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## Implementation of Feminism in an Islamic Perspective

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### Abstract

*Feminism is a movement that results from the awareness that women are discriminated against and always under men. This study aims to describe the notion of feminism, to describe the history of feminism, and to describe the implementation of feminism from an Islamic perspective. The method used is a qualitative approach, library research, and descriptive methods. The results of the research are the notion of feminism, which linguistically means feminine, and in terms, it is a movement or reaction to the liberation of women in demanding discriminated rights which become a concept, ideology, and belief or belief understanding of equal rights between women and men. From its history, the term feminism first appeared in France in 1908 AD by Charles Fourier, and its development was divided into three waves. From its implementation, there are many negative impacts of feminism which refers to promiscuity which is contrary to Islam.*

**Kata kunci:** *Feminism, History of feminism, Implementation of feminism, Islamic perspective*

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### Introduction

Feminist scholarship experienced a sudden and astonishing rise at the turn of the 20th century, and regarded this as affecting increasing women's access to higher education. It is becoming more usual for women to enroll in prestigious universities and hold influential positions, but this is not without difficulties or struggles. (Hidayati, 2018). This criticism or perspective is purely theoretical, but in reality, this is a true failure of feminism. It has been acknowledged that the development of feminism has improved the situation of women. (Karim, 2014).

The application of feminism from an Islamic viewpoint entails talking about how far it goes both as a method and as a brand-new ideology for understanding and affecting Islam. Islam brings and establishes women in a position that is appropriate for them and in which they cannot be supplanted by males. The hadith "...your mother, your mother, your mother, then your father" also glorifies women. While they claim that feminism has a beneficial effect that increases their sense of dignity, it also has several unfavorable effects that encourage Muslim immorality.

Previous research in this research is (Adaruddin, 2020) which describes Islamic Perspective Feminism. Then research (Gafur, 2015) obtained the conclusion that feminism might be a technique for researching Islam. Further study (Ismail, 2019) offers advice for Islamic feminists as well as descriptions of various feminist models. The goal of the current research is to define feminism, describe its history, and describe how it has been implemented from an Islamic perspective. Building on this previous research, the current research presents research that is very different from previous research.

The fact that this research is the first to address the issue of feminism in this manner makes it extremely essential to investigate. Additionally, it can provide a new perspective, particularly for authors and other researchers who plan to address the same research issue as the current study. It is hoped that it would offer knowledge of the topic of feminism from an

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Islamic perspective in terms of understanding, history, and application. It can also be an intellectual addition to the scientific research model.

## Method

The methodology for this study is a literature review. This study examines the definition, development, and application of feminism from an Islamic viewpoint. To make this research organized and effective, the findings are explained by first presenting the data, commencing with data description, data explanation, and data linkages. Only books and journal articles that have been determined to be discussed are examined in this study. Lecturers with experience in this area of study have directed, presented, and evaluated each paragraph in this research. The reason for the selection of objects in feminism is that it is becoming more and more pervasive and penetrates a variety of disciplines that can affect a person's ideas, including Islam.

This study is part of a qualitative strategy that uses descriptive research techniques for a library-based study. The descriptive approach is used to identify the constituent parts, traits, or qualities of a phenomenon. (Suryana, 2010). The type of data employed, namely qualitative data, shows the data. Data that is qualitative does not take the shape of numbers but rather takes the form of words. (Siyoto & Sodik, 2015). This research's data was gathered using techniques for document collecting from books and journals, which were then compiled into notes that were then identified as data based on the research's sources. In the meanwhile, this research uses both primary and secondary data sources, depending on the source. Primary data sources are those that researchers gather and take directly from, whereas secondary data sources are those that researchers take from already-existing sources. (Siyoto & Sodik, 2015). Primary data in this research comes from a book written by Ivan Strenski with the title *Primary data in this research comes from a book written by Ivan Strenski with title is *Understanding Theories of Religion* that originates from journal publications, namely (Andrianti, 2011), (Sabhamis, 2012), (Gafur, 2015), (Mahmud & Thanthawi, 2016), (Zulaiha, 2016), (Izziyana, 2016), (Abdullah, 2018), (Abbas, 2020), (Adaruddin, 2020). While secondary data comes from sources other than those listed above, like books and journal articles.*

