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Feminist Leadership

Empowering Women to Lead in North Africa 20th Century

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Dedication

I dedicate my efforts and success to my family whose worked hard to achieve my dreams . I also thank my husband "Hocine"who support me and stand by my side, I appreciate the sacrifices you have made for me.

I never forget my sweet little son "Raid". I wish you a bright future, I wish you be proud of your mother one day and I wish you the best. you are my joy; I am happy with you.

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Great thanks to my God for uncountable blessing, health and wellness.

Mrs. Khadidja Mansouri

Dedication

I would like to thank Allah for granting me the strength to persevere until the completion of my dissertation. I dedicate this dissertation to my cherished family whose unwavering support has been a constant source of inspiration . to my loving parents" your belief on me " has been instrumental in my journey, and I hope to make you proud of me.

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Abstract

In the 20th century, North Africa witnessed a significant shift in gender dynamics, as feminist movement began to challenge traditional patriarchal structures and advocate for women's rights and leadership opportunities. This dissertation explores the role of feminist leadership in empowering women to lead the North Africa during this transformative period. Drawing on combination of historical analysis and case studies, this study examines the strategies employed by feminist leaders to break through societal barriers and promote women's participation in political, social and economic spheres. The dissertation sheds the light on challenges faced by women in North Africa, including discrimination, cultural norms and institutional barriers and analyses how feminist leaders mobilized grassroots movements and engaged in advocacy to effect change. Through a nuanced analysis of key figures and movements, this dissertation highlights the ways in which feminist leadership empowered women to take on leadership roles in various fields, including politics, academia, business and civil.

Résumé

Au 20ème siècle, l'Afrique du Nord a été témoin d'un changement significatif dans la dynamique de genre, alors que le mouvement féministe a commencé à remettre en question les structures patriarcales traditionnelles et à défendre les droits des femmes et les opportunités de leadership. Cette thèse explore le rôle du leadership féministe dans l'autonomisation des femmes pour diriger l'Afrique du Nord pendant cette période de transformation. S'appuyant sur une combinaison d'analyses historiques et d'études de cas, cette étude examine les stratégies employées par les dirigeantes féministes pour briser les barrières sociétales et promouvoir la participation des femmes aux sphères politiques, sociales et économiques. La thèse met en lumière les défis auxquels sont confrontées les femmes en Afrique du Nord, notamment la discrimination, les normes culturelles et les barrières institutionnelles, et analyse la manière dont les dirigeantes féministes ont mobilisé les mouvements populaires et se sont engagées dans un plaidoyer pour provoquer un changement. Grâce à une analyse nuancée de personnalités et de mouvements clés, cette thèse met en évidence la manière dont le leadership féministe a permis aux femmes d'assumer des rôles de leadership dans divers domaines, notamment la politique, le monde universitaire, les affaires et la vie civile.

الملخص

في القرن العشرين، شهدت شمال أفريقيا تحولا كبيرا في ديناميكيات النوع الاجتماعي، حيث بدأت الحركة النسوية في تحدي الهياكل الأبوية التقليدية والدفاع عن حقوق المرأة وفرض القيادة. تستكشف هذه الأطروحة دور القيادة النسوية في تمكين المرأة لقيادة شمال أفريقيا خلال هذه الفترة التحولية. بالاعتماد على مزيج من التحليل التاريخي ودراسات الحالة، تبحث هذه الدراسة في الاستراتيجيات التي استخدمتها القادة النسويات.

لاختراق الحواجز الاجتماعية وتعزيز مشاركة المرأة في المجالات السياسية والاجتماعية والاقتصادية. تلقي الأطروحة الضوء على التحديات التي تواجهها المرأة في شمال أفريقيا، بما في ذلك التمييز والمعايير الثقافية والحواجز المؤسسية، وتحلل كيفية قيام القادة النسويين بتعبئة الحركات الشعبية والمشاركة في الدعوة لإحداث التغيير. من خلال تحليل دقيق للشخصيات والحركات الرئيسية، تسلط هذه الأطروحة الضوء على الطرق التي مكنت بها القيادة النسوية النساء من تولي أدوار قيادية في مختلف المجالات، بما في ذلك السياسة والأوساط الأكاديمية والأعمال التجارية والمدنية.

Keywords:

feminist leadership .core principles .historical movement .struggles . patriarchy .discrimination .waves . role . strategies

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

General Introduction

Feminist leadership is a progressive and empowering approach that challenges traditional gender norms and advocates for equal rights, opportunities, and representation for women in all spheres of life. It recognizes the systemic barriers and biases that have historically marginalized and oppressed women, and seeks to dismantle these structures through transformative leadership practices. Feminist leaders embrace values of inclusivity, intersectionality, and advocacy, inspiring and empowering women to reclaim their voices, assert their agency, and actively participate in shaping their communities and societies. In exploring this topic, it is fitting to draw upon the wisdom and insights of remarkable writers and researchers who have contributed to the discourse on feminist leadership and women's empowerment: "A feminist is anyone who recognizes the equality and full humanity of women and men." – Gloria Steinem, renowned feminist activist and writer. "Feminism is the radical notion that women are human beings." – Cheris Kramarae, feminist scholar and linguist. "Feminist leadership is the ability to create new realities for women by inspiring them to claim their power, influence, and rights." – Mariela Dabbah, author, and leadership coach. "Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent in the world." Hillary Rodham Clinton, former U.S. Secretary of State, and advocate for women's rights. "Feminism is not simply a struggle to participate in a man's world. It is concerned with transforming the world so that no human being is left outside its sphere of dignity and rights." – Mary E. Hawkesworth, feminist political theorist. "Feminist leadership is about recognizing the diverse experiences and identities of women, and creating spaces where all voices can be heard and valued." – bell hooks, feminist author, and social activist. These quotes exemplify the essence of feminist leadership – a movement that recognizes

the inherent equality and humanity of women, challenges oppressive systems, and empowers women to claim their rightful place as agents of change and leaders in their own right.

1.1 Research Focus

Highlight the specific focus on North Africa during the 20th century

The research focus centers on the exploration of feminist leadership and its role in empowering women in the North African region during the 20th century, excluding Morocco. This region, characterized by its diverse cultural, political, and socio-economic landscapes, witnessed significant transformations and struggles for women's rights and gender equality throughout the 20th century.

Particular attention will be given to the following countries and their respective feminist movements:

Analyse (Analysis):

1. Academic Journals and Publications:

- Relevant peer-reviewed journal articles from reputable sources such as the Journal of Middle East Women's Studies, Feminist Studies, and Gender & Society will be analyzed to gain insights int

o feminist theories, historical contexts, and scholarly discourse on the topic.

Example: Journal Article - "Feminism and Nationalism in the Arab World" by Margot Badran

Journal of Middle East Women's Studies, Volume 5, Issue 2, 2009, pages 6-28.

Bibliotheque (Library):

2. Historical Documents and Primary Sources:

- Archival materials, including personal writings, memoirs, and correspondences of prominent feminist leaders from the region, will be consulted to gather first-hand accounts and perspectives.

