



Reevaluating Feminism in addition to Gender Delegation in the Context of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Essay 'We Should All Be Feminist'

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Abstract:

Gender is a study that deals with the roles of both men and women in society. Nowadays, the word 'gender' has become popular in almost all countries. To discuss gender is to talk about the relevance of feminism. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is one of Africa's most influential women. Her essay, 'We Should All Be Feminists', transforms the term 'feminism' into a very balanced discussion while clearly elucidating the concept of feminism. In Africa, gender studies were often considered taboo because there was no understanding of equality between men and women. Adichie's essay, 'We Should All Be Feminists' gives a good idea of what feminism is. Here Adichie discusses gender-based prejudice in Nigeria and the family's experiences. The issues mentioned here are still relevant and universal today. On the other hand, stereotypes have a huge impact on gender issues. In Africa, where men dominate, most women are stereotyped. Stereotypes are also related to the culture that has shaped a particular group or community. The only way out of this realization is to expand the mind through critical discussion and analysis and find similar ways of thinking about gender. This raises some questions regarding the dominant mechanism used as analysis in this study. The author highlights two aspects of the book, such as the normalization of feminism and processing and creating stereotypical notions of feminism by the term feminist. Contrary to popular opinion, feminism advocates the breakdown of gender hierarchies rather than the triumph of women over men. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie offers a similarly excellent explanation urging us to envision a just society and an equitable society where all people—men and women alike—are



equal. The paper aims to redefine feminism in the context of Adichie's essay and to remain open to diverse perspectives and committed to the ongoing pursuit of gender equality for all.

Keywords: Feminist, Feminism, Gender, Culture, Gender Equity, Social Justice.

Introduction:

Feminism, a term with negative connotations, is misunderstood by both sexes. It's not a derogatory term. Rather, it is a label that can be embraced with pride. Its opponents refer to the belief that feminism is a social movement that reverses gender roles and focuses on making men inferior. In this essay, *'We Should All Be Feminists'*, Adichie sets out to reexamine feminism in layman's terms through specific examples. Adichie does this in a way that explains how we are conditioned to accept patriarchy. The issues raised here are still relevant and universal today. The author highlights two aspects of the book, such as the normalization of feminism and processing and creating stereotypical notions of feminism by the term feminist. Contrary to popular opinion, feminism advocates the breakdown of gender hierarchies rather than the triumph of women over men. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie offers a similarly excellent explanation urging us to envision a just society and an equitable society where all people—men and women alike—are equal.

Gender stereotypes can cause problems. A stereotype is something that labels a person as fitting a certain group or community. Stereotypes have a huge impact on gender issues. In Africa, where men dominate, most women are stereotyped. Stereotypes are also related to the culture that has shaped a particular group or community. For example, black women traditionally refer to African women. It is very difficult to reject stereotypes from culture to culture. The only way out of this perception is to expand the mind through critical discussion and analysis to find similar ways of thinking about gender. This paper raises some questions regarding the dominant mechanism used as analysis in this study. Finally, the question is how gender equity works in Adichie's essay, *'We Should All Be Feminists'* and how dominant gender is represented by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The aim is to promote a redefined feminism that helps to reveal the dominant gender that Adichie uses the most in her essay *'We Should All Be Feminists'*.



Adichie makes a strong case in *'We Should All Be Feminists'* that challenges gender stereotypes and underlying assumptions. By supporting the gap between women and men, it can be challenged. He explains how achieving gender equality requires a cultural shift and how each of us can play a role in this transformation. In short, we should all be feminists to support women's liberation and encourage men and their roles, appearance, sexuality, and success with women. Advocating for women's rights and improving the world by working for women is the hallmark of being a feminist. The primary goal of feminism is improving the world for women, providing opportunities for them, and tackling the social inequalities that plague them, affecting questions in biological roles. Adichie's childhood friend Okoloma ridiculed her for being a feminist after a heated argument. At that time, no one was aware of the definition of a feminist. A journalist reading her book *'Purple Hibiscus'* asked her not to identify as a feminist. She argued that feminists are just disgruntled single women. Feminists stereotyped as negative and hated men: "Of course, a lot of this was tongue-in-cheek, but that's how it looks. This feminist term is so heavy with negative baggage: you hate men, you hate African culture, you think women should always be in charge, you don't wear make-up, you don't shave, you are always angry, you have no sense of humor, and you don't use deodorant."

Rethinking feminism in Adichie's essay *'We Should All Be Feminists'* provides an opportunity to explore the evolving landscape of gender equality, the intersectionality of feminism, and the relevance of Adichie's perspective in contemporary society. Adichie's essay, adapted from her TEDx talk, offers a powerful and accessible examination of the importance of feminism in addressing systemic gender inequality. As we reevaluate feminism through the lens of Adichie's text, it's essential to delve deeper into its themes, impact, and relevance in today's society. At its core, Adichie's essay argues for a feminist that is inclusive, intersectional, and accessible to all. She emphasizes the need to recognize and challenge the pervasive gender stereotypes and biases that limit both men and women, ultimately hindering progress towards equality. Adichie's call for solidarity among feminists, regardless of gender or background, resonates with the broader movement for gender justice. It is important to engage critically with these debates and consider the perspectives of diverse voices within the feminist movement.



