

## Rebel Yell: Exploring Gender Resistance in Women's Punk Subculture

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**Abstract-**The female punk subculture highlights resistance to dominant gender norms. This study explores gender resistance within the female punk subculture through the lenses of culture, identity, and activism. In the punk movement, women are often placed in peripheral positions. However, this research shows that this subculture becomes an important space for active resistance against sexism and patriarchy. This study is a descriptive qualitative research with a gender performativity approach. The study focuses on the female punk movements in Ujung Berung, Bandung, using participant observation, recording techniques, and interviews with various stakeholders including community leaders and local residents. The researcher observed the resistance and movements of female punks through recording and noting techniques. Additionally, the researcher conducted interviews with female punks, community leaders, and local residents. After the data was collected, the researcher performed data reduction, classification, validation, and coding in tables, followed by interpretation. The research findings indicate three main roles in gender resistance within the punk subculture, they were the role of women in the punk subculture; the expression of identity and gender resistance; and the impact of women's movements within the punk subculture.

**Keywords:** Activism, Female Punks, Gender Resistance.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The punk subculture has long served as a platform for resistance against dominant social norms, including the resistance to existing gender power structures (Restu, 2017). In this context, the female punk subculture stands out as a space where women can freely express themselves while challenging conventional gender expectations. Although often considered secondary actors in the broader punk movement,

women within the punk subculture have played a highly significant role in exploring and asserting their identities, as well as combating gender injustices. Punk, a counter-culture, opposes dominant societal values and power structures, often characterized by a unique lifestyle and distinct appearance (Abdullah, 2006). This subculture, particularly in its female iteration, challenges conventional gender expectations through its aesthetic and ideological practices

(Rostiyati & Priyatna, 2017).

Peripheral cultures can become forms of counter-culture when cultural agents refuse to follow the styles of the class that practices the dominant culture. Counter-culture combines two forms of protest: opposition to dominant values and power structures. Dominant culture typically produces a culture that is mute, obedient, submissive, and fearful, resulting from communication patterns created by the ruling class (Agger, 2014). Conversely, counter-culture strives to voice ideas and convey its identity, thoughts, lifestyle, and aspirations. As Dominic (2004) stated, counter-culture refers to lifestyles that deviate from established social practices. Punk, as a form of counter-culture, exhibits a lifestyle with a unique and distinct appearance. Abdullah (2015) notes that punk also has distinct patterns or characteristics, specifically street culture, as they reject being confined by established culture and instead choose a culture of freedom and independence.

Street culture is not merely a culture that arises on the streets, but a tendency of thought systems, values, and social practices that deviate from its perceived mainstream culture (Restu, 2017). Punk, as a form of street culture, is characterized by a unique lifestyle. They are marked by a disheveled or scruffy appearance, such as wearing ripped jeans, chain accessories, piercings, tattoos, colorful hair, and boots (Rostiyati & Priyatna, 2017). This unique appearance aims to challenge the conventional fashion typically worn by most women, who generally aim to look beautiful, graceful, polite, clean, and attractive. The use of such jewelry and fashion is an effort to resist normative gender norms (Rostiyati & Priyatna, 2017). Sharifah (2016) asserts that normative gender reinforces or imposes ideal standards of masculinity or femininity. For example, women are expected to be good at cooking, grooming, and taking care of children and husbands, while men are expected to work outside. These standards ultimately deprive individuals of autonomy over themselves and within society (Rostiyati & Priyatna, 2017).

This study explores the appearance of female punks as part of their culture. The punk appearance, with its various attributes, holds symbolic meaning as a form of resistance against the dominant culture that tends to be idealized. Punk clothing, which often appears dirty and torn, along with "unconventional" behavior, signifies their opposition to these ideal norms (Rostiyati & Priyatna, 2017). At the core of punk

is nonconformity and resistance to authority, reflected in punk fashion, the challenge to authority, and the rejection of the legitimacy of authority. Thus, punk finds political expression in anarchism or other forms of anti-authoritarianism. Punk fashion conveys thoughts, social criticism, and protests against social norms through their appearance. Additionally, punk uses music and fashion as symbols and spectacular forms of resistance and defiance.

Since its emergence in the late 1970s (Suwardi, 2011); (Restu, 2017) & (Rostiyati & Priyatna, 2017), the punk subculture has been one of the most prominent cultural movements in challenging existing social norms. This movement has not only served as a platform for creative self-expression but also as a stage for resistance against dominant power structures, including patriarchal gender norms. However, despite often being seen as an inclusive alternative space, women within this subculture frequently face unique challenges related to gender and identity. In the context of the punk subculture, women are often relegated to peripheral positions or viewed as secondary players. They frequently encounter gender stereotypes and sexism, both within the punk community and in broader society. Their roles in the punk movement are also often overlooked or reduced to mere complements to narratives dominated by men.