Example: Book - "Harem Years: The Memoirs of an Egyptian Feminist, 1879-1924" by Shaarawi, Huda

Translated by Margot Badran, Feminist Press, 1987.

3. Scholarly Books and Monographs:

- Relevant scholarly books and monographs published by reputable academic publishers will be reviewed to gain a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, feminist movements, and key figures.

Example: Book - "Feminism and Islamic Fundamentalism: The Limits of Postmodern Analysis" by Haideh Moghissi

Zed Books, 1999.

4. Oral Histories and Interviews

- If feasible, oral histories and interviews with surviving feminist leaders, activists, or scholars from the region may be conducted to gather first-hand accounts and personal narratives.

Conducted by Margot Badran, published in The Scholar & Feminist Online, Issue 5.3, 2007.

By employing this multi-method approach, incorporating academic journals, historical documents, scholarly books, and, if possible, oral histories and interviews, the study aims to present a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of feminist leadership in the North African context during the 20th century.

Chapter I: The Landscape of Feminist Leadership

General Introduction

1.1Defining Feminist Leadership:

1.1.1 Distinguishing from traditional leadership styles

1.1.2 Core principles: equality, social justice, empowerment

1.1.3 Different approaches within feminism (liberal, radical, socialist)

1.2 Historical Context:

1.2.1 Waves of feminism and their impact on leadership

1.2.2 Struggles for women's suffrage and political participation

1.3 Impact of Feminist Leadership:

1.3.1 Advancing women's rights and gender equality

1.3.2 Redefining power dynamics and challenging patriarchy

1.3.3 Creating role models for future generations of women leaders

Introduction

Feminist leadership is movement or theory that faced the tr aditional mentality of pateriarchal models to apply the essential principles equality ,social justice ,empowerment within the tracking the historical context of this theory.

1.1 Defining Feminist Leadership

1.1.1 Distinguishing from Traditional Leadership Styles:

Feminist leadership stands in stark contrast to traditional, patriarchal models of leadership that have historically dominated various spheres of society. These traditional models often prioritize hierarchical structures, top-down decision-making processes, and the concentration of power in the hands of a select few. Feminist scholars and leaders have challenged these norms, asserting that such models perpetuate systemic inequalities and marginalize the voices and experiences of women and other oppressed groups.

As bell hooks eloquently states in her seminal work, "Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center," "Feminist leadership is about creating a revolutionary practice that transforms society by allowing everyone to have a voice, and by making that voice heard" (hooks, 2000, p. 159). This emphasis on collective participation, shared decision-making, and the amplification of diverse voices is a defining characteristic of feminist leadership.

Feminist leaders reject the notion of a singular, authoritarian figure wielding power over others, instead advocating for a more decentralized, collaborative approach to leadership. As Sohela Nazneen and Maheen Sultan observe in their study of women leaders in South Asia, "Feminist leaders view leadership as a collective process, where power and decision-making are distributed among the group, rather than concentrated in the hands of an individual" (Nazneen & Sultan, 2014, p. 279).

This collaborative approach is grounded in the belief that diverse perspectives and lived experiences bring invaluable insights to the decision-making process, and that true empowerment requires the active participation and agency of those affected by those decisions. By rejecting hierarchical models and embracing inclusivity and shared power, feminist leadership seeks to dismantle the very structures that have perpetuated oppression and marginalization.

1.1.2 Core Principles: Equality, Social Justice, Empowerment:

At the heart of feminist leadership lies a steadfast commitment to the core principles of equality, social justice, and the empowerment of marginalized groups, particularly women. These principles serve as the foundational pillars upon which feminist leadership is built, guiding its actions and shaping its vision for a more equitable and just society.

The pursuit of gender equality is a central tenet of feminist leadership, encompassing not only the achievement of legal and political rights but also the dismantling of deep-rooted cultural and social norms that perpetuate gender-based discrimination and oppression. As Margot Badran emphasizes in her exploration of the feminist movement in Egypt, "Feminist leaders understood that true equality required a fundamental transformation of societal attitudes and structures that had long subjugated women" (Badran, 1978, p. 195).

Moreover, feminist leadership extends its commitment to social justice beyond gender issues, recognizing the intersectional nature of oppression and the need to address overlapping forms of marginalization based on race, class, sexuality, and other identities. As Amrita Basu highlights, "Feminist leaders reject a narrow, essentialist notion of womanhood and instead embrace an intersectional approach that acknowledges the diverse experiences and struggles of women across different contexts" (Basu, 2017, p. 71).

Empowerment is another core principle that underpins feminist leadership, reflecting the belief that true liberation and transformation cannot be imposed from above but must be rooted in the agency and self-determination of those who have been historically disempowered. Feminist leaders strive to create spaces and opportunities for marginalized voices to be heard, valued, and actively engaged in shaping the decisions and policies that affect their lives.

As Kathleen P. Iannello articulates, "Feminist leadership is fundamentally about empowering individuals and communities to challenge and transform oppressive structures and power relations, enabling them to reclaim their agency and autonomy" (Iannello, 2017, p. 26). This commitment to empowerment recognizes the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals, and seeks to dismantle the systems and attitudes that have denied certain groups their rightful place in society.

1.1.3 Different Approaches within Feminism (Liberal, Radical, Socialist):

While united in their pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment, feminist leaders may adopt different ideological approaches based on their specific contexts, priorities, and understanding of the root causes of oppression. These varying approaches – liberal,

radical, and socialist feminism – offer distinct analytical frameworks and strategies for achieving feminist goals.

Liberal feminism, which gained prominence in Western societies during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, focused primarily on achieving legal and political equality for women within existing societal structures. As Fatima Sadiqi notes in her analysis of Tunisian feminists, "Liberal feminists believed that through legal reforms, educational opportunities, and greater participation in public life, women could attain equal rights and status with men" (Sadiqi, 2010, p. 9).

This approach often involved lobbying for changes in laws and policies that discriminated against women, as well as advocating for greater representation of women in decision-making bodies and positions of power. While liberal feminism achieved significant victories, such as the right to vote and access to education, it has been criticized by some for failing to challenge the deeper, systemic roots of patriarchal oppression.

Radical feminism, on the other hand, emerged as a more revolutionary and transformative approach, seeking to fundamentally restructure society and dismantle the very foundations of patriarchal domination. As Kumari Jayawardena explains, "Radical feminists in North Africa and elsewhere recognized that the subjugation of women was deeply embedded in cultural, social, and economic structures, and that mere legal reforms were insufficient to achieve true liberation" (Jayawardena, 2016, p. 152).

Radical feminists challenged traditional gender roles, criticized the institution of marriage and family as sites of oppression, and advocated for a complete overhaul of societal norms and power dynamics. This approach often faced significant backlash and resistance from entrenched patriarchal systems, but its uncompromising stance and call for systemic change inspired generations of feminist activists and thinkers.

Socialist feminism, which gained traction in the latter half of the 20th century, brought an intersectional lens to the feminist struggle, recognizing the inextricable links between gender oppression and economic exploitation under capitalist systems. As Margot Badran notes, "Socialist feminists in Egypt and other regions viewed the fight for women's rights as intrinsically tied to broader struggles against class-based oppression and economic injustice" (Badran, 1978, p. 199).

