Chapter 1

Introduction
Feminism is a movement or struggle to change the existing order insofar the relationship between the man and woman is concerned. It’s the persistent efforts to abolish all sorts of discriminations against the fair sex and to have a respectable position for women in society and to provide them with liberty and all the rights they deserve on par with the men.

During the middle ages women were enslaved and were denied all rights in Europe. In the late 18th century, however, women’s status became a subject of political debate. In the 19th century women started their fights for their equal rights. This struggle spread to the entire world in the late 19th century and reached its zenith in the 20th century.

Though the globalization made the whole world a small village, but the women and the feminists have been continuously fighting for equality between the sexes. The girls around the world are married off at the tender ages, trafficked into the forced labour and sex slavery. They face discrimination at various levels. They are socially, politically and economically backward, they lack education, face sexual harassment and considered socially inferior to women.

A civilized and advanced human society cannot be expected of this kind of treatment to the women. The feminist movement across the world has certainly brought changes to society and women now enjoy better life than ever before.

In my graduation at Cotton College, I was influence by a Jibran Khalil Jibran’s story Mārtha al Bāniyah (Martha of Ban). The story touched me in such a way that I became a fan of Jibran’s writings automatically. The helpless orphan girl Mārtha becomes a sexual commodity for her deceitful
husband and other rich people. She lives life of a prostitute in the dark and protected area with her little son Fuad in the city of Beirut. Martha’s character highlights many issues pertaining to the women’s rights and status in the societies.

It was the beginning of my idea to work on the subject of feminism in future research. So, accordingly I studied Jibran Khalil Jibran’s other books to develop a full idea about this theme. The more I read his books on feminism issues the more I got attracted to his writings on feminism.

Amongst Jibran’s writings, it is the novel *al Ajniha al Mutakassira* which influenced me the most. It highlights the social, political and economic issues and rights and the position of women in the entire Middle East societies in general and the societies of Lebanon in particular. The more I read the novel the more Selma Karamy’s character rooted deeply in my heart.

Selma Karamy, Farris Effandi Karamy, Bishop Bulos Galib, Mansour Bey Galib and Jibran Khalil Jibran are the main characters of the said novel. Jibran portrays in the novel the character of Selma Karamy as the main heroine or protagonist, Jibran Jhalil Jibran himself as the main hero, Bishop Bulos Galib as an antagonist or villain, Mansour Bey Galib as an antagonist and Farris Effandi Karamy as a co-star. Selma is the daughter of Farris Effandi. Mansour Bey Galib is the nephew of Bishop Bulos Galib. Farris is a simple and gentle man whereas Bishop Bulos Galib and his nephew are corrupt, greedy and dictators in the Christian Oriental society of Lebanon. By his own role, he introduces the characters. This novel starts with the nostalgic love of Jibran’s love to Selma and ends with the tragic demise of
Selma sacrificing her love in the hands of patriarchal dominance. One of the deceitful Christian religious head Bishop Bulos Galib destroys the lives of Farris Effandi and his daughter Selma Karamy with the collaboration of his nephew Mansour Bey. Selma is compelled to live a life of a prisoner in the house of her husband sacrificing all her wish, dream, status, freedom and rights. Selma’s mental sufferings cause the death of her father. At last, being neglected completely by her husband, Selma somehow lives around five years. Though at the last of her life she gives birth to a baby boy, he dies after a few hours and Selma follows his path freeing her from the tyranny of the dominance of patriarchal society. Thus, Jibran loses his first love.

The character of Selma and Farris Effandi unfold many unanswerable questions about the rights of women. After the reading of the complete novel, the heart automatically goes to the favour about the need of women’s rights in the societies. Jibran portrays the characters so skillfully that everything seems to have vivid in the minds of the readers. Selma’s extreme emotional dialogues about her helpless condition being a woman in the society fill the heart of the readers with deep sorrows and emotions.

Farris Effandi’s dialogues before his death add more pain to a general people. Observing his daughter Selma’s endless misery, he wishes his death as there was no option left for him.

Bishop and his nephew snatch away all freedom of Farris and Selma. They pretend to be religious heads but in actual they are the dictators of the society. They take every advantage of the people in the name of religion. Common people bow their heads in front of these religious heads fearing them as the butchers. So, very easily Bishop and Mansour spoil the lives of
Selma and his father only to capture the wealth of Selma’s father. Like rat’s death is cat’s game, they play with the life of Selma depriving her all needs as a woman.

There are lots of themes related to feminism issues in this novel. The themes like women's position in the society, dominant role of the religions heads, harm of patriarchy, love and sacrifice, convention and rebellion, liberal feminism and Marxist or Socialist feminism are highlighted in a vivid way.

