecting information from respondent

Area – Rukunpura

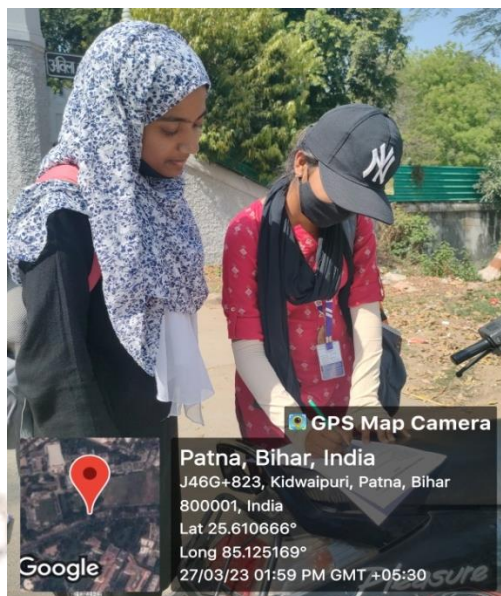


Plate 1.3 Collecting information from respondent

Area – Bailey Road



Plate 1.4 Collecting information from respondent

Area – Boring Road

VII. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section focuses on the results and findings of the study which is arranged in following sections :

Section 1	Results on demographic profile of the respondents
Section 2	Results on respondent's awareness about feminism and its goals
Section 3	Results on perception of respondents towards contemporary feminism
Section 4	Results on perception regarding the impact of contemporary feminism

Section 1

Results on Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Table 1 :- Demographic Data

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
AGE GROUP		
18-20	90	45
21-23	65	32.5
24-26	19	9.5
27-29	26	13
Mean = ± 21.71 ; SD = ± 3.018		
MARITAL STATUS		
Married	34	17
Unmarried	166	86
EDUCATIONAL STATUS		
Completed	38	19
Not-completed	158	79
On-break	4	2
EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION		
Under-graduate	110	55
Graduate	56	28
Post-graduate	33	16.5
Ph.D.	1	0.5
WORKING STATUS		
Not employed	154	77
Part-time employed	15	7.5
Employed	31	15.5
STRUCTURE OF FAMILY		
Nuclear	139	69.5
Joint	61	30.5
FATHER'S QUALIFICATION		
Under-matriculate	6	3
Matriculate	14	7
Intermediate	19	9.5
Graduate	95	47.5
Post-graduate	65	32.5
Others	1	0.5
MOTHER'S QUALIFICATION		
Under-matriculate	16	8
Matriculate	25	12.5
Intermediate	46	23
Graduate	83	41.5
Post-graduate	27	13.5
Others	3	1.5
SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS		
Lower group	0	0
Upper lower	7	3.5
Lower middle	63	31.5
Upper middle	130	65
Mean = ± 16.445 ; SD = ± 3.076		

The Table 1 includes the demographic information of the respondents revealing that majority samples were between the age 18-23 years and mean age was ± 21.71 (SD ± 3.018). Almost 86% were unmarried. Out of the total sample 79% had not completed their education and 55% were still doing their graduation and consequently, majority of them were unemployed. Most of the samples (69.5%) had nuclear family structure. Regarding father’s and mother’s qualification, almost half of the sample’s parents were graduated. 65% of the total sample belonged to upper middle class.

Section 2

Results on respondent’s awareness about feminism and its goals

Table 2.1 :- Distribution of respondents on awareness regarding the term ‘feminism’

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	177	88.5
No	4	2
Partially	19	9.5

The awareness regarding the term ‘feminism’ illustrated in Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1 depicts that a high majority (88.5%) of the total respondents was aware of the term ‘feminism’ and remaining respondents were unaware (2%) or partially aware (9.5%).

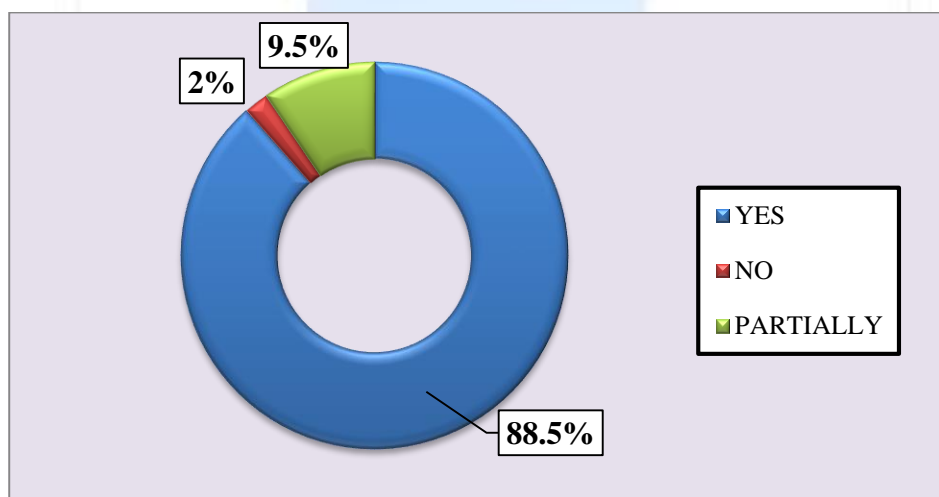


Figure 2.1 :- Distribution of respondents on awareness regarding the term ‘feminism’

Table 2.2 :- Distribution of samples on awareness regarding number of waves in feminism

VARIABLES (No. of waves in feminism)	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
1	0	0
2	4	2
3	43	21.5
4	38	19
I don’t know	115	57.5

The following Table 2.2 and Figure 2.2 concludes the awareness of samples regarding total number of waves in feminism. Almost 57.5% of total sample were totally unaware of waves in feminism and 2% chose 2 waves and hence can be considered unaware as well. Following this, 21.5% had awareness of 3 waves and 19% had awareness of 4 waves in feminism.

