THE REALITIES OF SUBURBAN FEMINISM

A study of feminism in the suburbs of Gothenburg among the immigrant communities.

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ABDULLAHI O MAR
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Author
Abdullahi Omar
Examiner: Jonnie Eriksson
Kandidatsuppsats: Kulturprogrammet 15 hp
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ABSTRACT

This study on feminism is a study aimed at understanding a reality within feminism (suburban feminism) in the suburbs of Gothenburg and the underlying factors that contribute to the emergence of this new phenomenon, and why women in the suburbs relate to as an alternative social tool in the quest for better social standings. The research was focused on the 2 major issues and they were (1) the effect of intersectionality on feminism in the suburbs and (2), the effect of internal factors like culture and religion on feminism in the suburbs. Intersectional analysis in my study partly explained the emergence of this new phenomenon (suburban feminism) as a reality within feminism. Cultural shock experienced by the immigrant women when they come Sweden explained also the relevance of cultural polarisation as a factor in the emergence of suburban feminism. The research was done through the qualitative research methods among the immigrant populations living in the suburbs of Gothenburg. The primary research material was the respondent’s experiences and answers to a variety of questions. With the help of several respondents and earlier research done on feminism in the suburbs shows how suburban feminism as a phenomenon emerges and takes shape among the immigrant populations and how this kind of feminism emerges out of the daily challenges ranging from intersectionality, socio-economic setups and several other aspects the respondents refer to as cultural shock between different cultures that have converged in the suburbs. In general, suburban feminism is a phenomenon that emerged out of several factors that range most of them intended for the furtherance and empowerment of women in all spheres of life. The respondent’s answers to the questions fielded in this study together with the earlier research done on feminism and equality in Sweden formed the bedrock on which the study is anchored on. Suburban feminism in my study is a product of social construction different from feminism anchored on theories and this becomes more evident from the answers of my respondents in their understanding of feminism.

Keywords, feminism. Intersectionality, Liberal feminism, postfeminism, suburban feminism, respondents, cultural shock, suburbs, Gothenburg.
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Many thanks to my respondents for both their time and participation in this study of suburban feminism in the suburbs of Gothenburg. My family, my supervisor Mr Jens Lerbom and examiner Jonnie Eriksson.
1: INTRODUCTION

Feminism in general is associated with women emancipation from social, economics and political inequalities and in the wider context spans both the social, political and economic arenas. The type of feminism depends on whether the underlying challenge is of either a political, social or economical nature and owing to this complexity i will study feminism solely shaped by the prevailing social conditions in two of the suburbs of Gothenburg city. The study relates to the prevailing social situations in the areas most affected by segregation/violence and I will study feminism as a social tool used by women to better their socio/economic advancement in Gothenburgs suburbs. Feminism as a social tool in both the social and economic setups meets challenges that negate progression on how women`s issues from gets neglected by the larger society. This is compounded by different problems that emanate from within the immigrant populations that includes, but not limited to cultural and religious aspects. In my study of feminism in the suburbs i will use qualitative study to interview 8 women in the age brackets of 21 to 57 years with the aim of discerning how intersectionality and culture affect feminists from their early ages upto the middle ages. While this new phenomenon of suburban feminism is a rapidly changing the face of feminism in the multicultural societies in major cities, my study of the same is limited to two suburbs in the city of Gothenburg in Sweden. I chose my study area as Bergsjön in the east of Gothenburg city and Biskopsgården in the Island of Hisingen. The choice of my respondents was largely influenced by the need to engage women active in feminism and I took keen interest in locating the respondents through their respective social groups. The study will have the respondent’s answers as its base backed by earlier studies done on the subject(feminism)in the suburbs of Sweden. Suburban feminism as a phenomenon begin come to prominence vis a vis the obstacles and challenges women faced by women in the suburbs in relation to the struggle of integrating in to the society and overcoming the challenges of intersectionality. Its no different in the suburbs that feminismen there is also a product of a factor or factors created by the prevailing circumstances like the issues of race, socio-economic challenges and the issue of class in the society. My study of feminism in the suburbs will be solely restricted to the emerging phenomenon of suburban feminism.

1:1My understanding of feminism

My understanding of feminism is that either as a theory or ideology, feminism has over long period of time accomplished much in the emancipation of women in different fields, I come
into contact with feminism, whereby feminism was the preferred tool to create awareness and fight for equal opportunities for women in different spheres be it the professional fields, the work place and other stations in life. Feminism exists in many forms, each shaped by different factors, be they theories/perspectives or as an ideology. I first encountered feminism that was more geared towards the fight for equal rights between the two genders and this formed my first impression of what feminism really is, but in my adult life and through my education i have come to know that feminism is much more than just the fight for equal rights. It is through feminism irrespective of type that the rights of women have come a long way and that feminism mutates according to the prevailing factors that affect women and these factors are equality, socio-economics and ideologies. More still feminism is not only limited to one gender but affects both genders in equal measures both positively and negatively.

1:2 Aim and objectives of the study

The aim of this study is to explore the factors contributing to the emergence of a new phenomenon within feminism that is prevalent in suburbs of major cities in Sweden.
Feminism To study the impact several factors have on the immigrant women population living in the suburbs, these effects are namely intersectionality and cultural tendencies that exists in the suburbs. To achieve this the study will be synthesizing the respondent’s answers to a variety of questions with the earlier research done on the subject to conclusively determine the relationship between intersectionality/socio-economic factors and suburban feminism. This study will be anchored on the respondents understanding of feminism and how they relate to this type feminism as a new phenomenon in relation to the established theories/perspectives within feminism. The objectives of this study meanwhile is that at the end of my interviews and review of the earlier research come to a meaningful discourse on what the corelations are between intersectionality and culture are one hand and suburban feminism on the other hand in the suburbs of Gothenburg. The questions i will pose to respondents are as

The following questions formed the base of this study

. How does intersectionality affect feminism in the suburbs?
. What is your understanding of feminism?
. Does cultural background affect feminism in your area of residence?
The purpose of writing this research is to understand how women in the suburbs of Gothenburg relate to feminism as a concept and what forms their respective understanding on towards feminism.

1:3 Materials

The main source of my study is the answers provided by the respondents and as a primary source i will back it up with earlier studies done on feminism in the suburbs of major towns in Sweden. This research will have its primary source as the respondent’s answers to the fielded questions, this in line with the adopted guidelines as anchored on the qualitative research techniques. Pursuant to my aim of finding out the challenges of feminism in the suburbs i will as a researcher compare the findings of the interviews in respect to the understanding and experiences of the respondents as concerns feminism in the suburbs of Gothenburg. The answers will form the basis for the conclusions of this study on the emergence of suburban feminism within feminism in the wider context.

