

### Book Review

Title of the Book: Aurat Justuju aur Nisai Andaz e Fikar

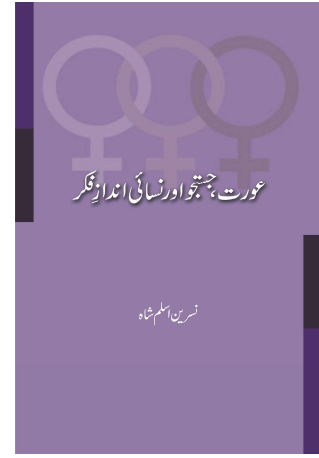
Author: Nasreen Aslam Shah

Publisher: Centre of Excellence for Women's Studies.  
Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Niswan and Consultant: Karachi Studies  
Society

ISBN: 978-969-9453-11-3

Page: 252

Price: Rs. 700/-



The book presented herein unfolds the significant increase in awareness of the feminist movement and feminism in Pakistan, partly due to the events taking place globally and creating many controversies. Although development programs on women and their rights have been part of government policies since the birth of Pakistan, in the early years its focus was on education and health facilities. With the passage of time, the participation of women in all spheres of life in Pakistan, such as socially, economically and politically, has also increased under the influence of international women's rights initiatives. This book in Urdu on Feminism is important in order to start a series in which the earliest periods and basic theories of feminism are discussed and the current era and its problems are also discussed.

In first chapter of this book definition and analysis of feminist movement and its effective role in the advancement and empowerment of women in all spheres of women's social, economic and social life has been discussed. Here through literature has highlighted the change in the attitude of social masses around the world, which has made women feel insecure, and here the question arises are women in today's world more independent and secure than in the past? Although the situation of women all over the world is different, the whole world agrees on this basic point that gender segregation should be eliminated and reforms should be made in all fields to make women truly independent because in that case a balanced Society can be formed.

The second chapter examines the different periods of the feminist movement. One of the main goals of the first round was to get votes. Over time, laws began to be enacted regarding women's rights in education, employment, equal rights, marriage, custody of children and property. After 1970, feminists began to incorporate revolutionary ideas, and the discourses and ideologies of psychology, culture, politics, and anthropology regarding gender segregation began to change. During this period, issues related to reproductive and sexual health in particular were discussed. The movement has highlighted racial

segregation of women since the 1990s, while the fourth or current wave includes the launch of social media and its efforts.

Chapter 3 covers the various schools of thought of feminism. Although all feminists agree that there is a difference between men and women in society, it is based on the fact that liberal feminists do not have equal rights, while Marxists believe that capitalism is responsible. According to the same socialist, both the capitalist system and the patriarchal system are responsible for this. According to Radical, the reason for women's subjugation is her reproductive capacity, which men have built on the basis of gender in such a way that women remain subjugated and men rule. The same discussion is further elaborated in Chapter 4 on the basis of gender and gender discrimination and how to solve the problems facing the society on the basis of these distinctions.

There is a general belief that women's rights and the feminist movement are Westernized or originated in the West, although Islam is the religion that defined women's rights socially and legally fourteen hundred years ago. - Unfortunately, due to non-implementation of this, issues like marriage of women, right to property, distance from the right to education are seen in the Muslim society. The fifth chapter deals with the history of the feminist movement in the subcontinent.

Chapter 6 describes the steps taken towards gender segregation in Pakistan, especially in the development process and policy. Whereas, chapter 7 describes the patriarchal system and the consequent divisions in society, because in order to end the oppression and oppression of women, it is necessary to change the system and thinking that has permeated the culture and customs. Similarly chapter 8 covers an important topic such as how gender-based violence affects not only women but also children and men with psychological problems. Therefore, it is necessary to take serious steps to eliminate it.

The 9<sup>th</sup> chapter discusses contemporary and feminist issues that people in Pakistan today and to some extent in the world are reluctant to associate with the word "feminism" even when it comes to women's and children's rights. Even those who work with consider feminism a threat. Therefore, this ambiguity needs to be removed. The last chapter highlights the need and importance of women's research. Feminist research is linked to the movement because women present the discrimination and prejudice based on life experiences through feminist research. Feminist research is unique from traditional research because it is based on the formation of new knowledge, change in society and the recognition of women's rights. Its approach is holistic and participatory so that better analysis of problems can easily find its causes and solutions.

---

**Dr. Asma Manzoor** is an Assistant Professor in the Centre of Excellence for Women's Studies, University of Karachi.