WHY DID AUSTRALIA NEED TO HAVE A FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN THE 1960’s/1970’s?

Feminism is a movement that has not only configured our society; notwithstanding, has also shaped people’s opinions on the role of women in the wider community along with their social, economical and political rights within the general public. Feminism, as a movement has risen to great acclaim worldwide taking the media by storm and providing women of all class, race and circumstance a reason to hope and to stand up to their roles and rights within their community. Feminism has shaped and re-shaped the mentalities and self-esteem of women globally and has become a breakthrough in the prison of oppression, injustice and minoritization that women are faced with in the workplace, within their homes and on the streets.
Women during the time of the 1960’s through to the 1970’s had broadened their needs and expanded their horizons from voting to the possibility and entitlements to education, empowerment, rights in the work force, feminist art and feminist theory. Feminists from all around the world were fighting for a fair chance, the rights to their own body and acclamation for their talents and what they were worth as females. In spite of that, the lingering question remains unanswered; why did Australia need to have a feminist movement in the 1960’s/1970’s? How had it shifted the impenetrable status quo during that time, and overall how has it changed the way the Australian public integrates the pivotal role of women in our society?

Second wave feminism had possessed distinguishable differences from the movement of first wave feminism. The most striking difference between the two movements was their mentality. They had generally same thing: their mentalities contrasting in terms themselves not only liberated women. time were opposed standards as had male predecessors. contrast to the wave feminists, the standards set for living up to their forward the topic of of the time were accomplish from their protests and what they were trying to change as a result of their petitioning. These issues had arisen in Australian culture at the time and had demanded attention and the ultimate goal of change within their society.

The movements leaders had all held the same goals at heart and professed their dedication and love for the evolution through forms of literature and expression of mind. It was obvious that the leaders were passionate about standing up for not only their rights, however they destinies for their great, great granddaughters. Each iconic leader was inspired by a different story, experience and passion, however their aspirations to change societies stigma on the power and capability of women had been a mutual objective.

Specific movement goals that the feminists were fighting for were theory (basic methods of accomplishing change in this area was to reevaluating literature by identifying with female characters the stereotypes linked with them and studying the stigma in which women were seen as an object in a man’s eyes). Gynocriticism which refers to the literary study of women as writers in their past society. It was proved to be an acclaimed and successful practice to prove female creativity. Socialist feminism was used to analyse the oppression of women and other major oppressions that were being experienced among the public, some of these oppressions include racism and economical injustice. Feminist art movement has begun with the idea that a women’s
past experiences must be expressed through art, where they had been previously dismissed or ignored. Abortion rights was a recurring theme throughout the second wave feminist movement. Women had wanted reproductive freedom and safe access to legal abortion. Feminists had sparked the debate over patterns embedded in our English language that were connected to stereotypes and had promoted a dominating, patriarchal society.

Feminists that took part in the second wave feminism movement had viewed education with the utmost importance because they truly believed that education was the key to female liberation and freedom from injustice and oppression. If a women was educated she had the ability to become what she wanted which promoted the release from societies stereotypes and boundaries and had labelled her as independent; relying on herself rather than the man. The role of the women in society was a key factor contributing to the cause of the second wave feminism movement, however the role of the woman in a nuclear family was marked just as important. It was made clear through the petitions that women did not want to have to take on the sole responsibility of looking after and raising the children on their own. All these areas of feminism were explored throughout the time of the movement but to secure it they had worked for the ‘equal rights amendment’ to the U.S constitution that would guarantee equality under the law for women. These laws were looking at the addition of sex discrimination and equal pay act.

By fighting for these roles within their society they had earned the respect and recognition needed to integrate the pivotal role that women had in the development and growth of Australia as a nation. The status quo of the time was shaken up enough to earn women their rights and entitlement within the community and to open the eyes of the Australian public to the power and potential that women had and what they could bring to the expansion and transformation of modern Australia. Without this essential movement we as Australian women, would not have the dignity, pride nor respect to dream and pursue our aspirations.