The qualitative research methods as a primary material is intended to bring forth the experiences of the respondents in line with the mechanism of doing a deeper and an analytical interview guided by ethics

The literature i will use in my study is kvalitativ forskningsintervjun of Steinar Kvale and Svend Brinkmann. A book on cultural studies theory and practice 5th edition by Chris Barker and Emma A. Jane. Research done by SOU on equality in Sweden. research on suburban feminism by Juan Velasquez and Aleksandar Åland in the research on multiculturalism

1:3 Earlier research on feminism

Several earlier researches done on the subject are notably a paper published in tidskrift för genusvetenskap and SOU’S research document commissioned by the government to study the problems and the special circumstances that limit the upward progress of immigrant women born outside of Sweden and to a large extent outside Europe. Män och jämställdhet. The studies show how a changing society where both sexes share the family responsibility and the economic wellbeing affects families. In the SOU (2004) on changes in the roles in the family points out the major cause of changes in the family as a unit as
Arbetslöshet, osäkra arbetsförhållanden och låga inkomster kan försämra familjers möjligheter och påverka mäns roll som fäder samt kvinnors ekonomiska oberoende i de många fall då kvinnor har svagare arbetsmarknadsanknytning än män” page 69.

This is a clear indicator of what families who immigrated from outside Europe face, because the concept of the working mothers in most case does not exist on the same scale as it does in Sweden and Europe in general. Family size in comparison is much smaller and social safety net much more restricted outside of the family nucleus. The research shows that integration plays also an important role in the advancement of women in the job market. This is to say that in almost everything the host society and the immigrant society interpret and see things and theories very differently owing to cultural differences between the two communities. The other factor affecting equality was that the research SOU 2004 on changes on roles in the family found out (Klassbegreppet är viktigt för att kunna urskilja de strukturer som påverkar resursfördelningen i samhället men också frågor om status)².

The question of class is one which determines how feminism shapes itself in the suburbs because of the divide it creates between women. Those in the working class have different living standards to those in upper class and the worst affected in this scenario are the unemployed immigrant women who find it difficult to integrate.

Earlier research done on feminism in the suburbs of Sweden’s major town are limited and I have the one I have chosen to highlight in this study of feminism is Juan Velasquez Feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ’integration’ och segregation and the other one is a study commissioned by the government on the issue of equality between men and women in migrant communities living in Sweden. The study on segregation was conducted in Fittja a suburb in Stockholm city and implores on the effects and the extent to which segregation has permeated in Fittja. The author of this study points out that despite the associated difficulties women encounter on day to day basis, the prevailing social/economic setup affects and to some extent limit women from achieving their objectives of advancing women rights in the suburbs. Velasquez (2011) argues that suburban feminism is a factor to contend with, due migrants moving into an already established social structures.

¹ SOU 2014.Maskulinitet i förändring 2014.page 69
² SOU 2014.Maskulinitet i förändring 2014.page 89
The author explores the difficulties existing between the immigrant communities living in the suburbs and the already established social structures that pose a challenge to immigrants new to Sweden. That there already exists a well-defined power structure that limits immigrants to easily assimilate. This sort of problems vis a vis intersectionality are the major obstacles facing the immigrant communities not least in the area of feminism and equality. To analyse the impact of intersectionality within feminism this clip by (America enterprise institute) explains what intersectionality in principipe is and what it advocates, the white male enjoys unearned privilages at the expense of the victims (read women) and white women in turn come second in the social ladder at the expense of coloured women. That this new phenomenon is not uniting people, but dividing people based on the new fatual feminism prevalent in the multicultural societies around the world. The competing cultures pose a real and present danger to integration of minorities and immigrants into the society. Velasquez (2011) further argues that immigrants in the country face the challenge of integration/or lack of it thereof and this lays ground for segregation.

The author further explains that the immigrant populations are forced to accept feminism tailored on certain aspects of a culture foriegn and one which is anchored on nationalistic perspectives and status. Class and other socio-economic issues bedevill people from outside the borders of Europe when it comes to equality and feminism.


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3 Juan, Velasquez 2011.feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration ”och segregation. Page 177
4 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYpELqKZ02Q Fetched on 2018.05.02.
5 Juan, Velasquez 2011.feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration ”och segregation. Sid 180
through in their efforts to reconcile and harmonize their original culture with the host communitys’ culture. Their original culture and the Swedish culture

Outsiderism can also help to create exclusionary subcultures. Modern cities tend to fragment into a patchwork of apartheid-like homelands of subordinated outsiders. The formation of gangs, conflict, symbolic disputes and violence reflect the new poverty, civil insecurity and homelessness in society. This is the social context of cultural identity, its space and symbolic forms. An important backdrop to this drama comprises the cultural pecking order is based on class, gender, age, ethnicity or race. The author explains the conflict between two cultures owing to the strong desire to keep identities intact in the face of multiculturalism and, how this in profound ways affects the fabric of integration and creation of the undesired social exclusion processes that affects immigrant women populations. The author further expounds on the rise of this trend in the multicultural EU and beyond. The author in explaining the challenges of multicultural societies point out that what ails the immigrant communities is outsiderism that limits immigrants from integrating and being part of their new home.

1:4The Methodology

The Methodology in this study will the sampling of information from respondents in the suburbs using the qualitative research methods and the discourse analysis that I find as complimentary to my research. Because of the technicality involved in the interviews, complementary discourse is necessary how to discern the knowledge from the respondents of the study.

2.1: The relevance and use of qualitative research

The choice of this method in my study of feminism in the suburbs is influenced by the need to gather information relevant to feminism in the suburbs from women ranging within different age categories and from different countries, and with the qualitative research interview i found it most appropriate because of the importance it has in establishing direct contact with the respondents to get first hand information in comparision to sending questionaires which

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6 Ålund, A., (1997), Feminism and Multiculturalism: Recognition of Difference and Beyond, Sociologist Tidskrift, (2), 127–143.
found not appropriate in my study. The other factor I considered when choosing the use of this methodology is, the clarity with which guidelines are availed and discussed in length in several chapters of the book written by Kvale, S & Brinkmann, S and the viability of conducting unbiased research-based interview as explained by Kvale, S & Brinkman, S. As a researcher on a mission to find answers to questions of a rather complex subject, I found it fit to use this methodology which gave me the opportunity to get the response to many of the questions this study would have liked to get answered. The impact of feminism in the suburbs of Gothenburg as well as the other major cities is a question that needs actual respondents to answer and thus, I found it more appropriate to interview the respondents instead of conducting the research using survey studies. I found it more appropriate using quantitative research method because of the sensitivity and extensivity of the subject matter (feminism). Feminism touches on almost all facets of the human life and thus the need to make direct approach to the respondents to get a balanced and objective responses. Kvale, S & Brinkman, S (2017) in the book Den kvalitativa forskningsintervjun in their analysis of the qualitative research technique point out that the process can at best be an unusual experience and enriching simultaneously.