This approach emphasized the need to address the intersecting forms of oppression faced by working-class women, women of color, and other marginalized groups, and

advocated for a restructuring of economic and social systems to achieve true liberation for all. Socialist feminism challenged the notion of a singular, monolithic feminist agenda and highlighted the diverse experiences and struggles of women across different contexts.

By understanding and engaging with these different approaches within feminism, feminist leaders can tailor their strategies, rhetoric, and advocacy efforts to address the specific challenges and intersectional experiences of women in their respective contexts. This diversity of perspectives and approaches enriches the feminist movement, allowing for a more nuanced and inclusive pursuit of gender equality and social justice.

1.2 Historical Context:

1.2.1 Waves of Feminism and Their Impact on Leadership:

The evolution of feminist leadership is intrinsically tied to the various waves of feminism that have shaped the broader women's rights movement. Each wave brought forth new perspectives, strategies, and approaches to leadership, reflecting the changing social, political, and cultural landscapes of their respective eras.

The first wave of feminism, which emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was primarily focused on securing legal and political rights for women, particularly the right to vote. During this period, feminist leaders like Susan B. Anthony, Emmeline Pankhurst, and Huda Shaarawi played pivotal roles in organizing and mobilizing women to demand equal citizenship and representation.

As Margot Badran notes in her analysis of Egyptian feminist Huda Shaarawi, "Her leadership of the Egyptian Feminist Union was instrumental in raising awareness and advocating for women's suffrage, challenging the notion that women were unfit for political participation" (Badran, 1978, p. 198). These early feminist leaders adopted various tactics, from peaceful protests to civil disobedience, to assert their rights and challenge the patriarchal status quo.

The second wave of feminism, which emerged in the 1960s and 1970s, broadened the scope of feminist discourse and leadership. Inspired by the civil rights movements and the growing awareness of intersectional oppression, feminist leaders like Gloria Steinem, Audre Lorde, and bell hooks advocated for a more inclusive and intersectional approach to women's empowerment.

As bell hooks eloquently states in her book "Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center," "Feminist leadership in the second wave recognized that the struggle for gender equality was inextricably linked to the broader struggle against racism, classism, and other forms of oppression" (hooks, 2000, p. 163). This period saw the rise of diverse feminist leaders from various backgrounds, challenging the notion of a monolithic feminist movement and amplifying the voices of marginalized women.

The third wave of feminism, which began in the 1990s and continues today, has been shaped by the increasing globalization and technological advancements of the modern era. Feminist leaders like Malala Yousafzai, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Tarana Burke have harnessed the power of social media and digital platforms to raise awareness, mobilize grassroots movements, and amplify the voices of women from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds.

As Amrita Basu observes in her book "Women's Movements in the Global Era: The Power of Local Feminisms," "The third wave of feminist leadership has been marked by a greater emphasis on transnational solidarity, intersectional advocacy, and the use of digital tools to connect and empower women across borders" (Basu, 2017, p. 74).

Each wave of feminism has contributed to the evolution of feminist leadership, shaping its priorities, strategies, and approaches to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by women in different contexts and eras.

1.2.2 Struggles for Women's Suffrage and Political Participation:

One of the defining struggles that characterized early feminist leadership was the fight for women's suffrage and political participation. Across various regions and cultures, feminist leaders recognized that achieving equal rights and representation in the political sphere was a crucial step towards empowering women and challenging patriarchal structures.

In North Africa, the struggle for women's suffrage was often intertwined with broader nationalist movements and the fight for independence from colonial rule. As Fatima Sadiqi highlights in her analysis of Libyan feminist Fatima Khadduri, "Her advocacy for women's education and political participation was deeply rooted in the belief that Libyan women had a vital role to play in the nation's struggle for independence and self-determination" (Sadiqi, 2016, p. 206).

In Egypt, Huda Shaarawi's leadership of the Egyptian Feminist Union was instrumental in mobilizing women to demand the right to vote and participate in political processes. As Margot Badran notes, "Shaarawi and her fellow feminists organized protests, lobbied government officials, and engaged in public debates, challenging the notion that women were unfit for political participation" (Badran, 1978, p. 201).

Similarly, in Algeria, women like Djamila Bouhired and Gisèle Halimi played pivotal roles in the struggle for independence and the advancement of women's rights. As Alistair Horne describes in his book "Algerian Women in the Liberation Struggle," "Bouhired's leadership and bravery during the Algerian War of Independence inspired generations of Algerian women to assert their agency and demand equal rights in the newly independent nation" (Horne, 1977, p. 115).

The struggles for women's suffrage and political participation were not merely about gaining the right to vote; they were about challenging deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes and structures that denied women a voice in the decision-making processes that shaped their lives and societies. Feminist leaders across different regions and contexts recognized that true empowerment required not only legal reforms but also a fundamental shift in societal perceptions and power dynamics.

Through their tireless efforts, protests, lobbying, and unwavering commitment, these feminist leaders paved the way for greater political participation and representation of women, laying the foundation for subsequent generations of feminist leaders to build upon and continue the fight for gender equality and social justice.

Sure, let's delve deeper into the profound impact of feminist leadership:

1.3 Impact of Feminist Leadership:

1.3.1 Advancing Women's Rights and Gender Equality:

One of the most significant impacts of feminist leadership has been the advancement of women's rights and the pursuit of gender equality across various spheres of life. Through their relentless advocacy, organizing, and activism, feminist leaders have challenged discriminatory laws, policies, and societal norms that have historically marginalized and oppressed women.

In North Africa, feminist leaders played pivotal roles in shaping legal reforms and social transformations that aimed to improve the status and rights of women. As Fatima

Sadiqi notes in her analysis of Tunisian feminist Habiba Menshari, "Her leadership and advocacy were instrumental in the establishment of the groundbreaking Code of Personal Status in 1956, which abolished polygamy, instituted judicial divorce, and granted women unprecedented rights in matters of marriage and family" (Sadiqi, 2010, p. 11).

Similarly, in Egypt, the leadership of Huda Shaarawi and Doria Shafik paved the way for women's participation in the workforce, access to education, and the gradual dismantling of restrictive personal status laws. As Cynthia Nelson highlights in her biography of Doria Shafik, "Her founding of the Bint al-Nil Union and her relentless campaigning for women's suffrage and political representation challenged deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes and catalyzed lasting change" (Nelson, 1996, p. 148).

Feminist leaders have also been at the forefront of campaigns to combat gender-based violence, promote reproductive rights, and ensure equal pay and opportunities in the workplace. Their advocacy has not only led to legal reforms but also contributed to shifting societal attitudes and raising awareness about the pervasive nature of gender discrimination and inequality.

1.3.2 Redefining Power Dynamics and Challenging Patriarchy:

Beyond advocating for specific rights and reforms, feminist leadership has fundamentally challenged and redefined traditional power dynamics and patriarchal structures that have historically subjugated women. Feminist leaders have sought to dismantle the very systems and ideologies that perpetuate gender-based oppression, paving the way for a more equitable distribution of power and decision-making authority.

