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***For 6th sem. (Major), paper-6.4.***

**TOPIC:**

**Marxist Feminism:**

The Marxist feminism believed that women’s oppression is the direct outcome of capitalist mode of production. The main exponent of Marxist feminism are Frederick Engels, Eleanor Marx, August Bebel, Sheila Rowbatham etc., The classical concept of Marxian feminism was found in the writings of **Friedrich Engel’s** work ‘*The Origin of Family, Private Property and the State’* (1884). Engel says that both capitalism and private property are responsible for ‘mother right’ and defeat of the female sex. According to him the position of women had changed with the development of capitalism which is based on private property. He stated that in the pre-capitalistic societies, family life had been communistic and mother right inheritance of property and social position was widely observed. But capitalist being based on private property by men had overthrown mother right and brought about world historical defeat of the female sex. He also stated that bourgeoise family is patriarchical and oppressive.

The orthodox Marxist insist on the primacy of class politics over sexual. They asserted that class exploitation is deeper and more significant process than sexual oppression. They suggested that women’s emancipation will be a bi-product of a social revolution in which capitalism will be overthrown by replacing the socialism. But modern Marxist disagree with the notion of the primacy of class politics over sexual politics. According to them sexual oppression is a bit important as class exploitation. The modern Marxist therefore, refused to analyse the position of women in mere economic terms, instead they considered the ideological and cultural roots of patriarchy. They advocated a participatory and decentralized approach to social change. Marxist feminist like **Sheila Rowbatham** argues that the struggle for women’s liberation is bound with the struggle against capitalism. Therefore, the primary fight should be to extinguish capitalism. Marxist felt when class oppression was overcome, gender oppression would vanish as well.