In my choice of this method, as a research I had in mind the need to delve deeper into a subject many consider rather as a complex subject involving almost all spheres of human life and with the intersectionality issue rather more intensely connected to feminism in the suburbs I found the qualitative research interview as the method of choice both in relevance and appropriateness.

Discourse analysis

In the discourse analysis of this study I as the researcher will go beyond the interviews between, I the researcher and the respondents and analyse the several aspects that define the thought processes, that is to say that I will use conversation analysis where given the differences in age, cultures and background in the social struggles of women’s rights there a ought to be critical differences in the use of language relevant to feminism and suburban

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feminism in particular. Summarising a whole new perspective around the subject of study, which is feminism in the suburbs and among women originally from outside Sweden, as explained is not only shaped by the age differences of the respondents but even the differences in perspective on the core subject of feminism. The extent to which my respondents were submerged on issues feminism in the suburbs formed the core of the interview and to this extent the use of language played a key role, because my interview was conducted in English a language which to most of my respondents was a second language. As explained in the book *Den kvalitativa forskningsintervjun* Kvale.S Brinkman.S (2017) stress on the line of discourse favoured by som discourse analysts that only what conforms to the discourse analysis should be of relevance.

Att uppfatta det som intervjunpersonen säger som en redogörelse innebär att män ser tal allmänhet som slags social handling som får verkningar och gör något i den situation som det är en del av. Detta perspektiv på intervjun delas av många diskursanalytiker och samtalsanalytiker, som medvetet begränsar sig till det som sägs i intervjun som situerad interaktion och bara bygger på dragen i den diskurs som återfinns i de talande yttrende8page 67.

The authors explanation on discourse analysis is that the context of the interview very much is reliant on the use of language and how this is interpretered by interviewer. Interviews as a social thing is very much alive to the directions of the discourse under question and the understanding of the interviewee on the subject matter.

Gee.P.G. G (2011) argues that words not only covey a message but do so within a certain context and thus is contextualised within a wider context be it social or political. The other approach to discourse analysis, which we can call critical (as in critical discourse analysis) answer this question differently.

Their goal is not just to describe how language works or even to offer deep explanations, though they do want to do this. They also want to speak to and, perhaps, intervene in, social or political issues, problems, and controversies in the world. They want to apply their work to the world in some fashion9. page 9.

The author shows the importance discourse analysis has on this type of interaction between the respondents and the interviewer. As a tool of discourse, I equipped myself as a researcher

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with enough knowledge on what feminism is, and as explained by the author Gee.P.G. Gee in an introduction to discourse analysis in the chapter on context and reflexivity. The importance to understand and decipher meaning in what is both said and written within a certain context. The author further explains that we dont say or write everything but its upto the other party to understand the said word within the context in which it is said and reflect on what the actual meaning or intention is. Gee (2011) definition builds on his argument.

What is that it is important to realize that, in the end, these terms are ultimately our ways as theoreticians and analysts of talking about, and, thus, constructing and construing the world. And it is in this guise that I am primarily interested in them. They are “tools of inquiry.” “Social languages,” Discourse” and conversations are thinking devices that guide us to ask certain sorts of questions\textsuperscript{10} page 14

Even simple utterances can hold deeper meaning and this should be of consequence when conducting an interview. It should also be pointed out that the context in which words and other gestures are used by the interviewee play an important role in the analysis and understanding of concepts within a certain field. In my analysis of the interviews I have in specific instances come across a very detailed and comprehensive knowledge on matters feminism among my respondents and to make this conclusion I have this excerpt of an answer of one respondent (The 3 respondent).

Intersectionality contributes to an already volatile situation by exacerbating the problems faced by the immigrant women who in her own right is encumbered by male injustices that has been the norm in several cultures outside the borders of Europe.\textsuperscript{11}.

This is a pointer to the indepth knowledge i got in response to answer on the question of intersectionality? The use of discourse analysis in my study was prompted by the need to interprate the use of both the language and the discourse on feminism among my respondents.

2:2: criticism of qualitative research interviews

The criticism of this method of study is built on the principal that in trying to control the validity of the information collected during the interview, selective perception can create a bigger problem as explained in the book \textit{kvalitativa forskningsintervjun} Kvale&

\textsuperscript{11} Respondent 3
Brinkman (2017) explains that the critical analysis of what was said in the interview is of importance in order to get a unbiased perspective(Forskaren anlägger en kritisk syn på analys, presenterar sitt perspektiv på det undersökta ämnet och de kontroller som gjorts för att motverka selektiv perception och snedvriden tolkning.)

12 This as explained poses a selection perception whereby the researcher runs into the risk of mixing the collected information with his/her own views about the subject matter thereby putting the objectivity of the whole research to question. Kvale & Brinkman (2017) Further explains that the interviewer need not question the informant on his/her personal opinions “

Några intervjuundersökare är aktiva under intervjuandet och tillåter sig att ifrågasatta intervjuårens yttranden för att därigenom kommer ifrån den godtroga attityd som präglar många intervjuundersökanden 13 .

13 page 351

As explained by Kvale and Brinkman its of vital importance that the researcher has to some extent be part of the process(interview)to give it a picture of participation by both parties and by so doing the research will be have been done within the perimeters that define a good qualitative research technique.

2: STUDY OF FEMINISM.

Feminism as a concept is geared towards the improvement of womens rights in all fields and feminism is a concept that has mutated over the years due to different factors. While the general understanding is that feminism is all about women and women rights, the stereotyping of this concept is to say the least an understatement because of different reasons. Feminism as described in the book Cultural Studies by Barker & Jane.E. A (2012). (Feminism has come through various waves each embodying a unique set of challenges to be overcome and in this regard the circumstances prevailing at the time dictated the sort of challenges feminists encountered. These different waves as explained were)14 The first wave of feminist activism is associated with the suffragates movements in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The right to vote was an important step in this fight. This shows that feminism had many waves and each wave associated with a fight for women’s rights. Barker &. Jane.E. A (2012). coined

14 Chris Barker, Emma A. Jane, cultural studies, theory and practice.5th edition Sage publications.pg no 344
what they called (The second wave). This period of feminist history is associated with radical activism such as the theatrical protests at miss America pageants when make up, high heels and bras were thrown into rubbish bins in front of reporters. This type of feminism as explained by the author was more radical and after more rights for women in the political arena. The third wave was more inclined towards the rebellion of old feminists, younger more radical women rebelled against what they saw as old-fashioned sex negative approach. This wave is an extension of the so called postfeminism era. Feminism is a social movement geared towards the betterment and improvement of rights across the gender divide, feminism as a social concept very much has different variants created by different social settings and while all feminists most important task is equity, the fight for these rights is very much a theory-based thing that defines itself as unique and an independent concept. In this study of feminism i will concentrate on three types of feminism, each unique and informed by diverse factors. Barker. C&Jane.E. A (2012) argue that liberal feminism is more of a social construct than anything else. (Liberal feminism is most associated with the thinking that the differences between women and men are basically a socio-economic construct rather than biological.)