Therefore, we need to delve deeper into the experiences of women within the punk subculture, as well as how they respond to, resist, and navigate conventional gender norms. This issue not only concerns gender equality within the punk subculture but also relates to how popular culture reflects and influences gender constructions in society. Through this research, we aim to answer key questions about how women in the punk subculture overcome challenges, construct their identities, and contribute to broader social changes related to gender. By understanding this issue comprehensively, we can develop more holistic and inclusive approaches to promoting gender equality and justice in popular culture and society as a whole.

So far, no research has specifically addressed the rebellious cries against gender resistance within the female punk subculture. However, there are several studies that share similarities with this research. Andre's study (2007) examined the profile of the punk community in Ujung Berung, Bandung. The

results showed that the punk community there adheres to anarchism ideology and a “do it yourself” (DIY) ethic. However, Andre's research focused on male punks. (Restu, 2017) found that subcultures are not always about ideological resistance but also the construction and contestation of identities that emerge within the dominant culture. The emergence of female punks brings a new form to the punk subculture.

Research by (Rostiyati & Priyatna, 2017) found that within punk aesthetics, there is an effort to disengage from dominant culture and conventional gender norms. They move away from the center of patriarchy and challenge ideas of femininity. (Rohmatika, 2022) conducted research on the resistance and rebellion of Iranian women from feminist and Islamic perspectives. These studies highlight the importance of understanding the experiences and struggles of women in the punk subculture, as well as their contributions to challenging gender norms and shaping new identities.

(Ramadhan, 2019) found that between 2017 and 2019, ten works were created, namely *We Could Lose Ourselves*, *Psychotropic Traumatik*, *Masberto*, *Was A Teenage Anarchist*, *Sorry Mama I am Punk Rock*, *Kebersihan Sebagian dari Punk-Punkan*, *Independent of Independence*, *Generation is Lost*, *Make Friends Not War*, and *Go Skate Go Green*. (Wahyuni, 2018) showed that Elizabeth opposed societal customs and asserted that women also have the right to choose their own path, partners, and way of life. The research by (Annatasya & Saksono, 2021) identified seven dialogues or statements that could be analyzed, concluding that the resistance of the main character, based on Naomi Wolf's power feminism perspective, includes: (1) the courage to determine one's own life path, (2) steadfastness in choices, (3) the bravery to voice opinions, and (4) an independent attitude as a form of resistance. (Nurcahyani & Audina, 2019) found that the concept of female masculinity in the novel is a strategy for building women's identities, strengthening themselves in male-dominated communities, and dismantling gender roles that have long been considered fixed and stable.

It seems like you've listed various studies conducted by different researchers focusing on cultural aspects, social behaviors within communities, Islamic studies, political movements, interreligious tolerance, and the role of language and communication in cultural contexts. Here's a summary of the themes covered

by these studies. Social and Cultural Behavior, Studies by (Susanto et al., 2022) (Muta'allim et al, 2022); (Hairus Salikin et al., 2021) & (Julhadi et al., 2023), delve into social and cultural behaviors within communities, including aspects of Islam and societal norms. Political Movements and Tolerance, (Muta'allim, et al., , 2022); (Yudistira, R., 2023); (Muta'allim et al., 2023); (Mahardhani et al., 2023); & (Dumiyati et al., 2023), examine political movements, interreligious tolerance, and the role of religious figures (Kyai) in conflict mediation and societal moderation. Language and Communication, research by (Muta'allim et al., 2020); (Muta'allim et al., 2021); (Muta'allim et al., 2022); (Yudistira et al., 2022); (Sofyan, Firmansyah, et al., 2022); (Sofyan, Badrudin, et al., 2022); (Muta'allim et al., 2021); (Akhmad Sofyan et al., 2022); & (Haryono et al., 2023), focuses on the role, function, and use of language in everyday life, filmmaking, intercultural communication, language contexts, speech levels, political discourse, and more. These studies collectively contribute to understanding various cultural, social, political, and linguistic dynamics within their respective contexts, offering insights into how these elements shape communities and interactions.