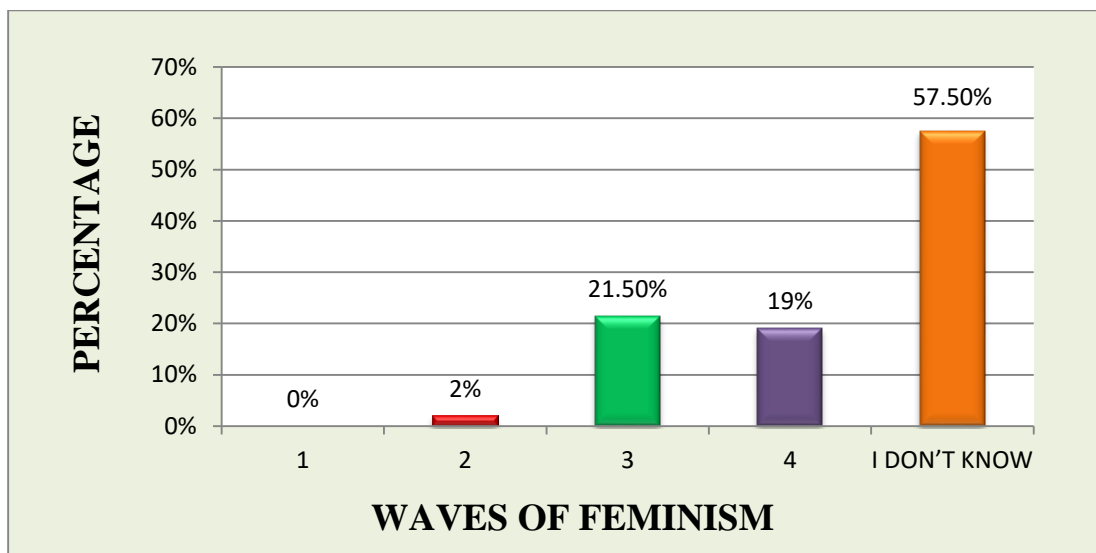


Figure 2.2 :- Distribution of samples on awareness regarding number of waves in feminism

Table 2.3 :- Distribution of responders on awareness regarding types of feminism

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Liberal	86	43
Radical	61	15.5
Cultural	69	34.5
Socialist	88	44
Eco-feminism	51	25.5
Global feminism	65	32.5
None of these	55	27.5

The response analysis shown in Table 2.3 and Figure 2.3 reveals that only 27.5% were unaware of any type of feminism. Socialist feminism (44%) and liberal feminism (43%) were the most known type among the subjects followed by cultural feminism (34.5%), global feminism (32.5%), eco- feminism (25.5%) and radical feminism (15.5%).

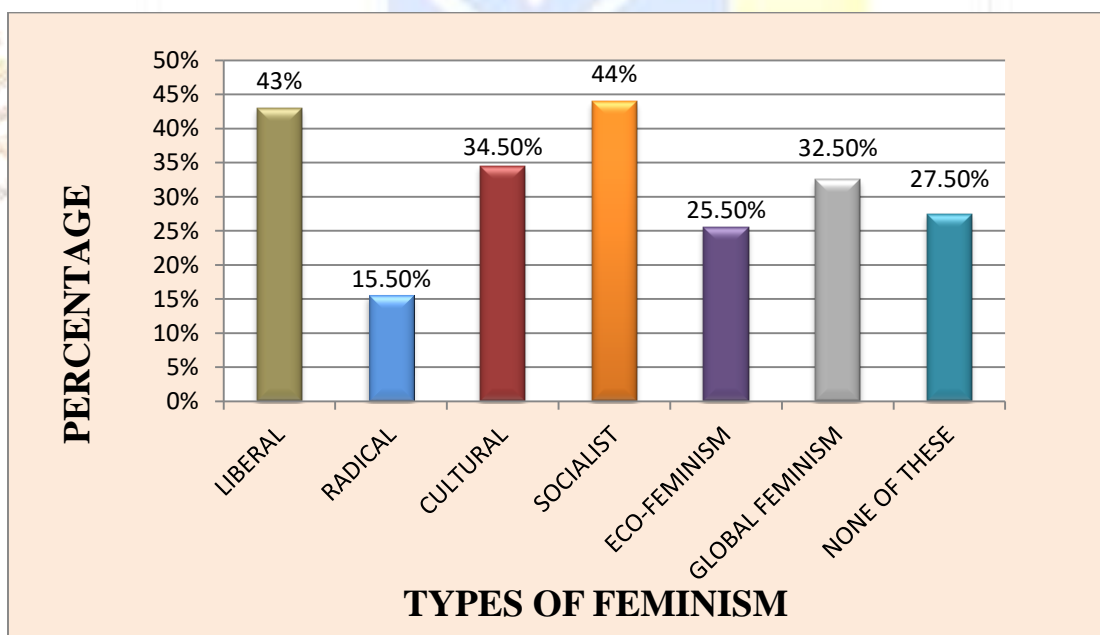


Figure 2.3 :- Distribution of responders on awareness regarding types of feminism

Table 2.4 :- Distribution of participants on view regarding meaning of feminism

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Women’s superiority	29	14.5
Men’s inferiority	4	2
Male-female equality	81	40.5
Gender equality	86	43

The information provided in the Table 2.4 and Figure 2.4 shows that the participants view feminism as gender equality (43%) followed by male and female equality (40.5%). Further on, 14.5% sees feminism as women’s superiority and only 2% as men’s inferiority.