Research stages based on stages Jonh Creswell. First, it begins with identifying the issue, which is represented by the research's theme, feminism and Islam; next, it looks for theoretical studies, exploration, or discussion, specifically looking for the definition of feminism, its background, and its application from an Islamic perspective; and finally, it looks for practical studies and discussion; Thirdly, establish and specify study objectives, including defining feminism, tracing its development, and discussing it from an Islamic viewpoint; Fourthly, compile all the information acquired, choose the information, and choose the information that will be written about in this study; sixth, summarizing and interpreting the data after analyzing and classifying it into understanding, which also involves history and execution; Overall, the six writings are descriptive. Then descriptive library research methods, which are closely related to content analysis, are used to gather data. Data processing, organization, division into smaller forms, and search for and identification of common themes and patterns are all parts of analysis. (Raco, 2018).

## Result and Discussion

### 1. Definition of Feminism

The term "feminism" refers to a movement of women who call for complete equality of rights between two groups—women and men—and is derived from the word "feminine," an adjective (nature) that means "feminine." "Femininity" (noun) refers to something connected

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to or resembling femininity. (Pusat Bahasa, 2008). In English language textbooks, it is a basic tenet that every person must have a similar standard of behavior to that of their fellow citizens. (Oxford, 2011). Meanwhile (Andrianti, 2011) mentions that the word "feminism" is a movement that runs counter to the knowledge that women are the targets of suspicious and submissive acts. Feminism (Sabhamis, 2012) is a movement of women fighting against all types of prejudice and dehumanization because they were born as women. As stated (Gafur, 2015) Demanding gender equality is what feminism is all about. Feminism followed suit. (Mahmud & Thanthawi, 2016) is a collection of intellectual and philosophical ideas that aims to comprehend the origins and effects of discrimination against women to better women's situations and possibilities in all spheres.

Furthermore says that feminism is a concept that involves rethinking the institution of the family in the context of society and is intimately tied to social transformation, women's liberation movements, development theories, and women's political awareness. According to (Izziyana, 2016) feminism is a response and resistance to circumstances that are unjust and oppressive for women as well as a tool for illuminating the underlying reasons of oppression for women. According to (Abdullah, 2018) feminism is the purposeful effort of both men and women to alter the status quo regarding the oppression and exploitation of women in society, the workplace, and even the home. The movement known as feminism (Abbas, 2020) rejects the idea that women are essentially oppressed by society. According to (Adaruddin, 2020) feminism is an ideology that fights for freedom for women to no longer be marginalized, not exploited, and not used as objects of male violence. (Wikipedia, 2022) defines feminism as a collection of social and political movements and philosophies that seek to establish and advance social, political, economic, and personal equality for women and men.

Seven definitions state that feminism is a movement. Two references say they aim to equalize rights between men and women. There is also an interpretation of it as freedom. Three references say that it is an awareness of oppression and discrimination as well as in the field of elevating the status of women. Some explain that these movements are dehumanization. Some say that it is a concept, ideology, belief, and belief in re-understanding the causes of discrimination by changing the conditions of women and increasing their opportunities in all fields so that they have the same rights as men. Also states that feminism is a conceptual change in all fields (social, theory, work, politics, and family institutions). There is also mention that it is a reaction and resistance to the awareness experienced by women. So it can be concluded that feminism is a movement or reaction to the liberation of women in demanding rights that are discriminated against which has become a concept, ideology, and belief or belief or understanding in equalizing rights between women and men.

From the many understandings mentioned above, all of them have similarities and differences, some interpret it based on its purpose, some interpret it based on the background of the emergence of feminism, and some try to develop the understanding not only as an awareness, but to the point of dehumanization or reshaping humans as they should be according to feminism. All of this starts from how women demand equal rights with men. Because they feel that up to now women have been considered secondary or of no value, and have been treated harshly and without dignity. Good in social relations with society, in choosing a job, in the right to be elected and choose (politics), in education, and even in the family. Requesting or demanding the right to freedom in all matters, even the right not to marry and not to have children even though you are married. According to (Gafur, 2015) it can be concluded that the main goal of feminism is to rearrange values in terms of gender equality, reject differences between people, eliminate privileges based on gender, and fight for and establish recognition of humanity.

