



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Feminism in International Relations: The need to make foreign policy more gender sensitive

(There is a need to make foreign policy issues more gender sensitive)

Author :

Dr. Joginakatte Nagaraja

Department Of Political Science

Hagaribommanahalli (tq)

Vijayanagara (Dist)

Pin : 583212

Gender plays an important role in issues related to peace and security. Despite this, it is not given due importance in policy discourse. Discussions on gender issues often appear to be marginalized between the core themes of international security and competition between the super powers. However, there is no need for any contradiction between the two. Conversely, foreign policy issues need to be made more gender sensitive. One way to measure the performance of a society on the scale of gender equality is by looking at the number of women in leadership positions, especially in areas that have had a poor record of equality of gender representation. These areas include departments related to security and even academic studies related to security. In developed countries also the participation of women in these areas is very low. On the other hand, many people are of the opinion that empowerment of women and giving them more representation can lead to alternative approaches to deal with issues like international security. Many even go so far as to suggest that gender-balanced peace proposals may be more effective in resolving conflict situations. However, gender imbalance itself can be a source of conflict. It is not ethical to exclude women themselves from discussions on issues having a direct impact on women. At the same time, it does not seem reasonable to not use the capabilities of half the population to the fullest.

UNSCR Resolution 1325 :

Although the situation has improved a lot in the last few decades, there is still a long way to go on this path. The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution (UNSCR 1325) in October 2000. The resolution emphasized the direct linkage of gender equality with peace and security. UNSCR 1325 an important step is. Through this, the role of women can be promoted in the issues of peace and security. This resolution covers all aspects related to the resolution of conflicts. These include matters relating to the prevention and resolution of conflicts, the conduct of peace negotiations, the creation of an atmosphere of peace, the establishment of peace, the prevention of all acts of violence based on gender in conflict situations - particularly rape and sexual assault. The resolution emphasizes "the full participation and participation of women in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security". In addition, there are several other resolutions emphasizing the role of women in peace and security. have also been passed in the United Nations. In each of these resolutions the emphasis is on making the state and multilateral institutions more gender sensitive. In these resolutions, it has been called to adopt a new approach and to formulate policies to strengthen the role of

women in issues related to peace and security. Although more than 20 years have passed since these resolutions were passed, many countries including India have not yet been able to prepare a national action plan related to them. In a country like India, women have made a unique contribution on behalf of the country to the national agenda of UN peacekeeping. This is an important agenda of UNSCR 1325. Despite these contributions, no national action plan has been prepared in this regard in India so far. In a country like India, women have made a special contribution on behalf of the country to the national agenda of UN peacekeeping. This is an important agenda of UNSCR 1325. Despite all these proposals and the anniversary celebrations of UNSCR 1325 every year, the pace of travel along this route has been very slow. However, some positive signs are definitely visible. Few countries in the world have done a great job of implementing a feminist agenda in foreign policy. Particularly in this context, the example of Mexico can be given. In January 2020, Mexico became the first country in the Global South to adopt a feminist foreign policy. So on this scale, Mexico has become a role model for the Global South. This is a great achievement. According to the official press release, under this new arrangement, Mexico will now place gender issues at the center of international negotiation processes. In line with Mexican government policy, the new approach will focus on "eliminating or reducing structural discrimination, gender differences or inequalities". Along the way, Mexico will now ensure the implementation of five key principles. These principles are "gender attitudes abroad and foreign policy in line with the feminist agenda; Gender Equality Ministry of External Affairs; violence free and for all Safe Foreign Ministry; Apparently equal treatment of women in the Ministry of External Affairs; and the promotion of feminism in every sphere of the Ministry of External Affairs. At the policy level, such clarity raises the expectation of greater sensitivity in dealing with a range of issues including the peace and security agenda.