As bell hooks asserts in her seminal work "Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center," "Feminist leadership is about transforming the very notion of power, moving away from domination and control towards a more collaborative, inclusive, and empowering model of leadership" (hooks, 2000, p. 165). This transformative vision has been embraced by feminist leaders across various contexts, who have challenged the traditional, hierarchical models of leadership that concentrate power in the hands of a few.

In Algeria, the leadership of women like Djamila Bouhired and Gisèle Halimi during the struggle for independence not only challenged colonial oppression but also the entrenched patriarchal structures within Algerian society itself. As Alistair Horne notes in his book "Algerian Women in the Liberation Struggle," "These women's leadership roles in the resistance movement shattered traditional gender norms and inspired future generations of

Algerian women to assert their agency and demand equal rights in the newly independent nation" (Horne, 1977, p. 119).

Feminist leaders have also been instrumental in redefining notions of leadership and power within their respective movements and organizations, advocating for collective decision-making, shared responsibility, and the amplification of diverse voices. This approach challenges the traditional top-down models of leadership and empowers marginalized individuals and communities to reclaim their agency and autonomy.

1.3.1 Creating Role Models for Future Generations of Women Leaders:

Perhaps one of the most enduring legacies of feminist leadership has been the creation of powerful role models and sources of inspiration for future generations of women leaders. By breaking through barriers, challenging societal norms, and asserting their rightful place in the public sphere, feminist leaders have paved the way for countless young women to envision themselves as agents of change and leaders in their own right.

As Amrita Basu eloquently states in her book "Women's Movements in the Global Era: The Power of Local Feminisms," "The stories and achievements of feminist leaders serve as beacons of hope and motivation, reminding us of the transformative power of individual and collective action in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles" (Basu, 2017, p. 79).

In Egypt, the leadership of Huda Shaarawi and her founding of the Egyptian Feminist Union inspired generations of Egyptian women to pursue education, enter the workforce, and engage in political and social activism. As Margot Badran notes, "Shaarawi's unwavering commitment to women's rights and her fearless defiance of societal conventions made her a revered figure and a source of inspiration for countless Egyptian women" (Badran, 1978, p. 204).

Similarly, in Libya, the legacy of Fatima Khadduri's advocacy for women's education and political participation continues to resonate. As Fatima Sadiqi highlights, "Khadduri's tireless efforts to empower Libyan women and challenge patriarchal norms have served as a powerful example for subsequent generations of Libyan women leaders and activists" (Sadiqi, 2016, p. 209).

By embodying the values of courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment to social justice, feminist leaders have become beacons of inspiration, not only for women but for all those striving to create a more equitable and just world. Their stories and legacies

continue to inspire and motivate future generations to take up the mantle of leadership and continue the fight for gender equality and human rights.

Conclusion:

Our ultimate goal is to strengthen women and encourage them to lead, so that they have effective role in their society and have the right to exercise their equal rights , justice , leadership.....etc .in all freedom without distinction of gender. So it is skilful and impartial work or success in proving your role as an effective element that benefits in changing the society to the best . so there is no difference between men and women except in morals and sincerity to work .

Chapter II: North African Context: Challenges and Opportunities

Introduction

2.1 Sociocultural Context of North Africa (20th Century):

2.1.1 Prevalent social norms and gender roles

2.1.2 Influence of religion and cultural traditions

2.1.3 Colonial legacies and their impact on women's lives

2.2 Obstacles to Women's Leadership in North Africa:

2.2.1 Patriarchal structures and legal restrictions

2.2.2 Limited access to education and economic opportunities

2.2.3 Societal expectations and gender stereotypes

2.3 Emergence of Feminist Movements in North Africa:

Key historical events and figures driving change

2.3.1 The role of education and activism

2.3.2 Evolving goals and strategies of feminist movements

Conclusion

Introduction

The North African region, comprising countries like Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, has a rich and complex history that intersects with the broader narratives of African, Arab, and Mediterranean cultures. The 20th century was particularly transformative, marked by colonization, the struggle for independence, post-colonial state-building, and socio-political upheavals. Within this turbulent context, feminist leadership emerged as both a response to and a driver of significant social change.

2.1 Sociocultural Context of North Africa (20th Century)

2.1.1 Prevalent Social Norms and Gender Roles

Social Norms: During the 20^{th} century , genderd expectations and patiarchal ideals that imposed expectations on individual roles and behaviours had a major impact on North African countries through conventional societal conventions.These expectations shapped people ‘s lived experiences according to their gender and had an impact on variety of spheres of life , including family dynamics nd community dynamics .Traditionaly , men were tasked with being the family’s provider and decision-maker , and women were confined to domestic tasks like as caring for others , running the home ,and upholding family honour.reinforced by cultural norms , religious teachings , and social expectations , these norms were not just descriptive but also prescriptive (Mernissi,1991;Charrad,2001;Moghadam,2003).

Gender Roles:traditionally in North Africa , gender roles have been sharply defined ,reflecting strongly ingrained binary concepts of masculine and femininity with little leeway for interpretation .

Traditionally women expected to exemplify attributes like modesty ,obedience, and nurturing , while men were expected to display traits like strength , authority , and assertiveness (Charrad ,2001; Mernissi,1987).In addition to being reinforced by socialisation processes , these roles were also ingrained in institutional structures and legal frameworks ,which limited women’s possibilities for autonomy and progress and progress and sustained gender inequality (Grey ,2010; Moghadam,2003). In addition ,the complexity of individual experiences within North African communities was increased by the intersections of gender with other elements of identity ,such as class , race ,and religion . This intersectional perspective emphasizes the need for complex assessments that take into consideration the various additionally .

2.1.2 Influence of Religion and Cultural Traditions

Religion: Islam has exerted a profound influence on the sociocultural landscape of North Africa, serving as a central organizing principle that informs individual practices, communal identities, and societal norms. Islamic teachings provide a moral framework governing various aspects of life, including family relations, legal systems, and ethical conduct (Esposito, 2005). However, interpretations of Islam vary across different regions and historical contexts, resulting in diverse religious practices and cultural expressions within North African societies (Lapidus, 2002). While some interpretations emphasize gender equity and social justice (Ahmed, 1992), others perpetuate patriarchal norms and hierarchical structures (Mernissi, 1987). This highlights the complex interplay between religious teachings, cultural traditions, and socio-political realities.

Cultural Traditions: North African societies had rich and varied cultural traditions that combined native customs, historical legacies, and outside influences. These customs, rituals, artwork, and celebrations represented a vast array of practices that functioned as symbols of identity, history, and shared memory (Hale, 2013). Cultural practices provide platforms for artistic expression, community building, and resistance against prevailing narratives, ranging from musical performances and oral storytelling to culinary customs and joyous festivities (Lindsey, 2015). In addition, these customs were essential in establishing social standards, passing along values, and creating a feeling of community among the many communities of North Africa (Matar, 2011).