## 2. History of Feminism

The well-known phrase "*equal rights movement*," which referred to an attempt to relieve women of domestic work in the home and family, signaled the start of feminism's emergence. Also known as the women's movement for liberation or simply the women's movement. Concurrently, during the 14th to 18th centuries, the European concept of *aufklarung*, or enlightenment, began to take shape. This had an impact on the French Revolution (1789–

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1793), which was led by the principles of equality, freedom from oppression, and fraternity. (Hidayati, 2018). Some say that feminism was first born in England in 1792, namely, through a book entitled '*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*' by Mary Wollstonecraft. It is also said that the term feminism first appeared in 1808 by Charles Fourier, a French philosopher, as a form of utopian socialism. Then feminism began to develop and form an organized rebel movement that formed various sects (Adaruddin, 2020). It is also stated that the Renaissance (revolt against church domination) was the peak of the rebellion against feudal domination in the 18th century (Gafur, 2015).

Three distinct phases can be identified in the history of feminism. First, the Italian Renaissance (1830–1820) gave rise to a new consciousness in Europe known as individualist feminism, which in its political demands asked for women to have the same rights as men to vote. During this time, feminist icons like Elizabeth Cady Staton, Sojourner Truth, and Mary Wollstonecraft came to prominence. The second phase started in 1920 and lasted until its zenith in 1960–1970. During this time, there was a renewed push to develop a new ideology centered on women's aspirations. The thinking behind the creation of the term "*the personal is political*" led to the desire to transform life from a "*personal*" perspective into a "*political battle*" and a subject of scientific study. In theory, feminism is a recurrent pattern, thus the third era is not too different from the second. The findings offer an analysis of women's perceptions of the middle class in Western Europe and North America. Unknowingly, Western academic feminism has been shaped by masculine perspectives, work processes, techniques, and epistemology (Abdullah, 2018).

Women's equality to participate actively in their lives is at the heart of all these struggles (Suwastini, 2013). Every stage of feminism's evolution has had a distinct set of objectives, beginning with women consciously changing to equalize their rights with men and then having those rights recognized by law. Subsequently, insist on receiving a formal education and women's rights because of the physiological differences between them and men. Many objectives that were unrelated to the original goal of this understanding's creation emerged in the last period. Transparent conversations on feminism began to surface in Indonesia sometime in the 1980s. The rise of women's movement activists like Herawati, Marwah Daud Ibrahim, Wardah Hafidz, and Yulia Surya Kusuma, Marwah Daud Ibrahim and Ratna Megawangi, and others. (Abdullah, 2018); (Zulaiha, 2016).

As a result of granting them access to higher education, feminist thinkers saw an incredible rise near the close of the 20th century. Women are becoming prevalent in colleges across the globe and are having a significant impact, albeit this is not without difficulties or hardships. The West's celebration and joy of diversity—which encompasses not only race, ethnicity, and religion, but also the choice of sex, gender, and sexual orientation—have in reality led to an increase in feminism-related concerns. According to Butler, gender is a construct that is simply employed to describe how men and women play different roles in society based on expectations rather than on enduring physical differences between the sexes. It is said that gender is not innate but rather the result of societal construction and personal preference (Hidayati, 2018). It is acknowledged that the feminist movement improved the lot of women in many ways. Although this critique is theoretical, it frequently serves as actual proof of feminism's failure. (Karim, 2014).

The currents in feminism are radical, liberal (Zulfahani Hasyim, 2012), Marxist, and socialist (Azzuhri, 2013). These four are also mentioned by (Izziyana, 2016) and (Abbas, 2020), ecofeminist (Sabhamis, 2012), post-modern, anarchist, postcolonial, evangelical (Andrianti, 2011). Those are the nine divisions of feminism from various articles discussing feminism. In feminism, there is also a division of theories, namely sex and gender. The term gender in feminism was first introduced by Robert Stoller (1968) to separate human characteristics based on sociocultural definitions from physical-biological definitions. Then developed by Anne Oakley (1972), started by inviting people all over the world to understand that two terms are similar, but not the same, namely sex and gender (Abdullah, 2018). The concept of "*sex*" is innate from conception (*of natural sexual origin*), and it has its roots in

objective natural biology. In the meantime, gender refers to the socially and culturally constructed roles that are associated with the bodies of men and women. (Strenski, 2015).