Other relevant studies regarding social norms, ethics, and learning have been conducted by (Merizawati & Munawir, n.d.); (Muta'allim et al., 2023); (Karuru et al., 2023); (Muta'allim et al., 2022); (Irsyadi et al., 2022); (Suryanti et al., 2023); (Ghasi Pathollah et al., 2022); & (Irsyadi, 2023). These studies focus on social norms, ethical codes, learning, improvement, and strategies used within the contexts of daily life, education, enhancement, and other aspects. Based on the existing literature, there has not yet been a specific study examining the rebellious cries in gender resistance within the female punk subculture. This research fills a gap in previous studies that have predominantly focused on the role of men in the punk subculture. The experiences and contributions of women are often overlooked and poorly documented. This study addresses this shortfall by highlighting the gender resistance faced by women in the punk subculture.

The research also offers a new perspective on how women in the punk subculture express their identities and resist dominant gender norms. This is crucial for understanding the complexities of gender identity in a musical culture often dominated by masculinity. By examining various

forms of resistance, this study reveals how women combat stereotypes and discrimination, providing insights into resistance strategies relevant to other subcultures and broader social movements. Furthermore, this research makes a significant contribution to the study of gender and music by demonstrating how music can be a tool for resistance and empowerment for women. It enriches our understanding of how musical subcultures can serve as spaces for negotiating identity and power. Overall, this study not only addresses the shortcomings of previous research but also offers a more inclusive and diverse perspective. By providing a deeper understanding of gender resistance in the women's punk subculture, this study makes a significant contribution to the existing literature.

Therefore, this research is expected to make a significant contribution to academic literature and practical understanding of gender resistance in female punk subcultures through a holistic and in-depth approach. Additionally, this study aims to provide valuable insights for practitioners in the fields of education, gender advocacy, and policymaking to develop programs that support free self-expression and address gender injustices in popular culture. Thus, the researcher is highly interested in exploring this topic with an emphasis on cultural lenses, identity, and activism.

Based on this background, the researcher formulates the research problem, namely how do women in the punk subculture respond to gender resistance and challenge dominant gender norms? To address this problem statement, the application of gender performativity theory is essential. Gender performativity theory was introduced by Butler in her seminal work, "Gender Trouble" (1990). This concept posits that gender is not something one inherently possesses or an identity one naturally embodies but is performed or enacted through everyday actions and behaviors. In the context of this research, Butler's concept can be used to understand how women in the punk subculture respond to and challenge gender norms through their performative practices. This includes their choices in fashion, the styles of music they embrace, and the political actions they undertake. This study will explore how punk women use performative practices to influence and alter social constructions of gender, as well as how they articulate their identities and resistance to existing norms through their cultural expressions.

## **II. METHODS**

This study is a descriptive qualitative research using a gender performativity approach, aimed at investigating resistance and defiance by punk women against dominant gender norms, particularly within the punk movement in Ujung Berung, Bandung. The method employed for data collection is participant observation. The researcher observes the resistance and movements of punk women during two months by using recording and note-taking techniques. Additionally, interviews are conducted with punk women, community leaders, and local residents. In this study, the researcher conducted interviews with 25 female punks regarding their roles in challenging social norms in Ujung Berung, Bandung. Additionally, 10 key figures were interviewed to gather their perspectives on the women's punk movement in the same area. Subsequently, the researcher conducted interviews with 15 members of the local community, particularly those aged between 30 and 50 years old, to understand their perspectives on the women's punk movement in Ujung Berung, Bandung.

Reflective-introspective methods are also utilized based on the researcher's and informants' experiences. The researcher and informants interpret reflections on the women's punk movement in Ujung Berung, Bandung based on their experiences. Once data is collected, the researcher proceeds with data reduction, categorization, and validation, followed by coding the data into tables for interpretation. Qualitative data is analyzed thematically through coding to identify patterns, themes, and concepts related to gender resistance in the punk subculture among women. Data validation is conducted through data triangulation, peer debriefing, and researcher reflection. Data interpretation is grounded in Butler's theory of gender performativity. By adopting this approach, the study aims to understand how women in the punk subculture in Ujung Berung, Bandung construct their identities, express gender resistance, and engage in activism to foster more inclusive social and cultural changes. This research is expected to provide profound insights into the social and political dynamics within the female punk subculture and contribute to the understanding of gender performativity theory in a specific local context.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Result

The findings of this study reveal three main roles in gender resistance within the punk subculture: first, the role of women in the punk subculture; second, expressions of identity and gender resistance; and third, the impact of women's movements within the punk subculture. Regarding the role of women in the punk subculture, two forms of resistance are identified: women's early involvement in the punk movement and their rejection of gender stereotypes. Meanwhile, in expressions of identity and gender resistance, three forms of

resistance are highlighted: through clothing and appearance, music and lyrics, and shifts in meanings and values. Lastly, in terms of the impact of women's movements within the punk subculture, three forms of resistance are observed: influence on popular culture, transformations in gender consciousness, and resonance within wider society. This research illustrates how women in the punk subculture confront and challenge gender power structures, as well as their contributions to broader social change. Here is a table on forms of gender resistance in the punk subculture.