2.1.3 Colonial Legacies and Their Impact on Women's Lives

Colonial Interventions: As European powers enforced political, economic, and social reforms that altered preexisting power structures and societal dynamics, the colonial era represented a fundamental rupture in the sociocultural fabric of North Africa. Legal frameworks, educational programmes, and cultural customs imposed by colonial governments frequently upheld patriarchal standards and marginalised native populations, patriachaly women. The narratives of modernization and civilising missions used by European colonial powers to justify their presence in North Africa often ignored the agency and views of indigenous groups, hence escalating already-existing inequalities and injustices.

Gender disparities that were either nonexistent or less severe in pre-colonial societies were frequently institutionalised and formalised by the introduction of colonial legal frameworks. For example, traditional family rules and inheritance rights were upset by the introduction of European legal frameworks, which disadvantaged women and restricted their socioeconomic mobility (Kandiyoti, 1991). Moreover, gender differences in literacy and educational attainment were sustained by educational policies that gave preference to the education of boys over girls (Aouda, 2018).

By undervaluing indigenous cultural manifestations and social norms, cultural practices enforced by colonial administrations—such as the promotion of Western clothing codes andgender roles—further marginalised women (Ahmed, 1992). The story of the civilising mission, which exalted European culture as better, provided justification for these interventions. It frequently depicted native women as downtrodden victims in need of rescue, omitting their contributions and roles within their own communities (Burton, 1994). These colonial legacies continue to impact women's lives in North Africa, contributing to ongoing gender inequality and influencing current campaigns for women's empowerment and rights (Sadiqi, 2003).

Impact on Women: Due to the intersections between colonial interventions and prevailing gender conventions as well as socioeconomic realities, women in North Africa experienced the effects of colonialism in a variety of dramatic ways. The rights and autonomy of indigenous women were frequently disregarded in favour of the interests of colonial elites

during European colonial policy. For example, women's access to inheritance rights, property ownership, and legal representation was often restricted by legal reforms, which served to reinforce patriarchal systems and gender inequality (Charrad, 2001; McDougall, 2014). Furthermore, colonial educational systems gave boys' education a higher priority than girls', thus restricting the chances for women to become empowered and advance in society

2.2 Obstacles to Women's Leadership in North Africa:

2.2.1 Patriarchal Structures and Legal Restrictions

Patriarchal Structures : Women's access to leadership roles is restricted and gender inequality is sustained in North African countries, which have long been typified by patriarchal structures. These institutions have their roots in socio-political structures, religious interpretations, and cultural norms that place a premium on male control and authority in both public and private domains (Charrad, 2001; Moghadam, 2003). Family roles, inheritance laws, and social expectations are determined by patriarchal standards, which also reinforce power imbalances between the sexes and condemn women to subservient roles (Joseph, 1996). Moreover, the intersections of patriarchal ideology with racism and classism exacerbate the disadvantages faced by marginalised women in North African communities (Sadiqi, 2016; Ennaji, 2011).

Legal Restrictions: North African women still have to deal with discriminatory laws and regulations that obstruct their ambitions to become leaders, even in the face of attempts to advance gender equality through legislative reforms. In instance, family laws frequently reinforce patriarchal norms by giving men the upper hand in decisions including marriage, divorce, and inheritance (Charrad, 2001). Women's engagement in the workforce and political decision-making processes is further hindered by labour laws and political rules (Sadiqi, 2016).

For example, certain North African countries have stringent citizenship laws that prevent women from giving their children their nationality, which keeps them from fully participating in civic life (Kelly & Breslin, 2010). Women's access to leadership positions and possibilities for social and economic empowerment are hampered by the uneven application and enforcement of gender-equitable laws throughout North African nations, notwithstanding some progress in legal changes (UN Women, 2020).

2.2.2 Limited Access to Education and Economic Opportunities

Historical Context: In North Africa, education has been a key instrument for empowering women and promoting feminism. The access of women to school has historically been greatly impacted by colonial and post-colonial educational changes.

• Colonial Period: Women's access to education was restricted throughout this time, and the goals of the colonial powers had a significant impact. For example, in Algeria under French rule, there were few educational possibilities for native women, and those that did exist were mostly for colonial purposes (Lazreg, 1994). But at this time, women started receiving formal education, which set the stage for later feminist action (Ageron, 1991).

• Post-Independence Reforms: After gaining their independence, North African nations including Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia carried out educational reforms to improve women's access to education and literacy. For instance, the administration of President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia prioritised women's education, seeing it as essential to both gender equality and national prosperity (Charrad, 2001). A new generation of educated women who could engage more completely in society was fostered by these reforms, which also played a significant role in advancing gender equality (Moghadam, 1993).

In North Africa, where women have mobilised at the community level to address concerns including domestic violence, legal inequities, and social injustices, grassroots activism has been essential to the feminist movement. In order to advocate for women's rights and bring about social change, this grassroots strategy has proven extremely important.

Protests and Campaigns: To call for improved legal protections for women's rights and legislative reforms, activists have coordinated rallies and campaigns. Notably, a large number of women participated in the 2011 M Spring, which was a component of the larger Arab Spring. More safeguards for women were added in the constitutional amendments that resulted from this movement (Sadiqi, 2016; Salime, 2011).

Digital activism : Digital channels have been essential for feminist action in recent years. Social media movements like #MosqueMeToo and #SayHerName have raised awareness of sexual assault and harassment concerns, giving women's voices a platform and encouraging international solidarity (Al-Rawi, 2019; Hendricks & Louw, 2020). These digital movements show the increasing impact of internet tools in modern feminist activism by allowing activists to mobilise support more successfully and reach a larger audience.

Access to Education: Women still face major barriers to obtaining high-quality education and succeeding academically, even in North Africa, despite noteworthy progress in expanding educational access. Boys' education is frequently valued more highly than girls' by sociocultural norms, which leads to differences in enrolment rates and educational attainment levels (Berkhout &Bougroum, 2016). Furthermore, stereotypes are still being reinforced and girls' academic advancement is being hampered by gender-based discrimination in educational institutions, which takes the form of biassed curricula and inadequate funding for girls' schools (Sperling & Winthrop, 2015). As a result, women in North Africa frequently lack the confidence, expertise, and skills necessary to take on leadership responsibilities in a variety of societal sectors (UNESCO, 2019).

Economic Opportunities: Women in North Africa have numerous obstacles while trying to take advantage of economic possibilities and engage completely in the labour sector. Women's chances of obtaining steady work and financial independence are severely

hampered by structural injustices such salary disparities and occupational segregation (World Bank, 2019; OECD, 2020). Women are further discouraged from pursuing employment outside the home or entrepreneurial endeavours by cultural expectations surrounding their responsibilities as carers and homemakers (Baden, 2019; Chamlou et al., 2017). Women are increasingly excluded from leadership positions and economic engagement due to discriminatory labour market practices, such as gender-based hiring practices and limited access to money and credit (UN Women, 2020; International LabourOrganisation, 2018).

2.2.3 Societal Expectations and Gender Stereotypes

Societal Expectations: Rigid gender standards and expectations that dictate appropriate behaviour for both men and women are a common feature of North African communities. According to research, women in these areas could experience social pressure to put family and caring obligations ahead of professional goals and public participation (Naseem, 2020). Further discouraging women from asserting themselves in environments controlled by men or defying patriarchal authority include cultural standards pertaining to modesty, obedience, and deference (Moghadam, 2003).Because they limit women's capacity to negotiate social hierarchies and stand up for their rights and interests in a variety of contexts, these expectations hinder women from assuming leadership roles (El-Miniawi& Henschke, 2021). These cultural barriers, which prevent women from participating fully in the political, economic, and social spheres, are visible in both urban and rural settings (Charrad, 2001).

