



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

4B Movement

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In News: The **4B movement**, a radical feminist current originating in **South Korea**, has resurfaced in public discourse amid renewed debates on **patriarchy, gender-based violence, declining fertility, and women's autonomy** across societies.

What is the 4B Movement?

The **4B movement** is a **feminist resistance framework** in which women collectively reject four institutions seen as pillars of patriarchal control:

- **No Marriage**
- **No Childbirth**
- **No Dating**
- **No Sex (with men)**

It is not merely a personal lifestyle choice but a **deliberate political stance** against traditional heterosexual norms and gendered expectations imposed on women.

Origin and Background

- **Country:** South Korea
- **Period:** Late 2010s
- Emerged in response to:
 - Deep-rooted **gender inequality**
 - **Online misogyny** and harassment
 - High-profile cases of sexual violence
 - **Institutional indifference** to women's safety and rights
- Gained traction during the **#MeToo movement** in South Korea through **online feminist platforms**.

Key Features of the Movement

1. Radical Non-Engagement

- Rejects negotiation or reform within patriarchal institutions.
- Views marriage, reproduction, and heterosexual relationships as structurally unequal.

2. Rejection of Gendered Labour

- Opposes expectations of:
 - Unpaid care work
 - Emotional labour
 - Sacrificial motherhood
- Challenges the idea that women must sustain family and demographic systems.

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3. Bodily Autonomy

- Central emphasis on:
- Consent
- Sexual self-determination
- Control over reproductive choices

4. Collective Resistance

- Frames abstention as **collective political action**, not individual withdrawal.
- Counters the narrative that women must “adjust” or “cope” within oppressive systems.

Significance

Social Significance

- Questions the assumption that **marriage and motherhood define womanhood**.
- Exposes how **structural misogyny**, not isolated incidents, shapes women’s lived realities.

Political Significance

- Reframes refusal and withdrawal as **legitimate forms of political agency**.
- Forces states to confront links between:
- Gender injustice
- Declining fertility rates
- Social alienation

Global Relevance

- Sparks debates worldwide on:
- Feminism and demographic transitions
- Gender justice and social norms
- Autonomy vs societal expectations
- Resonates in societies facing:
- Rising gender violence
- Declining marriage and birth rates
- Women’s disenchantment with traditional institutions

Criticism and Debates

- Critics argue it may:
- Reinforce social polarisation
- Limit dialogue between genders
- Supporters contend:
- It is a **symptom, not the cause**, of systemic gender injustice
- True reform requires structural change, not moral appeals to women