**Table 1. Forms of Gender Resistance in the Punk Subculture**

Data Code	Role of Women in Punk	Forms of Resistance	Description
(TRWPS01)	The Role of Women in the Punk Subculture	Early Involvement of Women in the Punk Movement	In the mid to late 1970s, the punk movement emerged as one of the most influential subcultures in the history of music and popular culture. This subculture was born in reaction to the stagnant political, social, and economic conditions of the time, and as a form of rebellion against the increasingly grandiose and commercial mainstream rock music.
		Rejection of Gender Stereotypes	In various ways, punk women challenge and deconstruct gender stereotypes through fashion, music, community, activism, and the deconstruction of gender identities.
(EIGR02)	Expression of Identity and Gender Resistance	Clothing and Appearance	Women in the punk movement adopt eccentric clothing and appearances, such as androgynous attire, leather jackets, ripped jeans, and combat boots. This is done as an expression of identity, rejection of traditional norms, and to convey political messages. Additionally, tattoos, piercings, brightly colored hair, torn clothing, and a deliberately unkempt appearance are often used as symbols of rebellion against conventional body norms.
		Music and Lyrics	Punk music serves as a primary means of expression for rebellion, dissatisfaction, and social critique. Lyrics in punk music by women often address themes of empowerment. They reject stereotypes and oppression, encouraging women to speak out boldly and take control of their lives. Many lyrics criticize

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			patriarchy, gender injustice, and sexual violence, making punk music a highly effective tool for social criticism.
		Shifting Meanings and Values	In this context, punk women not only act as agents of change but also as influencers reshaping meanings and values that evolve over time. The evolution of the female punk subculture demonstrates a significant shift in the interpretation of its meanings and values. Punk values adapt to local cultures across the globe, creating diverse interpretations of empowerment and resistance.
(IWMPS03)	Impact of Women's Movement in Punk Subculture	The Impact on Popular Culture	The women's movement within the punk subculture has had a significant impact on popular culture, transforming many aspects of music, fashion, and gender representation. Starting from the late 1970s and early 1980s, groups such as The Slits, Siouxsie and the Banshees, and X-Ray Spex emerged as pioneers in this movement. In the 1990s, the Riot Grrrl movement arose with bands like Bikini Kill and Sleater-Kinney, blending punk music with feminist activism. This movement not only expanded opportunities for women in the male-dominated music industry but also questioned and challenged existing gender norms.
		Transformation in Gender Awareness	The women's movement within the punk subculture has had a significant impact on transforming gender awareness. Beginning in the late 1970s and early 1980s, this movement challenged traditional gender norms through song lyrics, stage performances, and unconventional fashion styles. Women in the punk subculture began to garner media attention through coverage in magazines, documentaries, and fictional films, introducing new concepts about gender to a broader audience. This also increased understanding and acceptance of gender diversity. Furthermore, this movement inspired many women to engage in activism and advocacy, expanding the space for women's voices in various fields including politics, social issues, and culture.

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**Broad Social  
Resonance**

The women's movement within the punk subculture has had a significant impact on broader society. Beginning in the late 1970s and early 1980s, this movement challenged traditional norms and promoted gender equality. Through music, fashion, and stage performances, punk women refused to conform to conventional expectations of behavior and appearance. In doing so, they opened up discussions in society about the flexibility of gender roles and the importance of individuality. One of the major impacts of this movement is its influence on fashion and aesthetics. Women in the punk subculture adopted experimental and often subversive styles, which later influenced mainstream fashion trends. Their clothing styles, which include elements such as tattoos, piercings, brightly colored hair, and frequently torn or unkempt attire, have become iconic and crossed over into mainstream fashion. This reflects the rebellious values and freedom of expression championed by the punk movement as a whole.

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**3.2 Discussion**

**The Role of Women in the Punk Subculture (TRWPS01)**

In the role of women in the Punk Subculture there are two significant forms of resistance. First, the early involvement of women in the punk movement demonstrates that they not only followed but also actively contributed to creating and shaping the subculture's identity. They became integral parts of the music, fashion, and activism that defined the punk movement. Second, the rejection of gender stereotypes is a strong form of resistance within the punk subculture. Punk women explore and adopt clothing styles and appearances that do not conform to conventional gender norms. They show that their identities are not bound by social expectations of how a woman should look or behave. Thus, women in the punk subculture are not merely objects of change but also active subjects in challenging and

transforming existing gender norms through their actions and existence within this subculture.