The main objectives of this novel are to highlight the women issues in the East in general and in Lebanon in particular, dominance of the Christian religious heads and their exploitative role in society. This study sincerely strives to end all sorts of discriminations against the women and to establish a society in both man and woman can enjoy the equal rights. It can be put as under:

1. To highlight the issues related to feminism.
2. To highlight Jibran Khalil Jibran as a feminist writer.
3. To highlight Jibran Khalil Jibran’s contribution to feminism writings.
5. To highlight Jibran Khalil Jibran’s personality.
6. To highlight Jibran Khalil Jibran’s philosophy and psychology.
7. To highlight Jibran Khalil Jibran’s creative writings.

Throughout his life, Jibran Khalil Jibran remained a vehement supporter of women’s rights. He remained a bachelor till his death. Though the reason is not very clear for not marrying anyone, but it can be perceived
it was because he was denied his love by the father of his lover Hala Daher in his schooling days at Madrasa al Hikma. Hala Daher was compelled to sacrifice his love. Moreover, Jibran’s mother had a great influence on him. But since his childhood, Jibran noticed less liberty and freedom for his mother in the family. Women were deprived of their freedoms and rights in the societies of Lebanon.

His mother and his beloved probably set a platform for Jibran to write about the rights of women. A number of his writings related to feminism express his inner feelings about the man made society and its discriminations against the women.

A number of research works on Jibran Khalil Jibran and his writings have been carried out before. But this research work is different from all other works because this work is exclusively done on his feminism writings. As my knowledge goes, no one has so far taken up Jibran’s complete writings on feminism in his/ her research work.

As for hypothesis of this research is concerned, Jibran Khalil Jibran was brought up in a family where he observed the unjust social law against women. His mother was completely dominated by his father. Jibran was influenced the most by his mother and hence he loved his mother. He had a bitter experience of love when he was at Madrasa al Hikma as their love was rejected by the father of the girl because the difference of their economic condition. So, his utterance came against the unjust social systems and traditions. During his whole life several women came to contact with him for different purposes. In this way, all these women marked the impressions to his life towards the social rectifications and reforms. These
are, may be, the great reasons for which he wrote the immortal writings on philosophy, love, humanity etc. He knew women's various feelings, inner hearts, silence, passions and liberties with the observation of women from different angles of the society. They are the victims and commodities to the man-made society.

To complete this research work, both the primary and secondary sources of information have been consulted. Jibran Khalil Jibran’s books in Arabic and English are available almost in everywhere. Various books on his completed works are also available in the popular book stalls within Assam. Some rare books of Jibran in English and his books in Arabic had been collected from different sources. The remaining books were collected from Maulana Azad Library, AMU and internet. In the same way the secondary sources had been collected. Some books in Urdu, Bengali and Assamese were collected in the process. As some books are the translations of his original writings, these books are consulted for a better concept of the topic but these are not mentioned in the bibliography. Some dictionaries and encyclopedias had also been consulted for the definition of some terminologies. Thus, both primary and secondary data have been collected in the form of books, articles, journals, essays, dictionaries and encyclopedias from different libraries, book stalls and internet sources.

As for the methodology is concerned, both descriptive and analytical methods have been applied. In chapter 2 namely Life and works of Jibran Khalil Jibran, only descriptive method has been applied. In this chapter the basic information of his life, family, influences of women and his death has been mentioned along with his contribution in poetry. Except the last chapter, descriptive method has been applied in the remaining chapters.
analyzing both the primary and secondary datas according to the need of the chapters.

In chapter 3 namely *Feminism in the writings of Jibran Khalil Jibran* data has been collected in the forms of stories, novels, poems and letters. Efforts have been made throughout his whole works both in Arabic and English.

In chapter 4 namely *Themes and objectives of ‘al Ajniha al Mutakassira,*’ his proposed novel has been consulted. Though there are lots of themes and objectives in this novel in general concept but keeping the topic in mind, the themes and objectives in feminism point of view has been discussed in descriptive method with the help of analyzing the datas.

In general, the English translations of the Arabic quotations have been cited only but the important quotations related to feminism have been highlighted in Arabic with English translations in brackets to draw the attention of the readers.

Chapter 5 namely *‘Al Ajniha al Mutakassira: An Analytical Study’* deals in analytical study of the novel. In this chapter analysis has been made in elements of the novel: title, plot, characters, setting, time and place, point of view, dialogues and figure of speech. Opinion of this very research scholar in this topic has been mentioned.

In the last or chapter 6 namely *conclusion,* the summery of the whole research work has been portrayed in descriptive and analytical methods highlighting the objectives of the whole work. Neither field study nor historical method is required to complete the work.
To end the introductory chapter it's to be mentioned that all possible efforts have been made to make this research as complete as possible. And this work will be useful for future researchers.