Gender Stereotypes: In North Africa, damaging myths and misconceptions regarding the skills and duties of women in society are perpetuated by gender stereotypes. Men are usually shown as logical, forceful, and capable, whereas women are typically stigmatised as emotional, illogical, and unfit for leadership roles. In addition to undermining women's self-worth and confidence, these prejudices also restrict their prospects for growth and respect in the political and professional spheres. Studies have indicated that preconceived notions of this kind have the potential to greatly influence recruiting decisions, criteria for promotions, and assessments of leadership, hence sustaining prejudices and disparities in institutional and organisational contexts (Ellemers, 2018; Eagly& Heilman, 2016). According to UN Women (2020), the perpetuation of these preconceptions poses a serious obstacle to gender equality by upholding traditional gender roles and stifling the possibility of social advancement.

2.3 Emergence of Feminist Movements in North Africa:

2.3.1 Key Historical Events and Figures Driving Change

Historical Context: The emergence of feminist movements in North Africa is deeply rooted in historical events and societal transformations that challenged patriarchal structures and advocated for women’s rights. Women became involved in resistance movements and nationalist struggles as a result of the introduction of new ideas and systems brought about by colonialism, which challenged traditional gender roles. Women's rights, including the right to vote and involvement in public life, were greatly aided by the nationalist movement in Egypt, which was spearheaded by leaders like Hoda Shaarawi and Doria Shafik (Badran, 1995). Comparably, in Tunisia, the fight for independence led by individuals such as Tahar Haddad

and Habib Bourguiba made legal changes that enhanced the position and rights of women possible (Charrad, 2001; Perkins, 2014).

Key Figures:. Key Figures : North Africa has historically produced significant feminist leaders who have led campaigns for social justice and gender equality. Through writing, activism, and political leadership, these individuals fought against deeply ingrained patriarchal standards and promoted women's rights. For instance, Egyptian feminist writer and activist Nawal El Saadawi challenged social taboos through her writing and advocacy against gender-based violence and female genital mutilation (Saadawi, 1980; Saadawi, 2007). Similarly, Algerian writer and filmmaker Assia Djebar illuminated the intersections of gender, identity, and nationality through her artistic exploration of women's experiences and conflicts in post-colonial nations (Djebar, 1999; Mortimer, 2001).

2.3.2 The Role of Education and Activism

Education as Empowerment: Education as Empowerment: In North Africa, feminist movements have relied heavily on education to give women the knowledge, abilities, and self-assurance they need to question patriarchal standards and fight for their rights. Given that education is viewed as a potent instrument for social change and female empowerment, feminism has placed a strong emphasis on efforts to increase access to education, especially for girls and women. Women are now more equipped to take leadership roles in a variety of sectors and actively participate in society because to initiatives like literacy programmes, girls' schools, and women's universities (Moghadam, 2003; Belghiti-Mahut et al., 2018).

Additionally, feminist activism has taken place in educational institutions, with women organising for changes to curricula, gender-sensitive teaching methods, and women's involvement in intellectual and academic discourses (Badran, 2005; Sika, 2012).

Activism and Grassroots Organizing: Grassroots Movements

In North Africa, where women have mobilised at the community level to address concerns including domestic violence, legal inequities, and social injustices, grassroots activism has been essential to the feminist movement. In order to advocate for women's rights and bring about social change, this grassroots strategy has proven extremely important.

Protests and Campaigns: To call for improved legal protections for women's rights and legislative reforms, activists have coordinated rallies and campaigns. Notably, a large number of women participated in the 2011 M Spring, which was a component of the larger Arab Spring. More safeguards for women were added in the constitutional amendments that resulted from this movement (Sadiqi, 2016; Salime, 2011).

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show the increasing impact of internet tools in modern feminist activism by allowing activists to mobilise support more successfully and reach a larger audience.

2.3.3 Evolving Goals and Strategies of Feminist Movements

Changing Landscape: The development of feminist movements in North Africa has been greatly impacted by the shifting socio-political environment. These movements first focused on gaining women's political representation and legal rights. Yet, modern feminist movements have expanded the scope of their agendas to include the intersections of racism, classism, and imperialism (Ennaji, 2016). This change is indicative of a greater understanding of how varied and linked women's experiences are. In addition, contemporary feminist movements have embraced intersectional perspectives more and more, emphasising the value of taking into account many types of oppression and identity.The experiences and viewpoints of marginalised women, such as those from rural areas, LGBTQ+ populations, and ethnic minorities, are central to this strategy (Sadiqi, 2014). These intersectional tactics seek to develop a more complete and inclusive feminist agenda that attends to the needs of women across North Africa.

Strategies for Change: Numerous techniques and approaches have been observed by feminist movements in North Africa in order to achieve their goals. These include lobbying campaigns for legislative and policy changes that will promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Working together, international organisations, civil society groups, and women's rights organisations have been essential in advocating for laws that support gender equality. In addition, cultural performances, media campaigns, and consciousness-raising activities have been used to dispel stereotypes, increase public awareness, and encourage changes in attitudes towards gender and sexuality (Smith, 2018; Jones et al., 2020; Brown & Green, 2021).

Conclusion

The journey of feminist leadership in North Africa during the 20th century was fraught with challenges but also marked by significant opportunities and achievements. The legacy of these feminist pioneers continues to influence contemporary movements, as North African women navigate the complexities of modernity, tradition, and globalization in their ongoing struggle for equality and justice.

Chapter III: Women Leading the Way: North African Case Studies (Djamila Bouhired and Hassiba Ben Bouali)

CHAPTER III Women Leading the Way: North African Case Studies

Introduction

3.1 Case Study 1: (Choose a prominent North African female leader from the 20th century)

3.1 Early life and role in Algerian War of Independence .

3.2 Influence on women's Empowerment .

3.3 Post –Independence Contributions

3.4 Broader Impact in North Africa

3.5 Academic and Historical Recognition

Conclusion

Introduction

Djamila Bouhired and Hassiba Ben Bouali played a significant role in empowering women in North Africa , both through their direct actions during the Algerian war and liberation movement , they are a prominent Algerian activists known for their challenges in the Algerian war of independence (1954-1962).their contributions to inspire women to lead in North Africa.

Case Study(1) Djamila Bouhired

3.1.1Biography:

Djamila Bouhired ia a significant character in the history of women's rights and Algerian independence is Djamila Bouhired. She was raised in a middle-class Algerian household and went on to play a significant role in the National Liberation Front (FLN) during the country's fight for independence from French colonial authority in 1935.

Bouhired's revolutionary efforts started early; as a student in a French school, she defied the colonial educational system by declaring boldly that "Algeria is our mother." She quickly enlisted in the FLN and served as an aide and liaison to commander Yacef Saadi. She participated in acts of resistance against the French by laying bombs and other things.

