INTRODUCTION

Beginning with an interest in feminism, I came across a movement that is considered to be the start of third-wave feminism, the Riot Grrrl movement. I began researching about the topic and came across a creative outlet explored by many called zines. Zines are a publication often created by one person, writing their ideas, art, and stories down, making copies and handing them out. These were vital to the beginning of feminism, and still are, just in a different form. With the explosion of the Internet, young women have turned to e-zines and blogs to be creative and share ideas. I wanted to expand on this and look for a change in feminism, based off what young women are writing about in these publications.

METHODOLOGY

I conducted a comparative content analysis. I have analyzed popular feminist zines written between 1990-1995 and popular feminist blogs written within the last 5 years that are still active. Based on the content, I placed the blogs and zines into five different categories to compare the findings. I found the blogs doing a snowball sampling starting with one popular blog and then looking at that blogs network to find another and continued this process. I then gave all the blogs a number and used a random number generator to choose 20 to analyze. I chose the zines based on popularity as well as what I could find in The Riot Grrrl collection; both the blogs and zines analyzed popular feminist blogs written within 1990-1995 and popular feminist blogs written within the last 5 years that are still active. Based on the categorization, I was able to see if young women are still talking about the same things in feminism, This could indicate if things have changed within feminism or not.

History of Feminist Communication Media

• Second-wave feminism - ended in the 1980’s
• Third-wave feminism
  • Early 1990’s to today
  • Each individual defines feminism differently
  • Different between generations
• Riot Grrrl movement
  • Taboo topics like rape and sexuality
  • Music as a platform
  • DIY (do it yourself) ethics
• Young women were empowered to speak out
• Expression themselves through zines
• Zines
  • Young women create/produce culture and media
  • Safe space to share ideas and thoughts
  • Had complete control of content
• Included poetry, art, stories, thoughts, among other things
• Blogs
  • Easier way to produce media
  • Reach more people
  • Use different websites
  • Different types of blogs
  • Topical, collaborative
• Expression of self and ideas

Comparative content analysis of the topics discussed in zines and blogs

RESULTS

After analyzing the blogs and zines, the most mentioned topic of discussion in both was rape and sexual assault. Nearly half of the blogs analyzed focused on rape and sexual assault, where there was less of a gap in the number of zines that focused on that topic. The topics in the zines were more spread out than they were in the blogs.

CONCLUSION

The topics discussed among young women within their media channels does not appear to have changed. The main topic being rape and sexual assault, with the rest slightly varying. This hints at a lack of change in issues of rape and sexual assault among feminism. Young women today seem to care about the same issues as those did 20 years ago. Further research about the way in which these topics are discussed could indicate past issues that may or may not have been addressed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