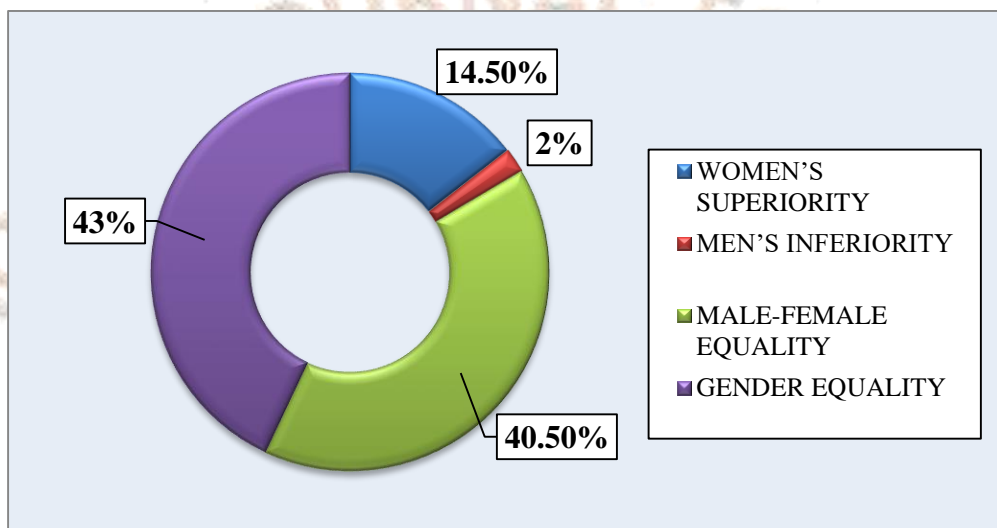


Figure 2.4 :- Distribution of participants on view regarding meaning of feminism

Table 2.5 :- Distribution of respondents on awareness regarding men being feminists

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	151	75.5
No	22	11
I don't know	27	13.5

Table 2.5 and Figure 2.5 covered the information that a majority of the respondents (75.5%) are aware that men can be feminists while 11% were not aware and 13.5% were such respondents who did not had any idea regarding men being feminists.

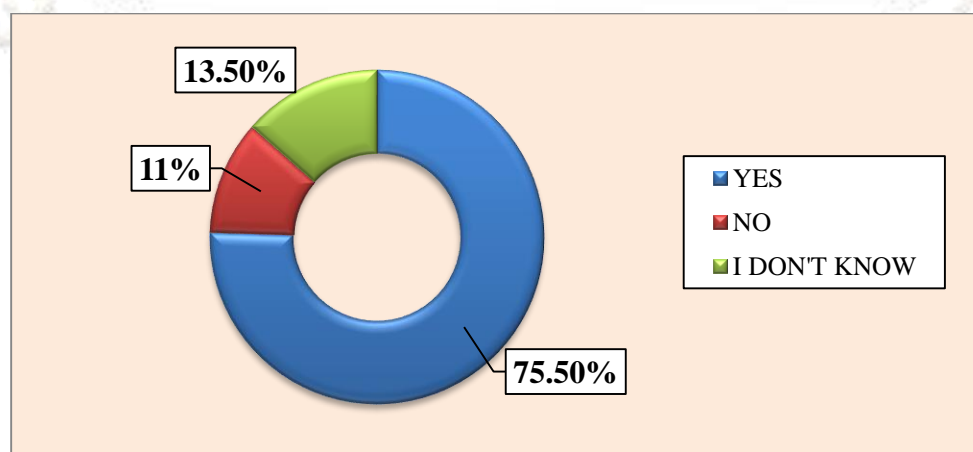


Figure 2.5 :- Distribution of respondents on awareness regarding men being feminists

Table 2.6 :- Distribution of samples on awareness regarding trans-genders being feminists

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	129	64.5
No	21	10.5
I don't know	50	25

The information included in Table 2.6 and Figure 2.6 displays that 64.5% of the samples considers that trans-genders can be feminists. The remaining 10% did not consider trans-genders as being feminists while 25% had no suggestion on this matter.

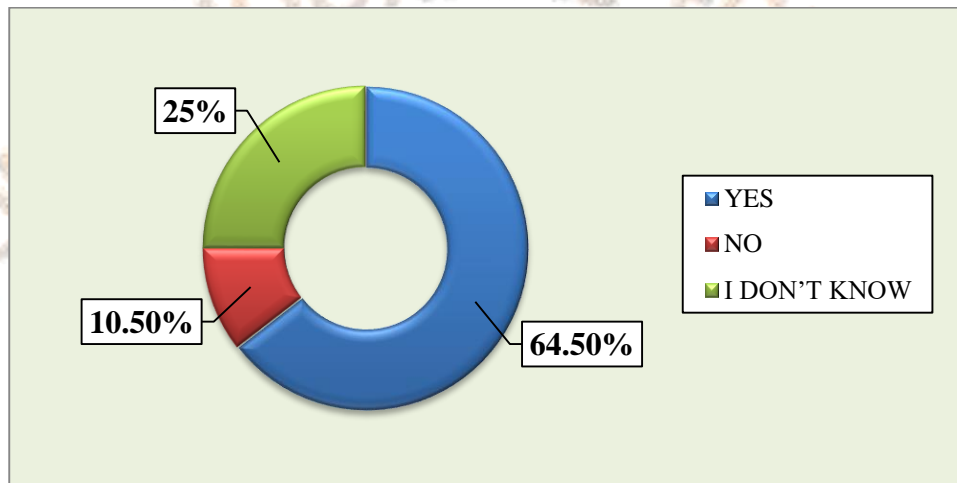


Figure 2.6 :- Distribution of samples on awareness regarding trans-genders being feminists

Section 3

Results on perception of respondents towards contemporary feminism

Table 3.1 :- Distribution of participants on awareness of "Cyber Feminism"

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	132	66
No	68	34

The awareness regarding “Cyber Feminism” included in Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 shows that 66% were aware of cyber feminism whereas 34% were unaware of cyber feminism.