Feminist view of Sweden's foreign policy :

However, the difficulty is that we are still talking about only a handful of countries on this issue. Sweden was the first country to introduce a feminist view of foreign policy. This Swedish approach is inspired by three fundamental elements (3R). These are rights, representation and resources. Margot Wallström, the former Foreign Minister of Sweden, has explained this policy of 3R in detail. In this connection, he has underlined the importance of "having equal legal and human rights in every country" for women. It is also important to keep an eye on the kind of representation women are getting in "important decision making places". In terms of resources, the former Swedish minister questions whether the country has created a "gender-based budget" and whether the "needs of girls and women" are being met. Sweden has always been one of the few countries in the world that has insisted on ensuring greater participation of women in every multilateral forum. It is important to emphasize the inclusion of issues related to women in the national and international discussions. Proper participation of women should be ensured in all policy making institutions. Sweden has raised its voice on several occasions about the acceptance of sexual violence as a major issue. Women's issues will not find a place on their own in multilateral agendas. Sweden has expressed similar apprehensions. This will require constant exertion. Generally these things have not come into our practice even now. It is not at all easy to place women in these multilateral institutions and national forums. These issues affecting half the population are vital for the emergence of an inclusive agenda in the future. The number of countries that pursue a feminist approach to peace and security is still very limited. However, their efforts are significant in the sense that they may have the effect of framing and implementing similar policies in other countries, Canada and France. Canada presented its new policy in 2017. Shedding light on the new policy, Canadian Foreign Minister Christian Freeland said that Canada's stance has been set by targeting gender equality. With this agenda of empowering girls and women, Canada is leading these efforts on a global scale. This is an issue related to basic justice and fundamental economy. With the goal of a feminist form of diplomacy, France announced in 2019 that gender equality would remain its priority. However, the number of countries that have shown commitment to gender equality in policy matters is still less than 10. Economic and Developmental The basic goal of countries is to ensure greater participation of women in decision-making on policies and health policy as well as on issues related to safety. However, so far only a handful of countries have worked towards creating such a framework. The number of countries that pursue a feminist approach to peace and security is still very limited. However, their efforts are significant in the sense that they have the effect of creating and implementing similar policies in other countries. It will be important to see here how these countries are able to implement these noble intentions in national and international fora. What is the impact of the agenda? However, it is important in itself that a few women are getting the opportunity to lead these policy

questions . However effective these women may be in bringing about peace and stability, it is more important in itself that they are able to make their voices heard and their point of view is understood.

Pandemic and Women :

At a time when the world is grappling with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, these issues become even more important. The pandemic has exposed serious flaws in our existing institutions and systems. Once again gender inequalities have deepened as in conflict and war - like situations . The burden of the ill effects of the pandemic is far greater on women than on men . In such a situation, it is necessary to settle the gender issues. If society wants to avoid repeating the old mistakes made in dealing with the pandemic , then fundamental reforms have to be done for that . In such a situation, inequalities and shortcomings in gender representation have to be removed. Such an impact of international standards on the state could play an important role in pressuring them to move seriously towards the feminist agenda . The effect that is seen in the discussions on these issues in international forums is really very important. A feminist approach to foreign policy can be helpful in addressing important issues related to women and raising the status of women in global and national forums. This will put pressure on the state to perform better. The responsibility of not only showing commitment but also implementing them will fall on them. Such pressures are important because all the nations of the world would like to be seen flagging the cause of women . Such an impact of international standards on the state could play an important role in pressuring them to seriously pursue the feminist agenda . The effect that is seen in the discussions on these issues in international forums is really important. It is clear that taking a gender sensitive approach to foreign policy creates an appropriate place for women in the policy making process . This gives them better representation and a new voice for the marginalized population . It has a very progressive effect on the ground. Creating such an environment brings about a comprehensive , holistic approach , innovation in thinking , a diverse and balanced attitude and an inclusive environment . This approach needs to be further developed to emerge as a definite standard at the global level . When this happens, the state will be more accountable to its commitments. It is not easy though. For this , the requirements for compliance with the UNSCR 1325 resolution have to be taken into account . Now we have to cover some more distance on this path.