### 3. Implementation of Feminism in an Islamic Perspective

The implementation of feminism from an Islamic perspective is to discuss the extent of feminism as an approach and also as a new ideology in viewing and influencing the Islamic religion. This can be seen as having implications for Islamic study themes related to feminism which have the potential to change a Muslim's view of feminist ideology. Examples are the study of Women and Feminism from an Islamic Perspective by (Zulfahani Hasyim, 2012); the Feminist approach to the interpretation of the Qur'an and the Bible (Sabhamis, 2012); Feminism in Islamic Law Perspective by (Izziyana, 2016); The Impact of Feminism on Women by (Abbas, 2020); Gender equality contained in the Al-Qur'an and Hadith of the Prophet SAW (Azzuhri, 2013); Feminist Approach to the Interpretation of the Qur'an by (Abdullah, 2018); Feminist Tafsir: History, Paradigms and Validity Standards of Feminist Tafsir by (Zulaiha, 2016); Feminist Approach in Islamic Studies by (Gafur, 2015); Islamic Perspective Feminism by (Adaruddin, 2020); Feminism: A Qualitative Research Model by (Karim, 2014); Interpretation of Gender Verses in the Qur'an Using an Ecofeminist Approach: Criticism of Liberal Feminism Interpretations by (Surya, n.d.)

Based on the previously discussed studies, it can be inferred that women are brought and placed in the proper and fitting area by the Islamic religion, where they are unable to be replaced by men. Everything has been planned by Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, the Most Regulatory, and the Most Just. This includes everything related to the family, work, devotion, worship, socializing, and the law. He formerly declared through his apostle Muhammad SAW: "I have left you two things, you will not go astray as long as you adhere to them, (namely) the Book of Allah (al-Qur'an) and my sunnah" (Malik, 2022). Additionally, according to Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala, "The religion of Islam is, in fact, the religion (that is acceptable) in Allah's sight" [Ali Imran 3: 19]. The sole distinction in values between men and women is gender. The Qur'an and the hadith on bir al-walidain and paradise beneath the mother's feet both affirm respect for women. It is also argued that justice, equality, appropriateness, and debate serve as the foundation for the validity of feminist interpretations.

Feminism has implications for the emergence of interpretations which say that the need for feminist interpretations is because the number of male interpreters is more dominant than female interpreters, a paradigm which argues that interpretation is only from a male perspective; This kind of opinion is very contrary to the Islamic religion. There is a famous saying that says, look at what is said, not at who says it. Of course, a mufasir is not just anyone who interprets the holy verses of the Qur'an, the requirements for becoming a mufasir are very numerous and thorough. It is not appropriate for a Muslim to follow in the footsteps of feminism because in essence Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala has made Islam the only religion in this world. In the hadith, Imam Malik said:

قال الإمام مالك بن أنس من ابتدع في الإسلام بدعة يراها حسنة فقد زعم أن محمدا صلى الله عليه وسلم خان الرسالة، لأن الله يقول: اليوم أكملت لكم دينكم فما لم يكن يومئذ ديننا، فلا يكون اليوم ديننا.

According to al-Maidah (5): 3, Allah states, "Today I have perfected for you your religion and I have approved that Islam has become a religion for you." This means that "whoever commits heresy in Islam which is considered good, he has claimed that Muhammad, sallallahu alaihi wa sallam, betrayed the message." In addition, it is forbidden to practice feminism in Islam. (Islamiyat, 2021).