**Early Involvement of Women in the Punk Movement**

In the mid to late 1970s, the punk movement emerged as one of the most influential subcultures in the history of music and popular culture. Despite often being seen as a male-dominated domain, women played a crucial role from the early days of this movement. The early involvement of women in the punk movement not only helped shape the sound and aesthetics of punk but also challenged traditional gender norms while providing space for broader female expression. During the mid-1970s, punk music arose as a reaction to stagnant political, social, and economic conditions, and as a rebellion against the increasingly grandiose and commercial rock music. Punk

offered something different: fast, loud, and raw music with lyrics often political and full of anger. Women in punk, such as The Slits, Siouxsie and the Banshees, and X-Ray Spex, not only became part of this movement but also played pivotal roles in shaping the essence of punk with their distinct voices and styles. They explored their identities through bold appearances and lyrics, laying the groundwork for an inclusive and revolutionary punk subculture.

Women in the punk movement showed that they were not just spectators or supporters, but also key players. Bands like The Slits, formed in London in 1976, brought experimental music styles and powerful lyrics to the punk stage. Patti Smith, as one of the early punk icons, blended poetry with rock music, creating a unique sound that challenged gender norms. Siouxsie and the Banshees, led by the charismatic Siouxsie Sioux, became icons of punk and post-punk with their distinctive appearance and sound. Beyond the stage, women also made significant contributions behind the scenes. Fashion designer Vivienne Westwood collaborated with Malcolm McLaren, manager of the Sex Pistols, to create the punk aesthetic with provocative and subversive clothing designs. Female writers and journalists documented and disseminated punk culture through zines, independent magazines, and journalistic writings, providing critical perspectives and supporting the movement through media. With all these contributions, women not only shaped the identity and voice of the punk subculture but also asserted their presence as significant agents of change in music, fashion, and media at that time.

However, the journey of women in the punk movement was not easy. They faced significant challenges, including sexism and marginalization. Nevertheless, they continued to fight for recognition and an equal place in the punk scene. By rejecting gender stereotypes and redefining women's roles in music and culture, they demonstrated resilience and courage. In the early 1990s, women's involvement in punk found new

momentum with the emergence of the Riot Grrrl movement. This movement advocated for women's empowerment through music, zines, and activism to promote gender equality and combat sexism. Bands like Bikini Kill, Bratmobile, and Sleater-Kinney became the faces of this movement, bringing issues such as violence against women and gender equality to the forefront of public attention. With their bravery to speak out and resist, women in the punk movement not only influenced popular culture but also inspired a new generation to engage in activism and celebrate freedom of expression in all its forms.

The early involvement of women in the punk movement has left a strong and enduring legacy. They paved the way for the next generation of female musicians and activists, demonstrating that punk is a space for everyone, regardless of gender. Their influence is evident in various aspects of popular culture and broader social movements, creating significant changes in how we understand gender identity and empowerment. Women have been integral to the punk movement since its inception. Through their contributions as musicians, designers, writers, and activists, women in punk have challenged and deconstructed gender norms, creating space for broader and more diverse expressions. This early involvement not only shaped the sound and aesthetics of punk but also had a profound impact on popular culture and broader social movements. Women in the punk movement have shown that rebellion and creativity transcend gender boundaries, and that everyone has a place in an inclusive and dynamic punk scene. Consequently, they continue to inspire a new generation to explore and realize their potential in a context that encourages freedom of expression and equality.

### **Rejection of Gender Stereotypes**

Rejection of gender stereotypes among women in the punk subculture is a crucial element that provides space for them to express their identities beyond the confines



of traditional gender norms. They challenge and deconstruct these stereotypes through various means, including fashion, music, community, activism, and the deconstruction of gender identity. One of the primary ways they reject gender stereotypes is through self-expression in fashion and appearance. Many punk women choose clothing styles that are androgynous or unconventional compared to traditional feminine norms. They often wear leather jackets, ripped jeans, combat boots, and unconventional accessories. Tattoos and piercings are also used as forms of rebellion against rigid and homogeneous beauty standards. By adopting these styles, punk women not only express themselves individually but also convey political messages about freedom from limiting gender expectations. This is an integral part of their struggle to redefine female identity within the punk subculture and to expand the meaning of freedom of expression and inclusion in broader popular culture.

