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Q6(a)

Discuss the impact of post- 1970 feminist movement on Indian middle class.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · Sociology GS 2 · 20 marks · Impact of colonial rule on Indian society

Impact of colonial rule on Indian society: Social background of Indian nationalism; Modernization of Indian tradition; Protests and movements during the colonial period; Social reforms.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the impact of post- 1970 feminist movement on Indian middle class
- Cover law, family, work, and who was left out

Revision summary

Towards Equality and rape-dowry campaigns recast middle-class public talk.

Law on workplace and family violence is a major impact.

Professional work grew; household patriarchy often stayed.

Sex selection showed middle-class modernity with son preference.

Dalit and informal women marked the class limit of that wave.

Introduction

The post-1970 Indian women's movement, after the Towards Equality shock, hit the urban middle class as law, campus, and household speech. It changed the public language of the middle-class woman more than it equalised her maid.

Body**What changed in the middle class**

- Mathura, dowry death, and later **Vishaka** made rape, stridhan, and workplace harassment middle-class newspaper facts, not only private shame.
- Education and delayed marriage expanded the professional woman, still inside Dube's seed line for property and care.
- Autonomous groups, **SEWA**'s different class path, and later NFIW-AIDWA streams taught the middle class a vocabulary of patriarchy.

Limits inside that class

- Honour, arranged marriage, and son preference did not exit the apartment. PCPNDT exists because the middle class bought the test.
- **Beteille's disharmony**: equality at work, hierarchy at wedding.

Who was barely included

- Dalit-Bahujan and Muslim women charged that the 1970s-80s leadership was savarna and urban. Informal labour stayed the other India.

Flow diagram

Towards Equality -> Movement law campus
Movement law campus -> Middle-class rights talk
Kinship honour -> Middle-class rights talk
Dalit informal women -> Partial reach

Conclusion

Post-1970 feminism modernised the Indian middle class's legal and professional self. It did not dissolve caste kinship in that class, and it left most working-class women to other organisations.

Facts & figures

Towards Equality 1974

Committee report that relaunched the women's question for the state and the middle class.

Mathura case

Custodial rape case that fuelled post-1970 feminist law reform.

Vishaka

Guidelines that named workplace sexual harassment for organised employees.

SEWA

A working-class women's path that the salaried movement did not replace.

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