The impact of feminism on women is divided into positive impacts and negative impacts. According to (Abbas, 2020) the positive impact is to raise the dignity and dignity of women. The negative impact is that they are reluctant to marry or give birth to children. Marriage is considered a burden and is even said to enslave women. Families are becoming increasingly disharmonious and messy, divorces are becoming more common, multiple roles result in women accepting any kind of work, including jobs that are strictly prohibited in Islam, there is competition between husband and wife couples, their bodies are used as tools to attract consumers, things related to adultery will occur. considered normal. Several types of recent

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industries, such as fashion, cosmetics, entertainment, and others, almost completely utilize women. Education and the media present an image of women who are full of glamour, sensuality, and physicality for reasons of freedom. Women also become despicable, and their rank falls below the line of humanity. Even feminism threatens women's happiness. In line with (Zulfahani Hasyim, 2012) said that feminism even leads to irregular liberation for women's lives, such as allowing lesbians and promiscuity.

Linguistically, the word "feminine" refers to something feminine. Terminology-wise, feminism may be defined as a movement or reaction towards the freedom of women who seek rights that are discriminated against. It has evolved into a concept, ideology, and belief system that upholds the idea of equal rights for men and women. The French philosopher Charles Fourier coined the term "feminism" in 1808 AD. It can be divided into three waves: the first was focused on defending women's rights to formal education; the second was about demands for special treatment for women due to their differing physiologies from men; and the third was about the emergence of two terms that were closely related to each other due to a very plural agenda: sex and gender. The implementation of feminism in Islamic studies takes the form of an increasing number of articles discussing feminism in Islamic religious fields and even in the interpretation of the Qur'an. There are also positive impacts in the form of raising the honor and dignity of oppressed women and many negative impacts that lead to irregular liberation for women's lives such as lesbians and promiscuity.

The results of research like this are due to the term feminism originating from Western countries that have not experienced the beauty of Islam in treating humans as caliphs on this earth. Also considering everything, every human being, not just women, even unborn babies has their rights established by the Islamic religion. If everyone applied the provisions of Sharia law based on the Qur'an and authentic hadiths, they would see how beautiful and majestic state regulations are in all fields.

With the results of this research, the implication is that it makes a Muslim's heart stronger in holding tightly to the two heritages left by the Prophet Muhammad SAW, the Qur'an, and the Hadith. And increasingly critical of the sciences developed by humans. Also, be more active in reading the history of science and understand everything from its roots so that you don't easily become shaken and turn away from something right and abandon something false.

In previous research, discussions about feminism found that humans have a position that does not marginalize or discriminate against each other on any basis and Islam recognizes the presence and existence of women (Ismail, 2019). This is what this research found Islam values and respects every human being, including women. Other research states that Islamic feminists' form of protest is criticizing religious texts, even though Islam has *rahmatan lil 'alamin* and the recognition that the humanity of women and men is equally intact (Gafur, 2015). Also, other research states that the struggle for feminism has a common ground in the Islamic religion, and feminism that is contrary to the Islamic religion exploits and exercises supremacy over men (Adaruddin, 2020).

This means that, in an era of education, economics, science, and technology that is becoming more advanced, parents should focus more on their children's daily needs and instill in them the values of living according to Islamic sharia, which was taught by the Prophet Muhammad SAW. This starts at home with tarbiyah and progresses to schools where sharia is applied. Additionally, parents should learn Arabic so that they can read primary reference books that explain Islamic sharia.

In the history of the sahabiyah, there are many examples of women who were glorified. Especially Khadijah, Umm Salamah, Aisyah, Fatimah, Saudah, Zainab, Ruqayyah, Umm Hakim, Khaulah, and others. Khadijah was the first woman to convert to Islam and strengthened the Prophet SAW in receiving the first revelation. She is also the only woman to whom Allah SWT conveyed greetings. He was the one who strengthened the Messenger of Allah at the beginning of the revelation and the beginning of Islam as well as the wife who was cheerful to him when he was happy and sad, among the words he said to the Messenger

of Allah, mean "Khadijah once said that Allah will not waste you because you continue to build relationships, bear people's burdens, help people who don't have anything, entertain guests and help people who are in trouble because of disaster." (Al-Bukhari, 2010).