In addition, lyrics and music are also important avenues for punk women to challenge gender norms. Female punk bands often write and sing songs with provocative lyrics addressing issues such as sexism, violence against women, and social injustice. Their active participation in music, including forming bands, playing musical instruments, and writing their own songs, demonstrates that punk music is not exclusive to men. In the context of community empowerment, women in the punk subculture often form collectives and organizations to support each other and promote gender equality. A notable example is the Riot Grrrl movement that emerged in the early 1990s, where bands like Bikini Kill, Bratmobile, and Sleater-Kinney used their music as a means to protest sexism and advocate for women's empowerment. They were also active in creating zines (independent magazines) and other alternative media to voice their opinions and educate the community about gender issues.

Punk women actively challenge sexism within the punk scene, openly criticizing discrimination, harassment, and the marginalization of women. They strive to create safe spaces at punk concerts and events where women feel accepted and respected without fear of violence or abuse. Gender activism is a primary focus for punk

women in rejecting gender stereotypes. Many of them engage in campaigns for women's rights, gender equality, and against gender-based violence. They also adopt an intersectional approach, addressing how gender interacts with race, class, sexual orientation, and other identity factors. Punk women challenge traditional gender roles by presenting fluid and diverse gender identities and roles. They reject the traditional gender binary and propose that gender identity exists on a spectrum. Through subversive art performances, such as drag or punk theater, they diversify and question the concepts of masculinity and femininity. Overall, punk women use various forms of creative expression, activism, and community building to resist and deconstruct gender stereotypes. By creating spaces where their identities are recognized and respected without being bound by traditional norms, they make significant contributions to broader social change, particularly in the contexts of gender and popular culture.

### **Expression of Identity and Gender Resistance (EIGR02)**

Expression of identity and gender resistance in punk subculture encompasses three main forms of resistance: clothing and appearance, music and lyrics, and shifts in meaning and values. These forms not only express unique identities but also challenge traditional gender norms in creative and provocative ways. In punk subculture encompasses three main forms of resistance: clothing and appearance, music and lyrics, and shifts in meaning and values. These forms not only express unique identities but also challenge traditional gender norms in creative and provocative ways.

### **Clothing and Appearance**

In the punk movement, women's appearance is not just about aesthetics but also a powerful political statement. They use clothing to express identity, reject traditional norms, and convey political messages in response to the social, political, and economic conditions of the mid-1970s. One

of the main ways punk women oppose gender stereotypes is by adopting androgynous clothing, which blurs the boundaries between masculinity and femininity. They choose leather jackets, ripped jeans, and combat boots that defy traditional feminine norms. This style reflects a rejection of rigid gender stereotypes and asserts that gender identity is a spectrum. Additionally, tattoos and piercings are often used as symbols of rebellion against conventional body norms, representing independence, bravery, and rejection of homogenized beauty standards. Tattoos and piercings also serve as forms of personal and unique self-expression.

Brightly colored hair and extreme hairstyles such as mohawks or half-shaved hair serve as striking visual signs within the punk subculture. These hairstyles are expressions of nonconformity and a desire to stand out from the crowd. Additionally, they represent a protest against societal expectations of women's appearance. Torn, dirty, or unkempt clothing symbolizes rejection of materialistic consumption and tidy aesthetics. This reflects the punk philosophy of DIY (Do It Yourself), emphasizing self-reliance and creativity. Deliberately imperfect appearances challenge conventional standards of beauty and propriety. Accessories like chains, spikes, and pins are often worn as symbols of strength and rebellion. They express aggression and reject social norms. Moreover, these accessories can be powerful political statements, showing solidarity with the punk movement and its ideologies.

Women's appearance within the punk movement is not only about style but carries deep cultural and political significance. They challenge sexism by rejecting societal expectations of femininity imposed by patriarchal norms. Their appearance signifies that women are not bound by conventional beauty standards. Instead, they use clothing and appearance to express unique individual identities while showing solidarity with the punk community. Subversive appearances empower punk women by asserting control over their bodies and identities. This also

reflects strength and resilience in confronting gender injustices. Punk fashion often serves as a form of protest against social, economic, and political injustices, challenging the status quo. Through the symbolism of androgynous clothing, tattoos, piercings, extreme hairstyles, and provocative accessories, punk women actively reject traditional norms and express their individuality. Overall, the clothing and appearance of punk women are not just aesthetic choices; they are powerful statements about identity, rebellion, and resistance. Through their style, punk women voice resistance against sexism, pursue women's freedom and empowerment, and explore various social and political issues in bold and provocative ways.