While Adichie's essay offers valuable insights into the importance of gender equality and the need for inclusive feminism, it is not without its limitations. By interrogating these limitations and engaging in ongoing dialogue and debate, we can work towards a feminism that is truly intersectional, inclusive, and transformative.

One key aspect of Adichie's essay is its exploration of the ways in which gender roles and expectations are enforced from a young age. She recounts personal anecdotes and observations that illustrate how these societal norms shape individual experiences and opportunities. By highlighting the impact of these expectations on both men and women, Adichie underscores the importance of challenging traditional gender norms in order to create a more equitable society. Furthermore, Adichie's intersectional approach to feminism acknowledges the ways in which gender intersects with other aspects of identity, such as race, class, sexuality, and ability. Adichie acknowledges the diversity of women's experiences and emphasizes the importance of solidarity across intersecting identities. She emphasizes the need for a feminism that addresses the unique challenges faced by women of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and others who experience intersecting forms of discrimination. This intersectional perspective is essential for understanding and addressing the complex and interconnected nature of oppression.

Moreover, Adichie highlights the role of education in promoting gender equality and challenging patriarchal norms. She shares personal anecdotes from her childhood in Nigeria, where she observed gendered expectations and restrictions placed on girls and women. Adichie argues that education is essential not only for empowering individuals to challenge oppressive systems but also for fostering empathy and understanding across gender divides. She emphasizes the importance of educating boys and men about feminism, rejecting the notion that feminism is solely a women's issue. Adichie's emphasis on education reflects broader efforts within feminist movements to promote gender-sensitive curriculum and engage in consciousness-raising activities. Educators and activists advocate for the inclusion of feminist perspectives in school curricula, from elementary education to higher learning institutions. This includes teaching about the historical contributions of women, challenging gender stereotypes, and promoting critical thinking about power dynamics and social justice.



However, Adichie's work has had a significant impact on popular culture, inspiring individuals to identify as feminists and engage in activism both online and offline. The phrase '*We Should All Be Feminists*' has been embraced as a rallying cry for gender equality, appearing on posters, T-shirts, and social media hashtags. Adichie's TEDx talk has been viewed millions of times, reaching audiences far beyond the traditional boundaries of academic feminism. In addition to its popularity among readers, Adichie's essay has sparked conversations about feminism in unexpected spaces, from classrooms to corporate boardrooms. Her message resonates with people of all ages and backgrounds, challenging them to confront their own biases and assumptions about gender. By framing feminism as a matter of basic human rights and social justice, Adichie makes it accessible to a wide audience and invites individuals to see themselves as agents of change.

In a context, Adichie's work has also faced criticism from some quarters, particularly regarding its focus on the experiences of middle-class women in the Global North. Critics argue that Adichie's brand of feminism may not fully address the concerns of women from marginalized communities, who face intersecting forms of oppression based on race, class, sexuality, and other factors. They caution against universalizing the experiences of privileged women and emphasize the importance of centering the voices of those most affected by systemic injustice. In response to these criticisms, some feminist scholars and activists have called for a more intersectional and trans-inclusive approach to feminism that centers the experiences of marginalized communities. They advocate for a feminism that recognizes the interconnectedness of all forms of oppression and seeks to create a more just and equitable world for people of all genders. According to Mills and Mullany, "It is important to point out that language and gender studies do not have to be feminist in orientation. The main difference in opinion between this knowledge-gathering research and 'feminist' research is that feminist research is a social, political, and ideological category that has formed a specific political objective centered on gender."

Feminism would be a means of maintaining the illusion that women have not been marginalized for ages. It would be a means of negating the fact that women are the target of the



gender issue. The concept of feminism intimidates some men. In the disguise of culture, they ignore the fact that culture is a dynamic process that is constantly evolving. "Culture does not make people. People make culture. If it is correct that the full humanity of women is not our culture, then we can and must make the humanity of women our culture." Adichie discusses the experiences she had with gender-based discrimination in Nigeria, as well as those of her friends and family. The problems raised in the book are still universal. The stereotyped notion of feminism and the term feminist, as well as the normalization process, are the two facets of the essay. The author also touches on topics like gender, culture, the pay gap, and raising boys and girls differently. Contrary to popular belief, feminism calls for the destruction of the gender hierarchy, not the supremacy of women over men. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie does a fantastic job of explaining the same. She exhorts us to imagine a just society where everyone is happy and true to themselves both men and women.

Conclusion:

Overall, Adichie's essay *'We Should All Be Feminists'* is a powerful call to action that is strategically written to motivate readers to assist gender equity and accept feminism. She does a good job of explaining the importance and urgency of the feminist movement. Her essay acts as a powerful call to action, inspiring readers to consider their values and join the effort to create a more egalitarian society. Her capacity to engage a wide range audience, break down barriers, and promote a common commitment to gender equality is what makes her so persuasive in addition to her eloquence. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *'We Should All Be Feminists'* offer a compelling vision of feminism that challenges readers to reconsider their assumptions about gender equality. Through her eloquent prose and personal anecdotes, Adichie highlights the importance of inclusivity, education, and critical engagement in feminist activism. Her work has had a significant impact on popular culture and has sparked important conversations about feminism and social justice. However, it also invites criticism and calls for a more intersectional and transinclusive approach to feminism that centers the voices of marginalized communities. As we continue to reevaluate feminism in the context of Adichie's essay, it is essential to remain open to diverse perspectives and committed to the ongoing pursuit of gender equality for all.



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