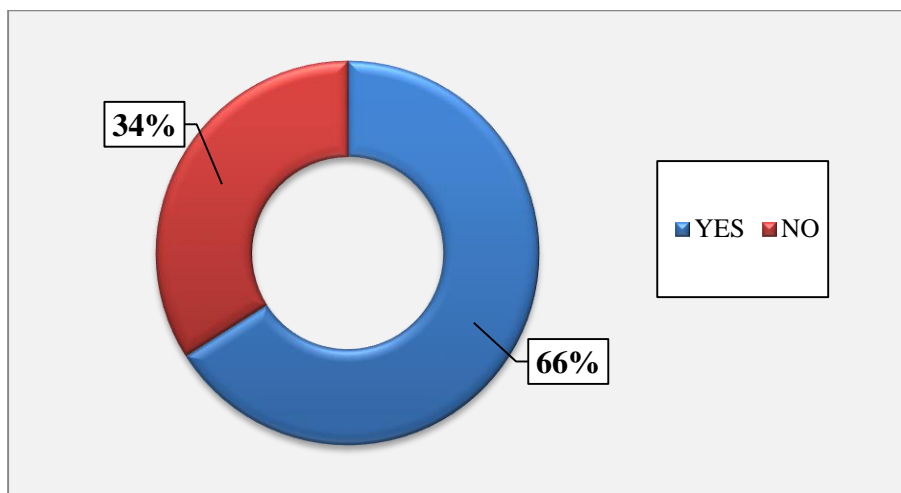


Figure 3.1 :- Distribution of participants on awareness of "Cyber Feminism"

Table 3.2 :- Distribution of samples on perception towards contemporary feminism

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Positive	58	29
Negative	16	8
Neutral	99	49.5
I don't care	27	13.5

Table 3.2 and Figure 3.2 depicts the information regarding perception of samples towards contemporary feminism. Out of the total samples, 49.5% were neutral, 29% had positive perception and 8% had negative perception. Interestingly, 13.5% of the samples did not care about having any perception regarding this.

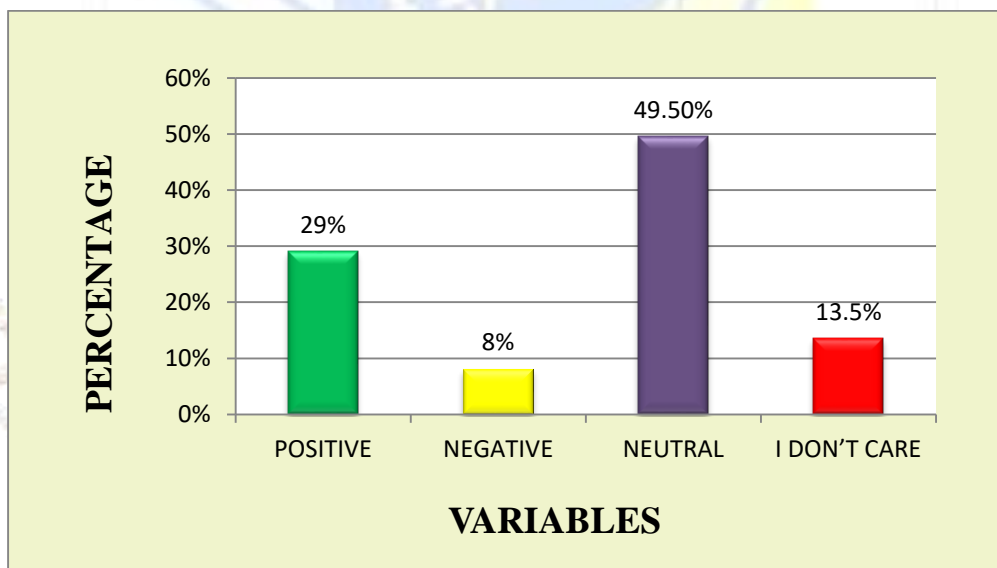


Figure 3.2 :- Distribution of samples on perception towards contemporary feminism

Table 3.3 :- Distribution of responders on their view regarding contemporary feminism being advantageous to the society

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	68	34
No	10	5
Maybe	33	16.5
Partially	70	35
I don't know	19	9.5

The Table 3.3 and Figure 3.3 reveals the view of responders on contemporary feminism being advantageous to the society. Among the total responders, 34% were not sure, 35% were of the opinion that it is partially advantageous and 9.5% did not had any view on this matter.

