



## **PERSPECTIVE OF FIRST YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS OF LSPU TOWARDS FEMINISM**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The purpose of this study was to analyze and determine the perspective of first year college students of LSPU towards feminism. The researcher used the qualitative research method. Specifically, it sought answers to the following questions: (1) What is the perspective of first year students about feminism? (2) What is the level of the students' understanding about feminism? (3) What is the positive effect of feminism? (4) What is the negative effect of feminism? (5) How feminism affects the first-year students? To answer the main problem in this study, the researcher used a questionnaire and a camera equipment to interview some first-year college students of LSPU. The interview was done inside the campus of LSPU- Sta. Cruz during school hours. The collected data was transcribed, interpreted, and summarized by the researcher. The first-year college students had two different perspectives about feminism. Some students answered that feminism is a movement where it promotes gender equality while some answered that it is about women superiority. The majority answered that feminism promotes gender equality. From the conclusion, the researcher made the following recommendations. Promote gender equality to have the positivity, good balance, and fairness to everyone. Treat every gender equally/fairly.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Feminist, Rights, Gender, Students, Equal, Feminism*

### **INTRODUCTION**

According to the Merriam dictionary, feminism is defined as the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of equality of the sexes. It is about women's liberation supporting the possibility of women performing out their rights and battling for it in the grounds of monetary, political and social correspondence to men. Also, the supporters of the possibility of equity are expanding and rising regular which makes the idea of women's activists greater and more detectable.

Before in early 19<sup>th</sup> century, women are not allowed to study heavy courses like medicine and law; they are not allowed to vote and to be elected in the politics as well. Because of these, women started to fight for their rights. The advocacy of on the basis of equality of the sexes is called feminism.

Feminists' primary focus is sexism. They fight against all forms/types of sexism. The sexual divisions of labor, in which men and women have unequal division of work, are opposed by feminists.

Also, women are paid less than men on all levels. "Men and women are, of course, different. But they are not as different as day and night, earth and sky, yin and yang, life and death. In fact, from the standpoint of nature, men and women are closer to each other than either is to anything else – for instance, mountains, kangaroos, or coconut palms." (Rubin, 1975, 179) In short, men and women are just two different genders, two different forms, and two different appearances but they are both humans. They should have equal rights.

Feminism has evolved over the past years. It has brought positive and negative effects in the society. People have different opinions and comments on it. Feminists are still fighting and growing up until now. "I'm a feminist, a 21st century feminist – which means choice and freedom. One has the right to be glamorous and ethically structured." (Arielle Dombasle).



## OBJECTIVES

The researchers aim to look for response to help the students and the institution in comprehending and be informed about, and to avoid complication or problem that the students may experience about feminism. Furthermore, it aims to know how feminism affects the students.

This research considers how the students can be affected about equality or feminism. The researcher's desire is to give answers and give knowledge for the educators and the establishment regarding the study feminism. Moreover, the researchers seek to dig the response of the students regarding to feminism.

There are many objectives that feminists all around the world are trying the best they can to reach and approach them. The most worked on objectives in the feminism communities are equality and fairness in the society and in the work place, and empowering females all around the world to achieve their visions and aspirations in life.

First is, to know the perspective of students about feminism. Second, to know the level of understanding of students about feminism. Third, to identify what are the positive effects of feminism. Fourth, to identify the negative effects of feminism. And lastly, to recognize how feminism affects students.

Particularly, this study strives to answer the following questions:

1. What is the perspective of students about feminism?
2. What is the level of the students' understanding about feminism?
3. What is the positive effect of feminism?
4. What is the negative effect of feminism?
5. How feminism affects the students?

## METHODOLOGY

The research aims to recognize the reason how people view feminism, understands the certain and negative impact about feminism to them, and in conclusion on distinguish how feminism influence the people.

1. Feminism promotes gender equality.
2. Students know feminism very well because it has a big impact in the society where they belong.
3. Women are given equal opportunities and rights.
4. With the term 'feminism', people think that it only promotes the rights of women.
5. Feminism helps students to be not stereotyped.

## RESULTS

The primary concern of this study is to know the perspective towards feminism in coordination with the students of LSPU as the respondents. This section demonstrates the findings, analysis, and interpretation based on the information gathered through the interview answered by the respondents.

### 1. The perception of first year students towards Feminism

The respondents of the study said that feminism is about equality. It is about treating people in such a way that the outcome for each person can be the same and supporting people to achieve similar outcomes. In addition, everyone is supported to have access to resources and decision making and to be recognized, valued and respected. However, some respondents said that feminism is women's empowerment. Advancing womankind by emphasizing that women are behind, perpetually viewing lives, careers, and finances as less than they might be if only weren't for women.