They stress the need for equality of opportunity for women of all spheres. Liberal feminism as explained sees the differences because of the social setup and has nothing whatsoever to do with the biological constructs that exist between the two genders. Liberal feminism sees feminism through the eyes of equality and in this type of feminism the rights of women within the socio-economic setup must be safeguarded and enhanced.

A concept prevalent in the west, where women have the freedom to choose in which everway they want to live, and this frees women from the social-economic structures set to limit their active involvement in matters cultural and political. As such post feminism advocates a libertarian form of feminism founded on women´s capacity to live as free beings as much as their male counterparts. This is to say that women have the inherent rights to choose as they deem without the burden of the male patriarchal obstacles. Postfeminism goes beyond the defined rights of women within the socio-economic context and thus advocates for a more diverse and liberal rights for women in a more profound way than the early feminism. In the book Critical and Cultural thinking, the author Hekman.S (2013) in the capital Feminism discusses an approach that has off late become an issue for academic discourse with postmodern feminism

15 Chris Barker, Emma A. Jane, cultural studies, theory and practice.5th edition Sage publications.pg no 344
16 Chris Barker, Emma A. Jane, cultural studies, theory and practice.5th edition Sage publications.pg no 345.
The authors argue that it’s not only the women gender that defines feminism in today’s complex world, where several other factors come into play and one of the is the intersectionality and without these factors the concept feminism in itself is not complete.

2:1 Suburban feminism

Intersectionality forms the core of my study, intersectionality is the study(analysis) of the interaction of many different factors between people of either different skin color, class and different economic backgrounds and therefore the emergence of suburban feminism cannot be exhausted without discussing intersectionality.

Intersectional analysis begins with a simple point that has complex implications for feminist’s analysis: Its not gender alone that constitutes our identity as women but the intersection of gender within an array of other factors such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, class and ableism.17

Its through the respondents understanding of intersectionality that I as a researcher will use to find out its affects and contributions to suburban feminism. It is a new phenomenon in feminism largely associated with women in the suburbs of major cities in the world in relation to other factors like race and discrimination and was a concept associated with the minority and black women in the USA. This phenomenon has become more profound in Europe owing to immigration in the later years and a result become associated with the immigrant women population living in the suburbs of major European cities. It was first used by the American civil rights advocate Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw who studied the discrimination the black citizens faced in the USA. Kimberlé in her study of the social structures laden with discrimination against minorities and lack of societal safeguards against these forms of dominance of one section of the community against the other and thus coined the phrase intersectionality. Intersectionality is therefore a concept that first come into use in the USA, where race relations between the minority black and the white was at its lowest. The term eventually became more acceptable within the feminism and to a large extent relates to the women in the minority groups, owing to their economic background, race and sexual orientation vis a vis racism and other structured discriminations either by institutions or even the private citizens/bodies. In this short video clip Kimberlé explains the role of women in the political arena and emphasizes on the role of the black women in politics and how race 

played a major role. (Injustices against minorities in the wider context of the prevailing social dynamics within the society)18. Kimberlé confronts this in her presentation in the video. In the study of feminism in one of the suburbs of Stockholm, Juan Velasquez (2011) a study on suburban feminism in one of the suburbs of Stockholm writes this. (I skuggan av mediernas kulturiserad utifrånbeskrivningar har en tilltagande feminisering av segregation gått helt obemärkt förbi)19. This is to say that social setup in the suburbs where segregation is prevalent emerged another form of feminism loosely related to the happenings in the suburbs taking shape. Just like the other forms of feminism being a creation of the prevailing circumstances of a historical period, suburban feminism is a unique form of feminism found in the suburbs of major European cities where different factors form the backbone of this type of feminism. In a Youtube clip on suburban feminism titled (varken hora eller kuvad)20. The organisers of the conference talk on the dangers posed to feminists in the suburbs by traditional male dominance in the immigrant communities where suburban feminism is an emerging theory within wider feminism. The organisation (varken hora eller kuvad) in the video show a tendency whereby it is girls that are affected most when it comes to restrictions imposed on their social life as opposed to the male gender. Suburban feminism as shown above is a new phenomenon within feminism that has its roots in the suburbs of major cities in Europe and this is a result of conflicting social structures and cultures within two different societies that live side by side. It is a hybrid product within feminism that emerged out of several factors prevalent in the suburbs like violence against girls and women, racism and other deep entrenched social structures that make it even more difficult for immigrant women to integrate and as explained in the video clip.

According to Velasquez(2011) in an explanation on the phenomenon of suburban feminism in a video clip (Förotsfeminism - vägen till förändring i eftersatta områden)21 he explains that suburban feminism is not limited to only Sweden but is a worldwide phenomenon that has of late gained traction and fame in many cities specially in the suburbs. The author discusses how the concerned authorities tackled this phenomenon by empowering women through initiatives aimed at lifting up the standards in those areas and making them economically empowered.

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18 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TFy4zRsItY.Inserted 2018/05/10

19 Juan, Velasquez 2011 feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration” och segregation. Sid 175

20 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTU78GJD5t4.Fetched on 2018/05/03

21 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2ttwUFykQ.Fetched on 2018/05/15
This new phenomenon of suburban feminism according to Velasquez (2011) stems out of a need by the immigrant women in forming alliances that will mitigate/insulate against segregation. The class society plays a big role in segregation of immigrant women according to the author.

Mot bakgrund av detta kan Fittja ses som en plats där karaktären av transnationella fält pockar på sociala allianser bland marginaliserade konstellationer av kvinnor. Härnäst vill jag visa hur deras kamp utgår från två bottnar. Den första bottnen bejakar varierande erfarenheter av både arbete och migration. Den andra politiserar diskursen om kulturisering av ”skillnader” för att kunna ställa krav på att utveckla den lokala välfärden med hjälp av en förortsfeministisk jämställdhet.

This strategy among the immigrant women population is a result of a need to pool experiences from their respective countries to be more of an advantage than a hindrance, and the other is using suburban feminism in a more localised way in the welfare system. And as the author Juan Velasquez (2011) in the research paper Segregation och feminiserad förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration” och segregation explains that feminism is structured along the inadequacies of the societal structures where marginalisation and racism are common and thus enabling women among the immigrant population to a certain extent resort to home made solutions and suburban feminism is a result of this societal faults. The study refers to the unenabling environment the immigrant population faces considering this structures that make it hard to crack an already closed venue to enhance and further the women rights. Suburban feminism as a concept evolved out of the need to find venues in cities(suburbs) where intersectionality poses severe challenges to women who are exposed to societal inadequacies and other disadvantages.