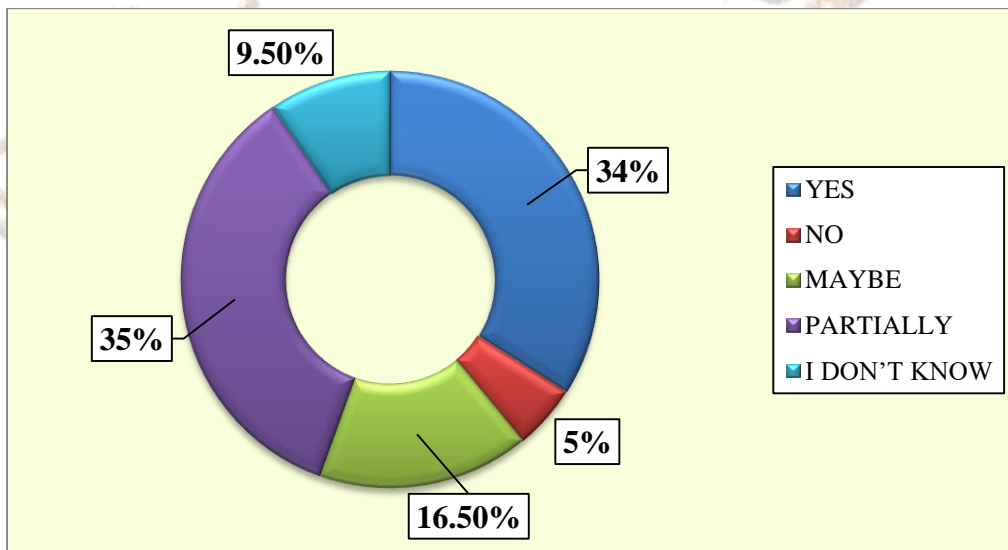


Figure 3.3 :- Distribution of responders on their view regarding contemporary feminism being advantageous to the society

Table 3.4 :- Distribution of participants on their view regarding feminism being used as "victim card"

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	69	34.5
No	17	8.5
Maybe	20	10
Sometimes	77	38.5
I don't know	17	8.5

It is evident from the Table 3.4 and Figure 3.4 that 34.5% of the total respondents view feminism as being used as victim card, 38.5% view it as being used sometimes, 10% were unsure, 8.5% said they are not used as victim card and rest 8.5% had no opinion in this matter.

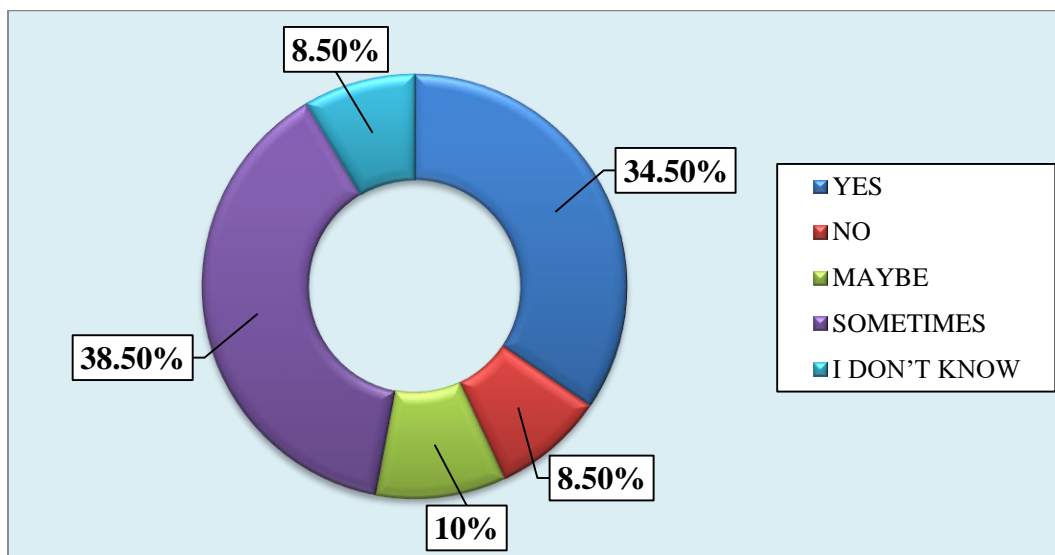


Figure 3.4 :- Distribution of participants on their view regarding feminism being used as "victim card"

Table 3.5 :- Distribution of respondents on their view regarding need of feminism in the present society

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	139	69.5
No	9	4.5
Maybe	31	15.5
I don't know	21	10.5

The view of respondents concerning need of feminism in the present society is provided in the Table 3.5 and Figure 3.5. Almost 69.5% of the subjects were in favour of the statement, 4.5% were not in favour, 15.5% thinks maybe the society needs feminism while 10.5% had no opinion if the society needs it or not.

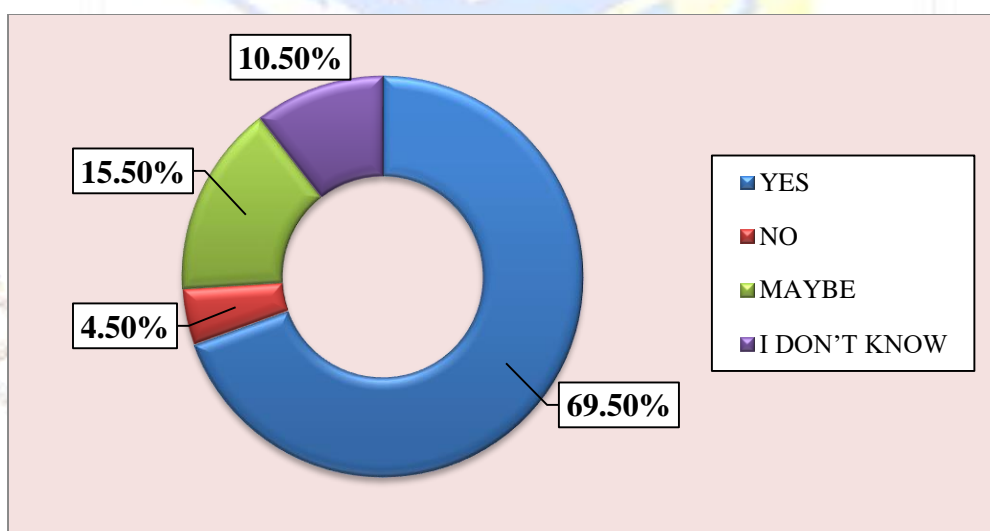


Figure 3.5 :- Distribution of respondents on their view regarding need of feminism in the present society

Table 3.6 :- Distribution of samples on need to restructure contemporary feminism

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	117	58.5
No	14	7
Maybe	44	22
I don't know	27	13.5

Table 3.6 and Figure 3.6 covers the information that 58.5% of the samples consider that contemporary feminism needs to be restructured while 7% do not consider the need to be restructured. 22% thinks may be it needs to be restructured and 13.5% had no view on this subject matter.

