

Feminism and Ideals In A Romantic Relationship Among Female Malaysian Undergraduates

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ABSTRACT

The advocacy of women's rights on the basis of gender equality has become the major force behind societal changes. Feminism also plays major role in sexual and romantic relationships as women has more power to choose their partner. This has also led to major marital problems such as increase in divorce rates around Malaysia. Thus, this study aimed to find the relationship between feminism and ideals in a romantic relationship including the most and least preferred aspects of ideal partner by a pro-feminist. It also aimed to find out if feminism influences ideal romantic partner and ideals in a romantic relationship. The Attitude towards Women Scale (AWS) and Ideal Partner and Ideal Relationship Scales were used. Female undergraduates in Malaysia from both private and public universities were recruited. Descriptive data showed that partner resources and partner warmth were the least and most important aspects of ideal partner respectively. Pearson correlation analysis has found that there was no significant relationship between feminism, ideal romantic partner and ideals in a romantic relationship. It shows that feminist nowadays are more open-minded and do not restrict their preferences. They do not stick to conventional ideas of having preferred or "must-have" characteristics but are well exposed to accept human differences. These insignificant results showed that other variables such as generational differences, upbringing, educational opportunities could be tested in the extended version of this research. These preliminary findings could be useful in creating new solutions to divorce cases in Malaysia, understanding modern feminism better and improving human relationships in general.