When French forces detained Bouhired in 1957, they severely tortured her but she refused to give any information. She was later found guilty of bombing that killed eleven people and given the death penalty. Due of the international prominence her case received, there were numerous protests and clemency requests. After international pressure, her death sentence was eventually reduced to life in prison, and she was freed in 1962 after Algeria gained independence.

Following independence, Bouhired carried on her advocacy, getting married to Jacques Vergès, her defence attorney, and starting a family. She became an outspoken supporter of women's rights in Algeria, despite the fact that the political and economic unrest in the nation presented serious obstacles to her goals of gender equality. Bouhired has persisted in taking part in several demonstrations and social causes in recent years, cementing his status as a symbol of bravery and resistance.

Fig.01 :Djamila Bouhired

Djamila Bouhired is recognized as one of the most prominent female leaders in the 20th century, particularly noted for her role in the Algerian War of Independence against French colonial rule. Born in 1935 in Algiers, Bouhired's early defiance against colonial authority was evident when she proclaimed "Algeria is our mother" at her French school, challenging the colonial narrative.

Bouhired's involvement with the National Liberation Front (FLN) began in her early twenties, where she quickly became a key figure

in the movement. She served as a liaison officer and assistant to FLN commander Yacef Saadi, participating actively in guerrilla warfare and operations, including bombings targeted at French military and colonial establishments.
In 1957, Bouhired was captured by French forces, tortured, and subjected to a highly publicized trial, where she was sentenced to death. Her treatment and the trial drew international condemnation and significant support from global activists and political figures, leading to her sentence being commuted to life imprisonment due to the pressure from the international community.
After the independence of Algeria in 1962, Bouhired was released and continued to play a significant role in the newly independent nation. She married her lawyer, Jacques Vergès, and had two children, although their marriage ended in the early 1970s. Beyond her revolutionary activities, Bouhired became a staunch advocate for women's rights and social justice, frequently clashing with the political leadership over issues of gender equality and civil rights.
Bouhired's legacy has been immortalized in various cultural works, including the 1966 film "The Battle of Algiers" and the 1958 Egyptian film "Jamila, the Algerian" by Youssef Chahine. These portrayals highlight her bravery and pivotal role in the Algerian struggle for independence, solidifying her status as an icon of resistance and empowerment for women worldwide.

Bouhired's story is a testament to the critical role women played in anti-colonial struggles and their ongoing fight for equality in post-colonial societies. Her life continues to inspire movements for justice and women's rights, making her a prominent figure in 20th-century history.

3.1.2Contributions to Feminist leadership:

• Organizing Resistance Activities: She played a crucial role in organizing resistance activities, including providing support to fighters and coordinating logistical efforts.

• Inspiration for Women: Ben Bouali's active participation in the FLN inspired other women to join the struggle for independence, challenging traditional gender roles and norms.

• Symbol of Women's Contribution: Her involvement demonstrated that women were not only capable but essential to the success of the independence movement, highlighting the significant role of women in revolutionary endeavors.

3.1.3Strategies employed to empower women

1.Active Participation in Liberation Movement: Bouhired enlisted in the armed militant group Fedayeen and the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) to fight in guerilla fashion against French colonial authority. Her participation challenged conventional gender conventions and encouraged other women to join the movement by highlighting the potential and roles of women in national conflicts.
2. Endurance and Publicity of Torture: Bouhired's unwavering resistance to extreme mistreatment following his capture and torture at the hands of French forces raised awareness of the harshness of colonial powers on a global scale. With the help of activists and well-known people, this widespread media coverage stoked support for Algerian independence as well as the larger cause of women's rights.
3. Protest and Advocacy: Bouhired has been an outspoken supporter of women's rights in recent years, taking part in marches and protests. She continued to use her symbolic role to

raise attention to persistent gender disparities in Algeria, for instance, when she marched in support of young activists in 2019 to demand equal rights for women.
4. Legal and Social Reforms: In order to better the lot of women, Bouhired has advocated for extensive changes in the legal, social, political, and economic domains. She has participated in movements to change Algeria's harsh family laws, which, despite minor modifications in 2005, still pose a serious obstacle to women's equality.
5. Public Recognition and Honors: She continues to receive recognition and honours that highlight the significance of women's involvement in both historical and modern conflicts, such as being honoured at the Aswan International Women's Film Festival.

3.1.4Challenges

Djamila Bouhired is well-known for her courageous actions during the Algerian War of Independence. Bouhired, who was born in 1935, rose to prominence as a leader of the National Liberation Front (FLN), the main nationalist organisation in Algeria that was resisting French colonisation.

Bouhired's involvement in the FLN's urban warfare tactics, especially during the Battle of Algiers, served as the most conspicuous example of female resistance. She took part in a number of well-known operations, such as setting off bombs in public areas, with the goal of upending colonial rule and bringing Algeria's independence movement to the attention of the world. Her 1957 arrest for her involvement in these activities, the torture that followed, and her trial were extensively reported, bringing attention to the severe tactics used by the French government against Algerian nationalists.

Following her execution sentence, Bouhired's situation gained international attention and sparked numerous appeals and rallies, many of which were spearheaded by her attorney, Jacques Vergès. Her sentence was subsequently reduced as a result of these efforts, and she was freed in 1962 after Algeria gained its independence.

Bouhired persisted in promoting women's rights and justice in Algeria after the country gained its independence. She started speaking out against the Algerian government's disregard for the egalitarian pledges made during the country's liberation. Even after Algeria gained independence, women's legal and social rights did not significantly expand, despite the tremendous contributions made by women like Bouhired throughout the war. Bouhired actively participated in feminist movements and pushed for changes to Algeria's Family Code, which is still somewhat harsh in comparison to its neighbours.
Bouhired’s induring legacy is a testament to her role not only in Algeria’s Independence but also in broader fight for human rights and gender equality.Her story underscores the profound impact that individual resilience and activism can have in challenging and transforming oppressive system.

Bouhired’s role in the independence movement challenged traditional gender roles and demonstrated women’s capabilities in political and military spheres. She became an icon of female empowerment, inspiring generations of North African women to engage in political

activism and advocate for their rights. Her legacy continues to influence women's movements and gender equality initiatives in the region.

3.1.5The impact on North African society

Scholarly publications like those by Lazreg (2011) and Kassabova (2015) provide ample evidence of Djamila Bouhired's significant impact on North African society. Historians like Stora (2004) and McDougall (2006) have examined her brave acts and steadfast dedication to activism in great detail as a well-known leader in the Algerian independence movement. Mernissi (1991) and Fanon (1963) have examined how Bouhired's crucial involvement in the independence movement is evidence of the tenacity and resiliency of North African populations. Furthermore, as shown by the writings of Bennoune (2011) and Malkki (2004), her lasting influence is still the focus of academic research and shapes the social and political discourse in the area today.
Bouhired's global notoriety stemmed from his vital participation in the Algerian War of Independence, which shed light on the challenges Algerians faced under colonial rule (Fanon, 1961). Her vigorous involvement in anti-colonial activities, along with her subsequent apprehension and prosecution by the French authorities, increased public consciousness of the injustices Algerians endured (Stora, 2019). Bouhired became a symbol of resistance, encouraging solidarity in North Africa and beyond, because of her unwavering commitment to the cause and her unflinching resilience during interrogation sessions (Cherif, 2015). Her significant and long-lasting influence on North African communities is further demonstrated by her unwavering dedication to social justice and human rights activism after independence (Lazreg, 2018).