Kvinnorna bejakade känslor för att lyfta fram hur deras stigmatisering, osynliggörande och inslag av marginalisering vilar på återkommande erfarenheter av förnedring, skam, bristande

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22 Juan, Velasquez 2011.feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration” och segregation. Page184

23 Juan, Velasquez 2011.feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration” och segregation. Page180
Women in the two suburbs of Gothenburg and other major cities as cited in the study of Velasquez are confronted on two different fronts and one is the local or the home based male dominated structures already in place and with which women have struggled against for a very long time, the other aspect the author touches on is the discrimination women face from the elite (women) who are already established and belong to a different class. This is to say that women are affected by lack of several factors like stigma and marginalisation that makes their experiences even harder considering the unseen factors like male dominance and cultural hindrances that already affect them.

As explained by Velasquez on the issue of intersectionality, the overview of this study shows a co relation between the intersectionality and förortsfeminism which as explained as follows

När invandrade avkrävs att integreras till det svenska samhället innebär det att ansluta sig till ett redan strukturerat system av sociala relationer bestående av en rad maktojämlikheter. Många har förstått att integration ska vara en ömsesidig process, men man har ännu inte lyckats reda ut vad folk ska integreras till när det gäller strukturella ojämlikheter av klass- och genuspositioner.  

Page177

The author explains the difficulties that the immigrant population faces regarding integration, which as a concept must be taken and enable the structures that make it possible for a better integration. The author explores the difficulties existing between the immigrant communities living in the suburbs and the already established social structures that pose a challenge to immigrants new to Sweden.

3: INTERVIEWS.

The interview of this study was conducted in the suburbs of Gothenburg city and my interaction was of mutual and the answers to my questions, form the basis of this research on feminism in the said suburbs and among the respondents are 8 women of different age Groups. The respondents are from different countries with different cultures, race and religion. The interviews centered around feminism and how different aspects of the effects of

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24 Juan, Velasquez 2011. Feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration” och segregation. Page184
25 Juan, Velasquez 2011. Feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration” och segregation. Page 177
day to day life affects and forms their understanding of feminism. Intersectionality and local cultural practices among women in the immigrant population. The respondents are from different backgrounds and each with a different understanding of feminism will respond to the key question in my study of feminism in the suburbs. To make this research a little more enriching, the respondents are women who are engaged in feminism and the fight to empower women in the suburbs among the immigrant population.

3:1 The respondents understanding of feminism.

The understanding of feminism among the respondents is one anchored on the premise of female equality and the respondents in unison agree that feminism as a concept is geared towards the betterment of the women population. Respondent 2 while in agreement with the general assessment made observed that feminism cannot fit the narrow description that its a concept for women survival and equality but rather a concept very difficult to fit into any known description vis a vis the existing circumstances like intersectionality that in turn affects both men and women. The respondent further described feminism as theory that touches on all facets of life. Feminism according to Respondent 4

   It is a concept that can be understood differently by different people owing to different orientations be it cultural, religious and even the dominance of male gender in those purely patriarchal societies. But the core values within feminism are very much related irrespective of the genre of feminism one talks about, its the advancement of women rights be it the right to vote, participate actively in the determination of their future and social dynamics in the society.26

This the respondent noted it is not limited to countries outside of the European continent but its growing phenomena prevalent in Sweden among the immigrant communities. The understanding of feminism among the respondents was one in which differences in opinion was clear among the respondents due to the cultural and religious backgrounds.

   Feminism is all about women and women rights, the differences in culture notwithstanding women rights are universal and womens participation in the determination of their life must be guaranteed27

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26 Respondent 4
27 Respondent 1
The respondents understanding of feminism was on centered on the rights of self determination and the active participation in their day to day activities without the encumberances of discrimination and other forms of subjugation.

3:2 The respondents understanding of intersectionality in feminism.

The first respondent had this to say when asked how intersectionality affects women in the suburbs, and to which extent does intersectionality affect feminism. This question elicited different responses from the respondent and all participants responded at length on the said question with different sense of attachment to how intersectionality affects and forms their understanding of suburban feminism and feminism in general in the suburbs. This made the interview a little more interesting and attractive to my respondents. I have in the first segment of the interview decided to explore and get the understanding the respondents

Intersectionality is a very big challenge to women in their efforts to advance women rights and welfare, and the situation is more dire for us who live in the suburbs, we initially had our own unique challenges when it comes to cultural barriers that limited the rise of women in the equality equation. This phenomenon further limits our progress and we find it more difficult than women who live here28.

This observation of the 8 respondents succinctly puts across the difficulties intersectional analysis vis a vis cultural tendencies pose to women who were originally underprivileged by cultural hindrances. Its by no means an easy struggle to break through the barriers of intersectionality, which as observed by the respondent is well and alive in the suburbs. The interview covered several aspects of feminism and i had to in respect to my respondents right from the beginning promised anonymity and utmost respect to their views and feelings on this subject which many of my respondent felt very much attached to. Respondent 2 had the following in an answer to the subject of intersectionality

Intersectionality has a rather more profound impact on feminism as a whole and this not only affects feminism in the suburbs, it also affects women across the cultural divide for we live in a male dominated society, whereby the best of jobs and other social amenities are reserved for the upper class and women considered elites, and this affects women more so women of their areas of residence.29

28 Respondent 7
29 Respondent 2
This respondent’s understanding of intersectionality is one formed out of a deeper and more emotional response to how intersectionality affects women in general and in particular women in the suburbs who are subject to a different standard when it comes to the social setup. The issue of racism and elite among women outside the suburbs affects the upward mobility and progress in different spheres according to the respondent. The respondent views intersectionality in light of the judgement women go through not because they are women, but an individual subjected to intersectionality and other factors affecting their capacity to chart their own course.

Intersectionality is real in feminism and the most affected are women in the suburbs with high unemployment rates among the immigrant population, with low literacy levels and difficulties in the language of instructions in both the public and private sectors. The prospects in most cases are grim and hopelessness is high and real, and this poses a threat to the gains made in feminism and intersectionality is among factor in feminism.\(^{30}\)

The respondent in her observation believed intersectionality has an immense effect on feminism specially among the most affected in immigrant community and those she explains are the female gender, that finds difficult to integrate and learn the language fast enough to considered for employment and fully integrated.

Intersectionality contributes to an already volatile situation by exacerbating the problems faced by the immigrant women who in her own right is encumbered by male injustices that has been the norm in several cultures outside the borders of Europe.\(^ {31}\)

The respondent emphasized on the disadvantage intersectionality creates in an atmosphere already limited by the dominace of the male gender in societies where its culturally accepted that the male gender has the dominant role within the family and in the wider context regard as the leader who leads and guides all that the family does or will do. The respondent in her answer to the question on intersectionality points out that immigrant women has for a long time being hindered by cultures that view women as subservient to the male and thereby making gender discrimination accepted. The intersectional dynamism in the wider society makes it more difficult for the women already affected by stereotypical prejudices.

