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That &%\$#@! F-word FEMINISM

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LETS BUZZ....

- What:

Confuses

Scares

Excites

- Me when I hear the word **FEMINISM?**

WHAT IS PATRIARCHY???

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- ⊙ Patriarchy = Greek word meaning '**rule of the father**'
- ⊙ refers to the *system* of **male domination** over women in society.
- ⊙ takes **different forms**: violence, opportunity (or lack of) discrimination, disregard, insult, control, exploitation
- ⊙ Manifests in **all social institutions**: family, economy, government, education, movements, religion, community etc.

THE IDEOLOGY OF PATRIARCHY

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- Based on belief system (*ideology*) that sees men as superior to women.

Women are not as intelligent/rational/capable as men, and are best placed in the care of men

Usually linked to the conception of women is biologically weaker beings: pregnancy, menstruation etc

- All the institutions act in orchestra to reproduce the ideology among women and men
- Everywhere on earth
- NB: Like all systems of oppression:
- Patriarchy is not possible without women's cooption!

Is this our opinion or is it real????

What is the evidence of PATRIARCHY in our lives?

WOMENS REALITY: THE NUMBERS:

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Women:

- do **60%** of the world's work
- get **10%** of the world's income
- own **1%** of the world's property
- NOWHERE in the world do women receive the same remuneration as men, for doing the same work: on average women earn **25% less** than men
- **2/3** of all illiterate people in the world
- produce **60 -80%** of food South (but most food insecure)
- more women die/fall ill from HIV, GBV than from malaria + traffic accidents + wars combined!
- **Women do most of the work, get least of the rewards and bear the brunt of crisis and societal dysfunctionality**
- Not only physical labour, but more importantly the emotional labour

Women's Representation in Parliaments

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- The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) calculated that, at the current rate,

*“At the current rates, it would take about the time for a snail to crawl the entire length of the Great Wall of China in **212 years** as it would for women to be equally represented in parliaments”*

*Women get paid (on average) 75% of what men are paid for the doing the same job. This means from in a calendar year we work for **mahala from September to December***

This does not even begin to include the unpaid care work that women do in reproducing society: domestic work, child bearing and caring, taking care of the young, ill and the aged,

If these were formally recognized as important economic activities it it amount to **17 Trillions US \$\$\$ per annum**

CONSEQUENCES

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- Not benign/harmless
- Literally life and death consequences
- Women = 52% of world population
- In context of patriarchy, majority of humanity
- not living in freedom
- Limits the potential of the world

HAVE WE MADE ANY PROGRESS?

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- Growing recognition that patriarchy exists and that it is harmful
- Rape recognition (even within marriages)
- Reported rape cases up (but conviction rates remain low)
- Gender disaggregated data: Tracking of women's positions in society (numbers): making the inequalities visible: we count what matters
- General laws outlawing discrimination (international conventions)
- harmful to women and men
- Contraceptives availability
- Girls education – in SA equal enrolment in Grade R
- Almost universal suffrage
- Growing awareness by women about double working day;
- More women defying gender stereotypes of what is expected of a woman
- Women in Public Leadership

FEMINISM IS A MOVEMENT TO **act!onaid**

- End/smash patriarchy
- realize equality
- fight the social structures that restrict and discriminate against women.
- Its not merely about individual achievement or breaking of |glass ceilings”
- There are different types of feminisms linked to your idea of what the solution to inequality means

What is feminism?

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- Feminism is a response to the reality of **PATRIARCHY**
- Based on the belief in the principle/value of equality
- Feminism at its core is about the emancipation/freedom of women
- For the equality of men and women,
- IT *is* not about “sameness.” So many people offer up the argument that women are not the “same” as men so there can’t be equality.

SAMORA MACHEL

The emancipation of women is not an act of human kindness, but part and part of the liberation movement and a precondition to the success of our revolution

Does Equal mean we are the same? **act:onaid**

- Many believe that because our bodies are different (many say “weaker” and smaller), and because men and women have different physical capabilities, these physical differences mean equality is not possible.
- The issue here is about equal rights and equal access to opportunities.
- Men and women don’t have to be the “same” in physicality to have the right to equality, and the same opportunities in life.
- If there were two young boys in a classroom, and one was physically smaller than the other, would we believe it’s right to keep the smaller boy from having the same access – to the teacher, to learning, to the computers, to the books and class resources, to other children in the class -- because he didn’t have the same physical strength as the other boy?

What is the difference between **act:onaid** Equality and Equity?

- Let's set the scene: Two people (one tall and one short) are trying to see over a wall.
- **Equality** = giving them both the same size stool so that they get equal shares (even though the taller person will always be able to see farther than the shorter one).
- **Equity** = the shorter person gets a slightly bigger stool so that, in the end, both people can see the same distance.
- Using this example, marginalized groups (or oppressed people like POC, women, LGBTQ people, disabled people, etc.) may need a slightly larger stool to achieve equal opportunities since they are starting from a lower position in society.
- This understanding is the basis for **Affirmative Actions**