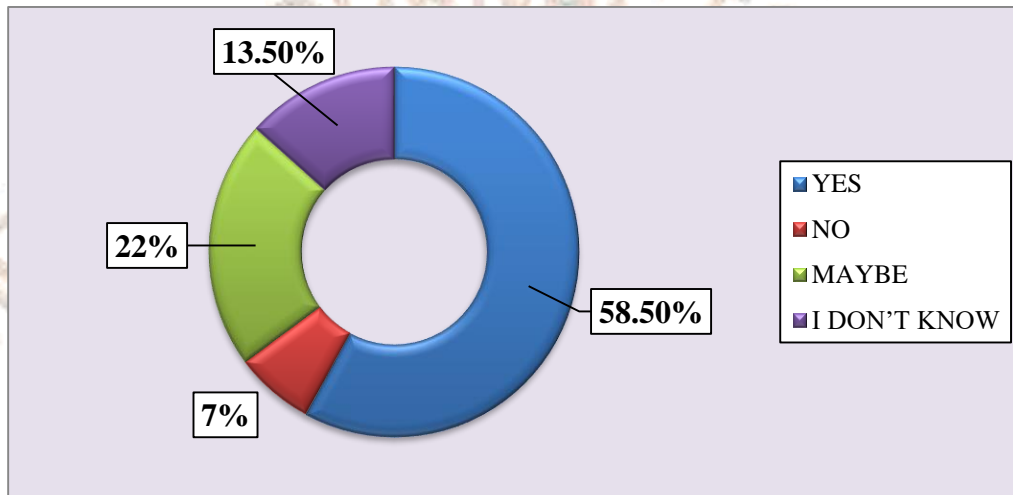


Figure 3.6 :- Distribution of samples on need to restructure contemporary feminism

Section 4

Results on perception regarding the impact of contemporary feminism

Table 4.1 :- Distribution of partakers on awareness regarding feminism being able to help every section of women in society

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	56	28
No	32	16
Maybe	10	5
Partially	87	43.5
I don't know	15	7.5

The response analysis shown in Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 demonstrates the awareness concerning feminism helping every section of women in the society. Almost 28% of the partakers agreed on this statement, 16% denied, 5% were unsure, 43.5% regarded feminism as partially helping every section of women and 7.5% did not have any idea concerning this matter.

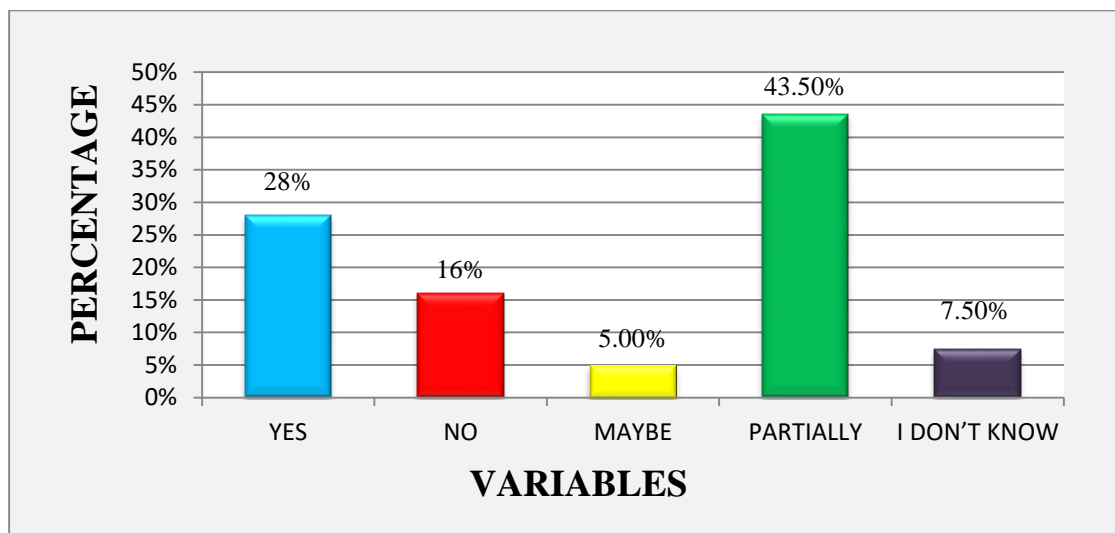


Figure 4.1 :- Distribution of partakers on awareness regarding feminism being able to help every section of women in society

Table 4.2 :- Distribution of participants on view regarding feminism creating more difference between rural and urban females

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	74	37
No	22	11
Maybe	28	14
Partially	40	20
I don't know	36	18

The information provided in Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2 demonstrates the view of participants on feminism creating difference between rural and urban females. Out of total, 37% were in favour, 11% denied the statement, 14% were unsure, 20% thinks that feminism partially creates the difference while 18% had no information.