The intersectional factors at play like race and discrimination based on factors outside the scope of the women in the suburbs, makes integration into the society difficult and this makes it even

\(^{30}\) Respondent 3
\(^{31}\) Respondent 5
more difficult for women in the suburbs to come in the society and participate actively in politics and other fields that dictate the direction the society takes, because of the bigger problem of language.32

The issue of integration or lack of it, features in the respondents answer on the question of intersectionality and this is made much worse by the lack of language that makes it difficult to come into the society and thus find it even more difficult to chart a course favourable to women in the suburbs in general. Language plays an important role in the functions of the society which without is next to impossible to integrate and be part of the society and thus is intersectionality an area of major concern to the suburban women, who is either of low literacy level or completely illiterate. Intersectionality in this country where the family is not as extended as in the immigrant puts a limit to women with many children and living in a wider extended family.

The possibility of coming in the society is hampered by a system that favours the educated women and thus making integration difficult for the immigrant women. The immigrant comes into a society of non-existent illiteracy level and this makes it difficult for the immigrant women right from the word go to compete and actively participate in many areas like the job market. They are disadvantaged long before the women come into the job market.33

The respondent believed women living in the suburbs face difficulties due to low educational levels in a society that has highly skilled Labour and a very high literacy levels as compared to the immigrant population that is bedevilled by illiteracy and low skills. This means that the immigrant women stand little chance in making a break in the society. Intersectionality according to the respondent around educational levels is the single most important challenge that makes the immigrant women suffer the consequences of illiteracy, which include but not limited to higher unemployment rates. The worst affected according to the respondent were the women population that finds avenues for job and other incoming generating ventures inaccessible.

To understand intersectionality, we must understand that two communities with varying interests, backgrounds and cultures met and, in the process, intersectional problems are inevitable and the issue i find most important in answering my question is the economic background as an important indicator in how much the immigrant populations advance in their quest for equal opportunities. The immigrant population in comparison to the host community are as

32 Respondent 1
33 Respondent 1
economically endowed as the host community. The high employment rates among the immigrant population makes this makes the problem more acute and further raises the divide between the more endowned economically and the less endowned even bigger. The most affected are the women population that finds it difficult to both raise their children and work, on average the family size of the immigrant community is bigger than the Swedish family. This puts a strain on the purchasing power of the immigrant women owing to her low economic levels.\textsuperscript{34}

The respondents understanding of intersectionality was one of deep understanding on the existing difference between the immigrant populations needs and the already established society that had other aspirations. She pointed out that the economy plays an important role in the intersectionality questions and this according to the respondent puts alot of constrains on the purchasing power of the immigrant population that was already affected by economic constrains, poverty becomes real and the divide between those who have and those who dont increases year after year according to the respondent. According to the respondent the suburban feminist is always at a disadvantage due to low family income as well as high unemployment levels in the suburbs and specially in the immigrant communities. Poor integration in the society and lack of proper knowledge in how the system works, and the disadvantage of having no contacts in the job market are some of the problems suburban women face. Contact is an important ingredient as far as a integration is concerned and this lacks really in the suburbs where the contact between the immigrant community and host community is virtually non existent. Its difficult to integrate and this process needs two parties for it to be a reality, there exists a vacuum in the process.

In some of the suburbs its purely an immigrant population area, with little or no local populations living there, and this is one of the reasons intersectionality is a reality in the suburbs.\textsuperscript{35}

The respondent explained the reasons behind the intersectional issues in the suburbs and what makes it a reality. The respondent observed that in some suburbs are mainly populated by the immigrant population and for this reason, she attributes it to the lack of contact between the communities and hence stifling integration. The respondent points out this as one of the reasons why the schisms between the immigrant population and the local population is widening and further increasing the threshold of coming in to the market place even higher.

\textsuperscript{34} Respondent 8
\textsuperscript{35} Respondent 6
The respondent further explains that for integration to succeed and mitigate the effects of intersectionality within feminism, contact between those integrating and those receiving the immigrant communities be at an all time high.

3:2 The effect of culture on feminism in the suburbs.

Culture has a profound effect on feminism and feminister in the suburbs and as pointed out by respondent 3. culture is what drives the type of feminism we have in the suburbs and women mostly bound by this have a mutated variety of feminism, that operates by and large within the confines of what we have as culture and at the same time advocate and fight for women rights. This points out that feminism in the suburbs is an issue very much tied to both cultural and religious orientations and one that is not free from other outside interferences like racism. Respondent 6 explained that feminism in the suburbs is not only.

Affected by the cultural practices prevalent among the immigrant population in the suburbs but by the very liberal forms of feminism in Sweden, this is creating a culture shock that makes women draw back and seek solace in their cultural traditions.36

This is was something several of the respondents pointed out in the interview and one which they described as a major hindrance in the fulfillment of their fight for women rights. Women view everything that is incompatible with their culture with suspicion and at times avoid it all together according to the respondent.

The respondents all in the affirmative responded that culture has a profound effect on how feminism is driven in the suburbs. According to respondent 8, culture shock is real in the suburbs among the immigrant communities, (who are torn between the very reserved form of feminism anchored on the patriarchal structures and the liberal forms of feminism practiced most in Sweden)37. The respondent in her answer to the question on the effect of culture on feminism had observed that culture while a hindrance to feminism in the family structures, also inadvertently affects feminism when immigrant women come into contact with the radical feminism that is prevalent in Sweden. (Culture cuts both ways when it comes to feminism)38. The first respondent believed culture compliments feminism and limits also the extent to which feminists can agitate and fight for women rights in the country. The respondent in her analysis points out the patriarchal structures helps to a certain extent

36 Respondent 6
37 Respondent 8
38 Respondent 1
whereby the man in the family helps the woman achieve and fulfill her ambitions and that no one can do anything useful alone and in the same vein the respondent was of the opinion that while culture can compliment feminism it also limits feminism by placing a lot of restrictions on what women can do through the restrictive cultural structures prevalent among the immigrant communities.

Culture plays an important role in how women in the suburbs define feminism and this affects as much as intersectionality, the male dominance plays an important role in the new definition of feminism, as feminism always takes form and shape depending on the factors having effect on it.39

The respondent believes cultural orientation affects women as much as intersectionality and this is because women face the same problems in the male dominated cultures. While we appreciate feminism as a concept geared towards the equality of the sexes in all aspects of life, there is still more to be done. The respondent was adamant that there still exists a sexist tendency in the distribution of jobs and other social amenities and women in general come second when it matters most. This coupled with the existing socio-economic disparity make it even more difficult for women living in the suburbs to progress.

The third respondent in her answer to the same question had the following to say.

This in a way explains that feminism despite the gains made in recent years still faces multiple challenges that make it even more difficult for women in the suburbs. Cultural practices not compatible with the existing realities and the laws of the country pose equally debilitating challenges to feminism as much as the intersectional effects like discrimination. Male dominance, domestic violence and subjugation of women rights by the male gender are among the problems women face in their pursuit of equal rights and feministic rights.40

The results of this reveals the deep-seated feelings across the respondents that feminism in the suburbs is a result of different factors that contribute to suburban feminism that is a variant of the mainstream feminism and one that is unique to the suburbs.