### **Music and Lyrics**

Women in the punk subculture are agents of rebellion against social, cultural, and political norms, manifested through their music and lyrics. This movement originated in the mid-1970s in the United States and the United Kingdom as a response to social, political, and economic injustices. Punk music serves as the primary means to voice rebellion, dissatisfaction, and social critique. Simply yet powerfully, this music reflects the spirit of resistance and essential freedom within punk culture. Symbolism in punk music is reflected in their use of instruments and musical styles. Distorted guitars, for instance, symbolize anger and rebellion, while fast tempos and simple rhythms reflect urgency and rejection of the complexity of mainstream music deemed irrelevant to their messages. Visual aesthetics also play a crucial role in this subculture, with clothing such as leather jackets, ripped pants, and brightly colored hair symbolizing rejection of conventional beauty norms. Tattoos and piercings serve not only as forms of self-expression but also as symbols of rejection against strict social standards.

Lyrics in women's punk music often explore themes of empowerment, rejecting stereotypes and oppression, and encouraging women to speak out and take control of their lives. Many lyrics critique patriarchy, gender

injustice, and sexual violence, making it a powerful tool for social criticism. Personal experiences often serve as primary inspiration for lyric writing, with lyrics revealing painful experiences such as harassment and discrimination, as well as efforts to overcome them. Solidarity and community also feature prominently, highlighting the importance of support and unity among women. Several women-led punk bands have become icons in this movement. For instance, Bikini Kill's song "Rebel Girl" emphasizes themes of empowerment and female solidarity. Lyrics like "That girl thinks she's the queen of the neighborhood / I got news for you, she is!" foster courage and self-pride. Other bands like The Slits, in their song "Typical Girls", criticize gender stereotypes and societal expectations of women. With provocative lyrics such as "Typical girls get upset too quickly/typical girls can't control themselves", they challenge conventional perceptions of women's roles.

Thus, lyrics in women's punk music not only entertain but also inspire social change, mobilizing women to express freedom and build solidarity in the fight against injustice. Women's punk music and lyrics not only inspire their listeners but also gave rise to the Riot Grrrl movement, a feminist subculture within punk actively addressing gender issues and promoting women's empowerment. Their contributions have shaped social awareness and changed perceptions about women's participation and rights. Overall, women's punk music and lyrics serve as tools for empowerment, social critique, and building solidarity. With powerful symbols and profound meanings, they challenge existing norms and strive to create positive change. The legacy of women in punk remains relevant today, inspiring new generations to continue fighting against injustice and oppression. Women's punk music proves that art is not just entertainment but can also be a powerful tool for advocacy. From visual symbolism to deep lyrical meanings, women in punk have shown that they have an influential and undeniable voice in the struggle for equality and justice.

### **Shifting Meanings and Values**

The punk subculture has long been a space for rebellion against social and political norms. In this context, women in punk not only serve as agents of change but also as shapers of evolving meanings and values over time. This exposition aims to explore how meanings and values within the women's punk subculture have shifted over the years. Punk emerged in the mid-1970s as a response to dissatisfaction with perceived social, political, and economic injustices. The movement is characterized by its rejection of conformity, DIY ethos (Do It Yourself), and criticism of exclusive authority. Initially, women in punk emphasized self-empowerment and freedom of expression. They used their music, lifestyle, and visual aesthetics to express discontent with patriarchy, gender injustice, and restrictive social norms. Solidarity among women became a primary focus, building supportive communities that strengthened each other. However, over time, the women's punk subculture has undergone significant shifts in its meanings and values. The popularity of punk brought substantial commercial influence. The music industry and mass media began adopting punk elements but often diluted the essence of deep-seated rebellion and social critique.

The punk subculture has inspired various new variations in style and themes. Lyrics have become a platform to explore issues such as mental health, sexual identity, and complex personal experiences. Punk values have adapted to local cultures worldwide, resulting in diverse interpretations of empowerment and resistance. Modern examples like War on Women and G.L.O.S.S (Girls Living Outside Society's Shit) demonstrate how punk women use their music to delve into modern feminist issues, sexual violence, systemic injustices, and LGBTQ+ rights. The evolution of values within the women's punk subculture has not only influenced their own communities but also contributed to broader social movements. These shifts have heightened awareness of more complex and

profound issues, prompting action and societal change. Overall, the meanings and values within women's punk have undergone significant transformation since the movement's inception. From initially focusing on straightforward rebellion and social critique to exploring more complex and inclusive issues, punk women continue to be an inspiring force in advocating for equality and justice in a continually changing world. This exposition affirms that women in punk are not merely following fashion trends but are leading in influencing popular culture and driving social change. Through the evolution of their values, they continually prove that the power of expression and resistance remains relevant and crucial in challenging the status quo.