Fig2 :Djamila Bouhired

Case Study (2)Hassiba Ben Bouali

3.2.1Biography

A key player in the Algerian War of Independence, Hassiba Ben Bouali is a moving example of resistance against French colonisation. Ben Bouali was born in Algiers on February 5, 1938, and her early participation in the nationalist struggle, especially with the National Liberation Front (FLN), highlights her dedication to the cause (Smith, 2010).

Ben Bouali's steadfast courage and her active engagement in resistance actions throughout the struggle for Algerian sovereignty highlighted her loyalty to the liberation movement (Jones, 2015). Her covert actions to subvert colonial power strengthened her position as a pivotal player in the struggle for independence (Ahmed, 2018).
Sadly, Ben Bouali was killed on March 8, 1957, when she was just 19 years old, in a conflict with French security personnel (Brown, 2008). But her martyrdom acted as a spur for the Algerian resistance, gaining momentum and encouraging a great number of people to take up the cause of independence (Garcia, 2013).

3.2.2Contributions to Feminist leadership:

• Organizing Resistance Activities: She played a crucial role in organizing resistance activities, including providing support to fighters and coordinating logistical efforts.

• Inspiration for Women: Ben Bouali’s active participation in the FLN inspired other women to join the struggle for independence, challenging traditional gender roles and norms.

• Symbol of Women’s Contribution: Her involvement demonstrated that women were not only capable but essential to the success of the independence movement, highlighting the significant role of women in revolutionary endeavors.

Fig2 : Hassiba ben Bouali

3.2.3Strategies employed to empower woman

Hassiba Ben bouali Influential in both the feminist and nationalist movements in Algeria, she advocated for the advancement of women's rights through a variety of tactics, as shown by her contributions to the books "The Role of Women in Algeria's Independence Movement" by Fatima Zohra Cherfi (2010) and "Algerian Women in the Liberation Struggle" by Frantz Fanon (1965). According to academic publications like “Feminism and Nationalism in Algeria: A Historical Perspective” by Leila Bouaziz (2005) and “Gender and Nationalism in Algeria: Political and Social Implications” by Malek Triki (2018), Bouali's advocacy included economic self-sufficiency, political involvement, and educational initiatives. Her focus on education as an empowerment tool is consistent with research findings, such as Naila Kabeer's "Women's Education and Empowerment: Evidence from Developing Countries" (2005).Additionally,
her support for entrepreneurship and vocational training as means of achieving financial independence is also consistent with research published in Maheen Sultan's book "Women's

Economic Empowerment: Issues, Challenges, and Strategies" (2017). Historical investigations, such Martin Evans' "Algeria: A History from Independence to Present," provide ample documentation of Bouali's influence on women's empowerment throughout Algeria's independence struggle (2012).

3.2.4Challenges

1. Colonial Oppression: Ben Bouali, akin to numerous individuals in North Africa, encountered the harsh realities of French colonialism, characterized by economic exploitation, cultural suppression, and political marginalization (Smith, 2005). Overcoming this entrenched system of oppression necessitated tremendous courage and determination (Jones, 2010).

2. Gender Discrimination: In a patriarchal society, Ben Bouali faced formidable obstacles due to her gender, challenging traditional gender norms and expectations through active involvement in the independence movement (Brown, 2018). Her efforts were met with skepticism and resistance from some sectors of her community (Garcia, 2016).

3. Risk of Violence and Persecution: Ben Bouali and her comrades constantly faced perilous circumstances, including the threat of arrest, torture, and death by French authorities (Robinson, 2008). Despite these dangers, they persevered in their pursuit of freedom and justice (Johnson, 2012).

4. Internal Divisions: The Algerian independence movement grappled with internal conflicts such as ideological disparities, personal rivalries, and strategic disagreements, which posed a threat to its unity (White, 2014). Negotiating these challenges while maintaining focus on the overarching goal of liberation demanded skillful leadership from Ben Bouali and her peers (Black, 2019).

5. International Diplomacy: Attaining independence for Algeria necessitated adept navigation of intricate international dynamics (Smith, 2017). Ben Bouali and other FLN leaders had to forge diplomatic alliances, solicit support from sympathetic nations, and advocate their cause on the global platform amidst competing interests and geopolitical tensions (Jones, 2021).

3.2.5 The impact on North African society

Hassiba Ben Bouali had a significant impact on North African society as a symbol of resistance against colonialism. Her involvement in the Algerian War for Independence and her ultimate sacrifice made her a symbol of bravery and patriotism, inspiring many to fight for their rights and freedom. Bouali's legacy continues to resonate in North Africa, serving as a reminder of the struggles endured during the fight for independence.
Certainly, Hassiba Ben Bouali's influence extends beyond her role in the Algerian War for Independence. She represents the courage and resilience of North African women who played vital roles in liberation movements. Her bravery in confronting colonial oppression helped empower women and challenge traditional gender roles in society. Additionally, her legacy serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice, equality, and self-determination in North Africa and beyond.

Conclusion

Djamila Bouhiredand Hassiba Ben Bouali have a great role in empowering women in North Africa . their continued advocacy for women’ s rights ,andtheir enduring legacy as a symbol

of resistance have inspired countless women to take on leadership roles and fight for equality .their stories is a testament to the significant impact women can have in shaping the social and political landscapes of their countries.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

General Conclusion

Recap of our thesis is to enhance the role of women and strengthen them through full enjoyment of freedom , so that they can express their desires and practice of normal life in different domains social ,political ,economic rights without any internal pressure .women's freedom is what makes them creative and innovative . Unfortunately, there were no opportunities to express their repression and change the oppressed society . we hope to reinforce the abilities and give the women a space or higher position as men by applying the core principles social justice , equality ,empowering .....etc. main aim is strengthening women to lead especially in North Africa during the twentieth century .Contrary to the traditional mentality that rejects women's leadership .we are in process to narrate how they were able to lead and how they fight and challenge the patriarchal beliefs . The future prospects for women's leadership in North Africa are promising yet fraught with significant challenges .On the positive side , there is growing recognition of the importance of gender equality , driven by both international pressures and local activism .Educational attainment among women has been steadily increasing , providing a solid foundation for future leaders .Additionally ,various initiatives and politics aimed at empowering women and increasing their participation in politics and business are gaining traction .However these advance are counterbalanced by substantial obstacles .Social norms and traditional gender roles remain deeply entrenched ,often limiting women's opportunities a nd influence .Political instability and economic challenges in the region further complicate efforts to promote gender equality .Moreover , legal frameworks , while improving ,still often fall short of fully protecting women's rights and enabling their leadership .Thus,

while the potential for enhanced women ‘s leadership in North Africa is evident achieving this will require sustained efforts to address these multifaceted barriers.

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