Cultural influences in feminism in the suburbs is a reality and this hampers women to a disturbing extent and feminism faces a two-pronged challenge that have devastating effects on the gains made by women in many areas. Is an issue to contend with when dealing with

39 Respondent 3
40 Respondent 7
feminism in the suburbs because immigrant women have a lot of challenges not the least the issue of language barrier which makes it even more difficult to penetrate the labour market.\textsuperscript{41}

The respondent in her observation the effects of culture on feminism in this area (the suburbs) depicted a clear and defined challenge hindering the immigrant women from achieving an meaningful progress as long as those factors associated with cultural effects and intersectionality pose this challenges that are real in the suburbs. The respondent described the two as twins that bedevill the feminist agenda in the suburbs and the effect on feminism is immense.

Respondent 5 in her answer to the question of how culture affects feminism describes it as follows.

Culture is an important aspect of human life and we as the immigrant community have both bad and good culture, but the major problem here is that one comes into a system so established that demands that communities have to adapt to the new ways of doing things and this makes it rather difficult to integrate successfully, culture shock combined with the other hindrances like language are part of the problem the immigrant community faces and those affected to a large scale are women and those who come here in their adult life.\textsuperscript{42}

The respondent pointed out the cultural differences between the immigrant community and the host community and says that in the event that the two collide its the immigrant who lose his/her identity because the immigrant has come to an already established culture and systems and its the immigrant who is supposed to integrate and take after the host communities norms and ways of doing things.

3:3 overview of the study

In the study of feminism in the suburbs of Gothenburg i have as matter of strict observance of the ethics of interviewing respondents used the guideliness as enumerated in the book Den kvalitativa forskningsintervjun. Kvale and Brinkmann in the book. \textit{Den kvalitativa forskningsintervju} explain the need to observe several guidance during the interview to avoid ethical questions around the interview itself. This to say that prior information to the interviewer is necessary in the collection of information. The need to inform the respondents

\textsuperscript{41} Respondent 6
\textsuperscript{42} Respondent 5
prior to the actual interview is of paramount importance and this in turn gives the respondents time to prepare long before the interview.

-Avoided open ended questions that guide the respondents into answering in anyway that is prejudicial to fairness and objectivity. The understanding of feminism in the suburbs among my respondents varied and with the questions posed i got different answers and I

-Avoided questions that have a yes or no answer.

- Personal opinions have not in anyway come in and the respondent’s questions will be the only guide in the collection and the collation of information.

One of the respondents on the question on how feminism has affected women in the suburbs had the following as her answer.

    That feminism in Sweden by and large is very different to what i have experienced before i come here and women here are in control of their families and even within the official sector, whereby in women in my opinion are well represented when it comes to the government departments and the social services but in my opinion women are not very much visible in the higher echelons of the socio-economic strata.43

This is to say that women have a bigger say in lower strata of the societal structures but not very visible where it matters most according to the respondent. The general overview of the study is one of mixed experiences where several of the respondents agree that while feminism as a concept is well developed in the country women still are behind men in several sectors. The respondents also observed that cultural practices while a hindrance to the core beliefs of feminists also enhances feminism in different ways. Feminism in the suburbs is a mix of different sorts owing to the different cultures and religious orientation between the respondents

According to several of the respondents in response to the question on the ideal feminism in the suburbs. Respondent 2 had this explaination.

    While we consider ourselves feminists and very much within the scope and context of the feminist agenda, we have modelled our struggles of equality after the needs of the immigrant women in relation to our unique circumstances both within and without the confines of the suburbs we live in.44

43 Respondent 1
44 Respondent 2
It is along this reasoning that the respondent sees feminism is a product of different factors some conflicting and others complimenting each other within feminism in the suburbs. The respondent was clear in her response that intersectionality plays an important role in the social construction and within the feminism movement as a whole.

The context within which feminism is understood in the suburbs depends on several factors as enumerated by the respondents in the study. One of the respondents had the following observation on what she referred to as (more liberal feminism) as term she describes vividly in her observation of feminism in Sweden, the respondent further describes this sort of feminism as one which is beyond her understanding of feminism as far as she can identity herself with feminism. The respondent in her observation explains that,

	Sometimes the borderline on what should be accepted within feminism is not clear and in many cases feminism as concept becomes a hard to understand theory and when it should be an issue of equality between the sexes.45.

The respondent further questions the logic of having the so-called liberalism within feminism when women still are behind men in many spheres in life like discrimination in the labour market with low salaries and other forms of discrimination.

Feminism as a concept in the suburbs is influenced by culture and other factors and it doesn’t only come as a ready package intended for women but a concept that affects even men and one that is understood out of different perspectives depending on multiple factors as explained by the respondent. The respondents argued that women who hail from a male dominated society have to do with a whole lot more complex sort of a setup very different from the setup in Sweden and therefore feminism and feminist are encountered with a very variety of issues in their pursuit of women rights.

4: Discussion.

In the analysis of this study i have considered the earlier studies done on feminism in the suburbs, the literature relevant to my study and most important of all, the interviews with my respondent who experience and live the life of feminism in the suburbs of Gothenburg city.

The understanding of feminism in the suburbs among my respondents varied and this was evident with the answers provided by the respondents. Their understanding of the theory

45 Respondent 4
feminism was very much a reflection of the background the respondents come from and the prevailing circumstances in the suburbs.46

Feminism in the suburbs is anchored on the cultural and religious dispensation in most cases was the answer to the question on the factors influencing feminism in the suburbs. The first respondent answered in the affirmative to the question that cultural background has a deeper and more profound effect on how feminism is driven in the suburbs.

4:1 Results

The results of this study show that the connection between intersectionality and feminism is much deeper and all the interviewee assert that the societal structure prevalent in the suburbs affect feminism in a much more profound way than is admitted and that women are more or less the affected party in this part of the city. Issues like race and gender affect and limit the progresses women make thus further increase the gap between men and women and between women of different orientations like class, educational levels and areas of residences. The study with the help of the respondents answers to the questions posed and both the litterature and the earlier research done on the subject show that intersectionality and have both a profound effect on how feminism as a theory has mutated and adopted its own form reflecting on both the needs and the circumstances on the ground.Feminism faces challenges ranging from intersectionality to cultural hindrances and in the suburbs where most of the immigrant population lives it is much more profound. The results of the study show the corelations between segregation and förortsfeminism and the emergence of a feministisic theory more adaptable and more appealing to the immigrantpopulation that faces challenges more so the women population that is exposed to a two-pronged challenge both at home and outside. According to respondent 7, we face deep rooted prejudices eminating from our cultures and this coupled with segregation from the outside society makes it difficult for us.

