

# Observations of Feminism

## In Karnataka, South India

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**Feminism:** *“The advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes.”*

Oxford English Dictionary

**Abstract:** I believe that Gender Equality is extremely important in society and am interested in researching the progress that has been made so far in creating gender equal societies.

In January 2017 I took part in a Research Trip to India to the Sangam Research Centre in Bangalore. I chose to research Gender Equality (Feminism) within South India. With Feminism in mind, I observed day to day life of both women and men in the rural village of Silvepura and in the city of Bangalore. It was interesting to identify the extent to which equality is being achieved and identify areas of Karnataka society that are still plagued by inequality.



Rural Silvepura



Bangalore City

## Presence of Feminist Organisations



During our two week stay, these organisations ran a few peaceful 'protests' and gatherings relating to gender inequality:

- ❖ **Vimochana** ran an event for Women's Rights on 25/01/17, inviting members of the community to come together and talk about key issues.
- ❖ **Oxfam India** created a event called "Trailwalker India" on 20-22/01/17. This was aimed to raise money for Education, to Empower Women, for Health and for Livelihoods.

**UN Women** focus on working with society and Governments to set national standards to achieve gender equality, focusing on four key areas:

- Ending violence against women
- Promoting Leadership and Participation
- National Planning and Budgeting
- Economic Empowerment

### Key Issues

Issues of Rape, Perceptions of Women and the representation of Women in Indian Myth were 3 areas I decided to focus on. I researched these issues speaking to members of society from different backgrounds, for example, house-workers, artists and mothers. I found that these areas interlinked with each other; Issues of Rape and Perceptions of Women in modern day culture are closely related to the representation of Women in Indian Myth.

I have concluded that these are examples of issues that lie at the basis of gender inequality in Bangalore, South India.

**Conclusions:** My research has led me to believe that, while some progress is being made in South India towards a Gender Equal society, there are still key issues that need to be addressed, such as issues of rape.

To improve upon my research, I would have liked to attend a Feminist organisation event so I could present a first hand account of the actual work Feminist Organisations are doing.