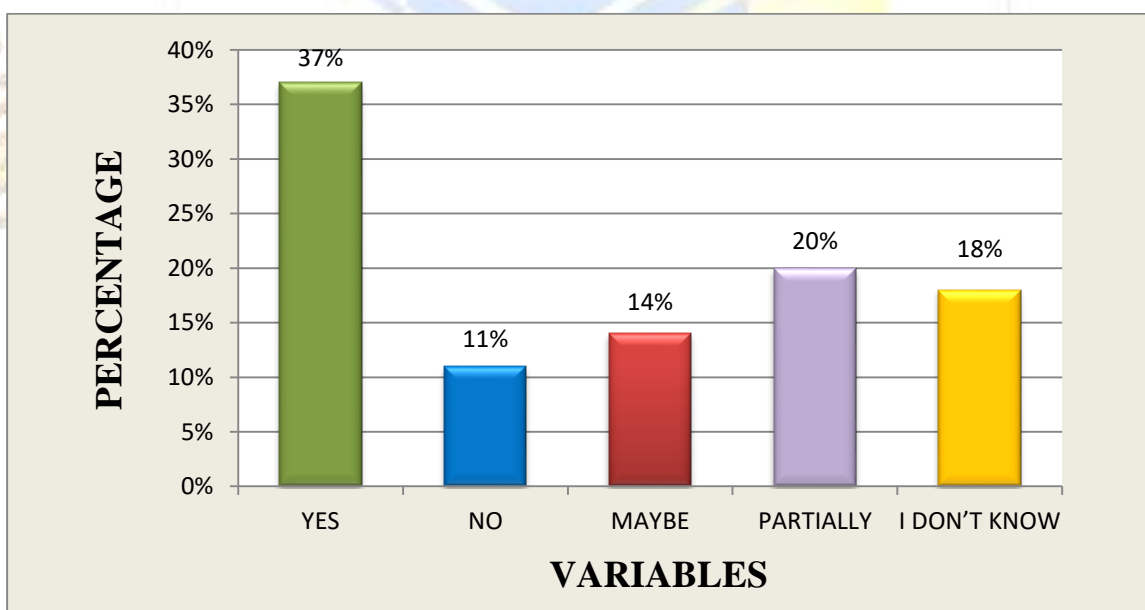


Figure 4.2 :- Distribution of participants on view regarding feminism creating more difference between rural and urban females

Table 4.3 :- Distribution of respondents on view regarding feminists working for their own selfish desires in the name of feminism

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	38	19
No	45	22.5
Maybe	17	8.5
Sometimes	70	35
I don't know	30	15

It is clearly evident from Table 4.3 and Figure 4.3 that 19% of the respondents consider feminists as working for their selfish desires, 22.5% do not think so, 8.5% were not sure, 35% thinks sometimes they do work for their selfish desires and 15% had no information concerning this matter.

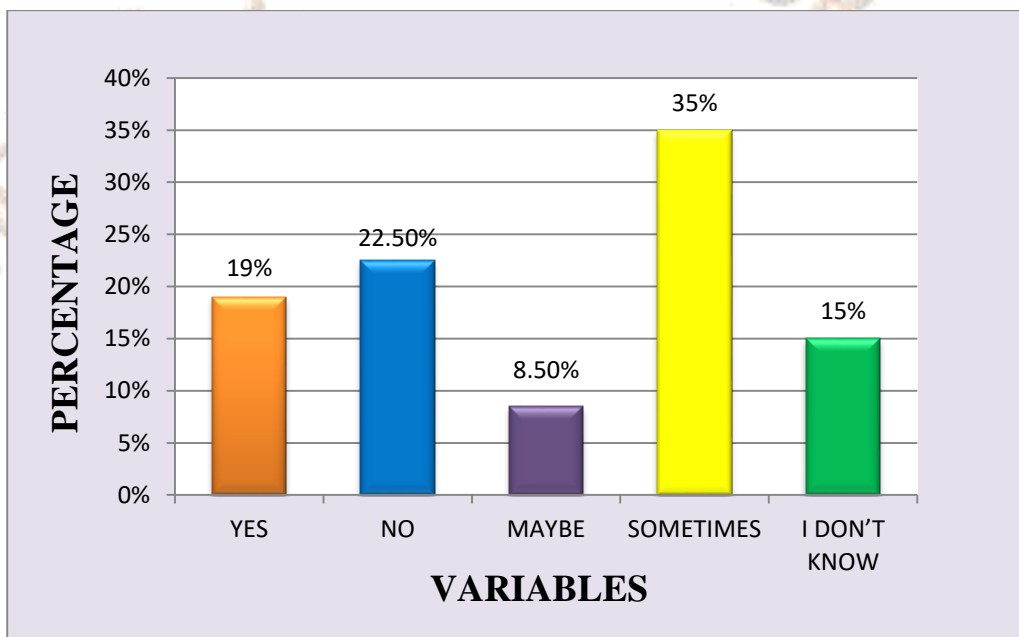


Figure 4.3 :- Distribution of respondents on view regarding feminists working for their own selfish desires in the name of feminism

Table 4.4 :- Distribution of samples on their view regarding feminism is discriminating men in the society

VARIABLES	RESPONDENTS (N=200)	PERCENTAGE (100%)
Yes	36	18
No	60	30
Maybe	14	7
Sometimes	67	33.5
I don't know	23	11.5

Table 4.4 and Figure 4.4 includes the analysis of samples' view on feminism discriminating men in the society. Majority (33.5%) respondents think that it sometimes discriminates while a small minority (7%) were unsure. Almost 18% believe they do discriminate, 30% believe they do not discriminate and 11.5 % had no idea concerning this,