These were the difficult times that the Prophet went through at the beginning of his preaching. Likewise, Umm Salamah had a big role in reassuring Rasulullah's heart uniting the Muslims under his banner and protecting them from division after the Hudaibiyah agreement. Some of the companions did not accept the contents of the Hudaibiyah agreement which they considered one-sided and not beneficial to the Muslims. This incident happened when Rasulullah and his companions were determined to carry out the Umrah in the sixth year of Hijriyah, after they arrived in Hudaibiyah they were confronted by the Quraish people who thought that Rasulullah and his companions had come to fight them, Rasulullah explained to them that his visit was for carrying out the Umrah, then at that time negotiations took place between the Muslims and the Quraysh which ended with an agreement which contained several conditions that could not be accepted by the Prophet's friends. tahallul) to be slaughtered in Hudaibiyah but none of the companions carried out the prophet's orders even though they had been reminded several times, finally the Messenger of Allah faced Umm Salamah and told what he had found from his companions, Umm Salamah finally ordered the Messenger of Allah to slaughter the slaughter himself without saying a word. Said to the companions, finally the Messenger of Allah slaughtered his slaughtered animal and cut its hair (bertahallull) when the companions saw what the Messenger of Allah was doing, they rushed to do what the Messenger of Allah did, finally joy and togetherness returned to them again, then here the role of our mother can be seen very clearly.

Umm Salamah, was a woman who was a genius in providing advice and direction to the leader of the Islamic ummah at that time, namely the Prophet. Likewise Aisyah's mother in spreading da'wah and knowledge to Muslims. He served Islam for forty years after the death of Rasulullah and his greatest legacy for this ummah is that he memorized around two thousand hadiths from the hadiths of Rasulullah to the point that even senior friends asked him, Abu Musa Al Asy'ariy said that none of the hadiths were problematic for us friends, then we asked Aisyah unless we would get an answer from her. During the battle of Uhud, he was among the women who gave water to the wounded troops.

So from the exemplary stories of some of the believers, we can take an example from all of them that women have skills that are no less than men, they can strengthen the hearts of leaders if they are destined to be a companion for a leader, they can do great things for the sake of the benefit of the ummah like Khadijah who gave up her wealth to spread Islam, providing positive things or views and good directions like Umm Salamah and being an educator of this ummah like Aisyah's mother who had in-depth knowledge of both fiqh, hadith, memorized poetry -poems and about household matters, as it is said that behind a great man there is a great woman too, if we look at some of the great ulama, they were taught directly by strong and tough mothers, a mother is like a school, if you prepare her well, it means you has prepared a good nation, a mother is like a garden, if she is always watered it will always have green leaves, that is more or less an expression of the virtue of a mother who in fact will suckle strong children from her, a woman is like a weapon that has two eyes so this woman should always be direct it to better things so that it always has a good impact on the community or the surrounding community. If women are not well educated, the opposite will happen, namely, things we don't want to happen. The Prophet once said in a hadith

«إن الدنيا حلوة خضرة، وإن الله مستخلفكم فيها، فينظر كيف تعملون، فاتقوا الدنيا واتقوا النساء، فإن أول فتنة بني إسرائيل كانت في النساء» وفي حديث ابن بشار: «لينظر كيف تعملون»

Translation: "Indeed, the world is sweet and beautiful, Allah made you caliphs or rulers of it, then He saw what you did, so you are afraid of the world and you are afraid of women because of the disaster of the Children of Israel began with women" (Muslim, 2010).

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In the end, knowledge will be increased by this research, particularly for academics and other researchers. can support life in this world and the hereafter by fortifying the foundation of the Islamic faith and remaining steadfast in their pursuit of a deeper understanding of Islam. It is anticipated that this study will yield numerous advantages for other investigations addressing this subject. Additionally, authors of Islamic textbooks should be able to produce works that impart genuine and upright Islamic principles.

### Conclusion

This research found something very important, namely from the definition of feminism, it comes from the word feminist which means feminine, and in terms, it is a movement or reaction to the liberation of women in demanding rights that are discriminated against which has become a concept, ideology and belief or belief or understanding. equal rights between women and men. Historically, the term feminism first appeared in France in 1908 AD by Charles Fourier, and its development was divided into three waves. From its implementation, there are many negative impacts of feminism which refers to free association which is contrary to the Islamic religion. This research is limited to the meaning, history, and implementation of the Islamic religion. It is hoped that further research can develop the theme of feminism, be it its influence, impact, or something else that covers this theme more broadly.

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