This in a way explains that feminism despite the gains made in recent years still faces multiple challenges that make it even more difficult for women in the suburbs. Cultural practices not combatible with the existing realities and the laws of the country pose equally debilitating challenges to feminism as much as the intersectional effects like discrimination. Male dominance, domestic violence and subjugation of women rights by the male gender are among the problem’s women face in their pursuit of equal rights and feministic rights.47

46 Respondent 1
47 Respondent 7
The results of this reveals the deep-seated feelings across the respondents that feminism in the suburbs is a result of different factors that contribute to suburban feminism that is a variant of the mainstream feminism and one that is unique to the suburbs.

4:2 Conclusion.

The study of feminism in the suburbs of Gothenburg among the immigrant women population showed the correlation between suburban feminism and the prevailing socio-economic conductions in the suburbs. It’s evident both in the interviews and the earlier research done about suburban feminism that socio-economic conditions in areas mostly inhabited by immigrants largely play a dominant role in the creation of the new phenomenon of suburban feminism. The reality of suburban feminism is a real in the two areas i undertook to study according to the respondents and as pointed out in the earlier research done on the same using the intersectional analysis prevalent between the immigrant community and the Swedish society. The respondents have in one way or the other encountered feminism before they immigrated to Sweden and as clearly pointed out in their answers that suburban feminism in comparision to other forms of feminism is a product of the social-economic setups and intersectionality that women face in their respective suburbs. Suburban feminism according to the research of Velasquez(2011) and the respondents is a result of multiple factors that prevail in the suburbs and a result is a phenomenon unique to the suburbs different from the types of feminism, that are shaped either out of ideology or other perspectives. According to the answers provided by the respondents it can be deduced that suburban feminism in comparision to the other genres of feminism is a result of external forces and not an ideological product. This phenomena of the emergence of a new type of feminism specially nurtured in the suburbs of major cities across the world has elicited profound interest and more research solely focused on feminism in the suburbs has off late being a trend. Its hard to come in the society when one must begin all over specially if somebody has migrated as an adult, according to respondent 6.

I came here recently and didn’t have a structured educational background and I found it hard to learn the language and this limited me from fully integrating in the society because language holds the key to everything in the society. 48

48 Respondent 6
According to the respondent women in the adult ages specially those with little or no educational background find it challenging in integrating successfully due to a myriad of challenges, not the least language barriers and cultural differences between even among the immigrant populations themselves not to mention the host society.

The respondents understanding of feminism in the suburbs according to the interviews was one shaped by the effects of intersectionality and the cultural practices prevalent among some of the immigrant communities and all in one way or the other pointed out on the need to do away with these two major hindrances so that a favourable variant of suburban feminism can be achieved. Respondent 2 in her observation on the question on the effects of culture on suburban feminism pointed out that while culture affects feminism to a large extent, liberal feminism according to the respondent was also no of no help considering that it only exists in theory while in practice the female gender is way behind the male gender in the distribution of jobs and other amenities. She pointed out the disparities between the two genders still exists to this date.

Earlier research done on suburban feminism is not as extensive as the other forms of feminism, because the phenomenon has only emerged recently and is limited to the suburbs of western cities among the multicultural communities. Its evident that intersectional politics plays an important role in how this new phenomenon takes form and shape because of the effects or lack thereof of intersectionality and cultural orientations. The research points out a poignant factor that sticks out and that is, the problem of the immigrant population coming to an already established societies with structures and culture and are therefore forced to adapt in most cases, those at risk of missing out are women and the minorities in general. That suburban feminism is feminism borne out of a need to create alliances to mitigate marginalisation as pointed out in the research of Velasquez (2011) social rights for women in the suburbs who are exposed to intersectionality and lack of integration.

Suburban feminism is now an accepted phenomenon within feminism and has in equal measure attracted attention thus exposing the subject to more research in understanding both its causes and effects. Since the emergence of this phenomenon interest of the same has been on the upward although the studies in this field are limited to multiculturalism and its effects on the immigrant women population. Little research has been done on suburban feminism in comparison to the other theories and perspectives within the wider feminism and this thus limits research materials available on the subject despite the interest on suburban feminism. Earlier research done in the suburbs of Stockholm Velasquez (2011) show that immigrant
women have difficulties in integrating due to either misunderstanding on what integration means or the undefined integration policies.

Suburban feminism in comparison to the other forms of feminism that emerged out of either ideological perceptions or as movements aimed at fostering women rights and equality is a result of circumstances prevalent in the suburbs of cities where intersectionality and lack of integration is either wanting or limited. Earlier research done by Velasquez (2011) in the suburbs of Stockholm showed an existing tendency of immigrant women forming groups to either mitigate against intersectionality issues or enhancing their own advancement in integrating and creating opportunities for themselves. The research points out several factors that lead to immigrant women feel exposed to segregation and discrimination both from within (the male gender) and the women elite (the class aspect). The internal factors of culture and the male dominance in the immigrant populations social setups plays a deciding factor as much as the external factors like class, racism and segregation. The new phenomenon of suburban feminism is a direct attribute of the circumstances the immigrant women population face in the suburbs where intersectionality issues like segregation exist. The formation of groups aimed at creating awareness among themselves and creating a buffer to threats to the immigrant women population both the internal factors and the external factors is a precursor to the emergence and existence of suburban feminism in the suburbs of Gothenburg.
REFERENCE LIST

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Velasquez, J (2011). Feminiserad segregation och förortsfeminism i Fittja. Om behovet av ny forskning och nya perspektiv på ”integration ” och segregation.


YOUTUBE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYpELqKZ02Q. Fetched on 2018.05.02.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTU78GJD5t4. Fetched on 2018/05/03
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2lttwUFykQ. Fetched on 2018/05/15
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TFy4zRsltY. Inserted 2018/05/10

RESPONDENTER

Respondent 1–36 years – Bergsjön Gothenburg

Respondent 2–27 years- Bergsjön Gothenburg

Respondent3-31 years- Biskopsgården Gothenburg

Respondent4-21 years- Biskopsgården Gothenburg

Respondent5-30 years- Biskopsgården Gothenburg

Respondent6-45 years. Bergsjön Gothenburg
Respondent 7–57 years- Bergsjön Gothenburg

Respondent8-52-years- Biskopsgården Gothenburg

ELECTRONIC

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYpELqKZ02Q.Fetched on 2018.05.02.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTU78GJD5t4.Fetched on 2018/05/03
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2tltwUFykQ.Fetched on 2018/05/15
Attachment of the interview

The following questions formed the base of this study

. How does intersectionality affect feminism in the suburbs?

. What is your understanding of feminism?

. Does cultural background affect feminism in your area of residence?
ABDULLAHI O MAR

Besöksadress: Kristian IV:s väg 3
Postadress: Box 823, 301 18 Halmstad
Telefon: 035-16 71 00
E-mail: registrator@hh.se
www.hh.se