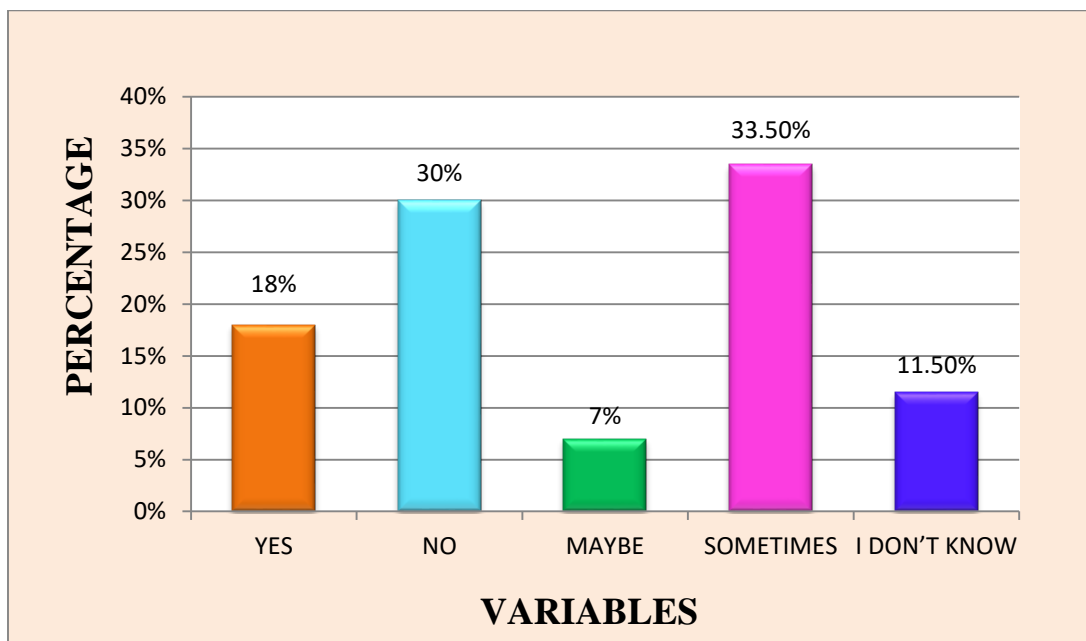


Figure 4.4 :- Distribution of samples on their view regarding feminism is discriminating men in the society

Distribution of correlation between awareness about term feminism and age (N=200)

		Age	Awareness about term feminism
Age	Pearson Correlation	1	.075
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.293
	N	200	200
Awareness about term feminism	Pearson Correlation	.075	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.293	
	N	200	200

Conclusion: According to the given sample size, age is positively correlated to awareness about feminism term. As the age increases the respondents are more aware about feminism term.

Distribution of correlation between awareness about term feminism and qualification (N=200)

		Awareness about term feminism	Qualification
Awareness about term feminism	Pearson Correlation	1	.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.998
	N	200	200
Qualification	Pearson Correlation	.000	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.998	
	N	200	200

Conclusion: According to the sample size, qualification of the respondents is correlated to awareness about feminism term. As their education level increases they know deeply about Feminism..

Distribution of correlation between awareness about term feminism and working status (N=200)

		Awareness about term feminism	Working Status
Awareness about term feminism	Pearson Correlation	1	.223**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	200	200
Working Status	Pearson Correlation	.223**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	200	200

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Conclusion: According to the sample size, working Status of the respondents is positively correlated to awareness about feminism term.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The study revealed that most (88.5%) of the samples were aware of the term feminism but half of them were not aware of the number of waves in feminism. Only a few (27.5%) samples were not aware of any type of feminism and 14.5% thinks that feminism stands for women superiority. Almost 11% of the samples disagree that men or trans-genders can be feminists.

Most (80.5%) of the samples are aware that feminism is still going on and almost 66% were aware of cyber feminism as well. Majority thinks that maybe contemporary feminism needs to be restructured and had neutral view towards it. Almost half of the samples did identify themselves as feminists. It was found that approximately 34% thinks that contemporary feminism is wholly and partially advantageous to the society but 38.5% thinks that feminism is sometimes being used as victim card. Majority thinks that feminism is still needed by the society but it needs to be restructured.

Regarding awareness towards the impact of contemporary feminism, majority thinks that feminism has partially helped every section of the society. Almost half of the respondents agreed that feminism is being falsely portrayed by media and celebrities and thus creating more difference between rural and urban females. Approximately 35% respondents think that sometimes feminists do work for their selfish desires instead of working for the whole community. Approximately 30% of the samples thinks that male member of the society are not discriminated because of feminism while 33.5% thinks they are sometimes discriminated.

It can be concluded from the study that since almost 80% of the total samples were students, the awareness regarding feminism and its goals was found to be satisfactory to some extent. Concerning the contemporary feminism, the respondents had a bit negative view regarding some aspects of contemporary feminism but chose to have neutral perception towards contemporary feminism itself. Although the respondents were of the opinion that contemporary feminism has partially fulfilled its goals but at the same time had some negative impact in the society by discriminating men in the name of feminism and not being able to have a broader approach to the problem solving aspect of feminism. The awareness regarding the term feminism is found to be positively correlated to age, qualification and working status of the samples.

IX. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Women education should be made compulsory in secondary education.
2. Existing campaigns should work more extensively for lower level of population of our society.
3. Widespread awareness should be there regarding real aims and objectives of feminism.
4. Government should make strict policies for equal economic and social rights and at the same time ensure its implementation through various agencies and organisations,
5. Future study should be done on feminism as there is lack of critical work on the same.
6. Comparative study should be done on similar topics to get a view point of both male and female of the society.

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