### 2. The Level of first year students' understanding about Feminism

The majority of the respondents answered that feminism is about aiming for equality to all genders and the remaining respondents answered oppositely for the reason of feminism is about empowering one's gender specifically women. However, more than half of the respondents said that they do not identify themselves as a feminist by the cause of students believe that feminism is not about having equal right to everyone. Due to feminists display horrifying statistics displaying the abuses that women suffer at the hands of their male oppressors. On the other hand, respondents said that they identify as feminist since its main concern is gender equality and every gender have the freedom of capacity to do all things. The level of understanding of Senior High School students is still uncertain of the definition of feminism.

### 3. The Positive effect of Feminism

According to the respondents, the positive effects of feminism is the objective of the movement is promoting gender equality especially to women. It is attained when women and men appreciate the same privileges and chances over all parts of the society. Equality including economic support and decision-making, and the separate behaviors, yearning and necessities for both genders are equally valued and favored. For instance, women and men are given the chance to be hired equally. It eliminates discrimination and ensuring fairness at work.

### 4. The Negative effect of Feminism

The respondents respond that the negative effect of feminism is the aim to empower women.



Those procedures for regulating one's term and asserting one's privileges are what the feminist movement support. Feminism that advocates for the rights of one gender over another is unequal by society. In addition, if the movement aims to support gender equality it would not be "feminism". That is just one of deductive reasoning of feminism.

5. The Impact of Feminism to first year students

First year college students see feminism as equality that men and women should be given equal rights. However, it is unequal since the term given is being stereotype that feminism is only for empowering women that is why most of the senior high do not identify themselves as a feminist and doesn't really support the movement thoroughly. The respondents believe that everyone have the rights but does not consider as a feminist specifically the term given for the reason of the first year students prefer the term equal. Considering everyone should be treated equally and of the same quality. In addition, agreed to the statement that all people are entitled to have the same civil rights, liberties, and opportunities regardless of gender.

## SUGGESTIONS

This study presents recommendations for people such as the institution, students and future researchers.

For the institution, the researchers recommend all the students should be equal regarding opportunities and rights. It is the student's rights to have freedom on what they want to do and not to do with the consult and approval of the teachers. Also, the establishment should promote equality in order to gain positivity, good balance and fairness to everyone. Additionally, to make the students understand what are the benefits and importance it will affect them. Lastly, all students should have equality to enhance their skills, and also to give awareness to the establishment in what is the right thing to do in the said situation.

For the students, the researchers recommend to be equal/fair to everyone especially to their

schoolmates and classmates. Students should not stereotype because of once gender whether it would be a girl, boy, gay, lesbians and other gender. The students should promote equality not to benefit other people only but also for their rights as a person. Students should respect one another, not only the co-students but also under the establishment teachers, principal, people who work in the office, maintenance and all the workers in the establishment.

For the future researchers, the researchers recommend to have courage in making different case studies of different problems that may encountered not only about feminism but in all aspects such as psychological, physical and social aspects. In order to understand the truth behind the study to change and answers the perspectives that constantly entrenched to every people's mind.

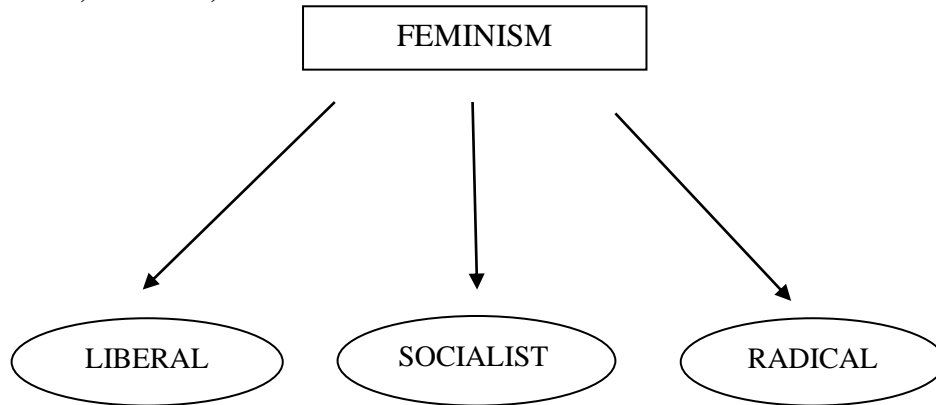
## CONCLUSION

On the basis of the findings, the following conclusions are drawn.

The first-year college students have two different perceptions towards feminism-- either it promotes gender equality or it promotes women superiority. Some students had some misconceptions about feminism. They think that feminism is about women superiority when in fact, it is about gender equality. Some of them actually think that feminism fights for the gender inequality because it only promotes the rights of women. The majority of the respondents answered that the positive effects of feminism are that women are given equal rights and opportunities. Women can express themselves now unlike before that they are limited to do the things that men can do. Meanwhile, the negative effect of feminism is that many people thinks that feminism promotes 'girl power' and that people do not have solidarity because of that misconception. And lastly, feminism helps the students to have a chance to do what they can/want to do regardless of gender. They can have equal tasks in school. They can join school organizations if they want to because school organizations do not base on the gender of a person.



**FIGURES, TABLES, AND REFERENCES**



**Figure 1. Feminism correlation to students**

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