### **Impact of Women's Movement in Punk Subculture (IWMPS03)**

The women's movement within the punk subculture has had a significant impact on popular culture, embracing new narratives about identity, resistance, and inclusivity. This exposition will outline how women's contributions in the punk subculture influence and redefine popular culture broadly. Three main aspects of resistance within the punk subculture are highlighted: its influence on popular culture, transformation in gender awareness, and its resonance in broader society. This research illustrates how women in the punk subculture challenge gender power structures and play a role in broader social change.

### **The Impact on Popular Culture**

The women's movement within the punk subculture has significantly influenced popular culture, transforming many facets of music, fashion, and gender representation. Beginning in the late 1970s and early 1980s, groups such as The Slits, Siouxsie and the Banshees, and X-Ray Spex emerged as pioneers of this movement. In the 1990s, the Riot Grrrl movement emerged with bands like Bikini Kill and Sleater-Kinney, blending punk music with feminist activism. This movement brought issues such as violence

against women, reproductive rights, and gender representation into their lyrics and actions. In the world of fashion, women within the punk subculture challenged conventional beauty standards with rough, experimental, and often androgynous styles. These trends later influenced mainstream fashion, with designers and major brands adopting elements of punk aesthetics such as ripped clothing, leather accessories, and unconventional appearances. In music, the presence of women in punk shattered stereotypes about gender and roles within the music industry. They demonstrated that women could be powerful vocalists, songwriters, and talented musicians equal to their male counterparts, paving the way for more women to succeed in the music industry.

The influence of women in the punk subculture extends to various aspects of popular culture. In media, they began gaining attention through magazine coverage, documentaries, and fictional films, which helped increase visibility and public understanding of women's roles in the punk movement and popular culture overall. In literature, this movement spurred the production of zines, independent magazines that became crucial platforms for women's voices. These zines often addressed feminist, political, and social issues from the perspective of punk women, allowing them to express ideas and experiences without commercial censorship or limitations. Moreover, the influence of the women's movement within the punk subculture is also evident in advocacy and activism. Many members of this movement are involved in feminist, LGBTQ+, and human rights organizations, using their platforms to promote social change. Thus, the women's movement within the punk subculture has created space for more liberated and inclusive self-expression, inspiring a new generation to continue fighting for their rights. In challenging gender norms and reshaping the landscape of music and fashion, women in the punk subculture have fostered room for change and innovation.

The impact of this movement continues to be felt today, demonstrating that resistance against rigid and unfair norms can lead to significant and positive societal changes.

### **Transformation in Gender Awareness**

The women's movement within the punk subculture has had a significant impact on transforming gender awareness. Originating in the late 1970s and early 1980s, this movement challenged traditional gender norms through song lyrics, stage performances, and unconventional fashion styles. In doing so, they created space for women to express themselves without conforming to rigid societal expectations. Additionally, women in the punk subculture began gaining media attention through coverage in magazines, documentaries, and fictional films. Their representation in the media introduced new concepts about gender to a wider audience, increasing understanding and acceptance of gender diversity. Furthermore, this movement spurred the production of zines, independent magazines that often discussed feminist, political, and social issues from the perspective of punk women. These zines became crucial tools for education and raising awareness about gender issues, allowing women to express their ideas and experiences without censorship and creating platforms for honest and open discussions about gender.

The women's movement within the punk subculture has not only inspired many women to engage in activism and advocacy but has also led numerous members of this movement to join feminist, LGBTQ+, and human rights organizations. They use their platforms to promote gender equality and social change, demonstrating that music and culture can be powerful tools for advocacy. Moreover, this movement has created inclusive and safe spaces for women and non-binary individuals within the punk subculture. Here, they find supportive communities for self-expression and identity development, crucial for gender awareness and identity. Thus, the women's movement

within the punk subculture has made significant contributions to the transformation in gender awareness. They challenge traditional gender norms, enhance representation in media, and promote education through zines and literature, creating platforms for authentic and inclusive self-expression. Their influence in activism and advocacy also underscores that music and culture can be potent instruments for social change. The impact of this movement continues to be felt today, inspiring a new generation to persist in the fight for gender equality and human rights.

### **Broad Social Resonance**

The women's movement within the punk subculture has had a significant impact on broader society. Emerging in the late 1970s and early 1980s, this movement challenged traditional norms and promoted gender equality. Through music, fashion, and stage actions, punk women rejected conforming to conventional expectations of behavior and appearance. In doing so, they opened up discussions in society about the flexibility of gender roles and the importance of individuality. One of the main impacts of this movement was its influence on fashion and aesthetics. Women in the punk subculture adopted experimental and often subversive styles, which later influenced mainstream fashion trends. Elements such as torn clothing, leather accessories, and unconventional looks became popular among designers and consumers alike. This influence demonstrated that aesthetics once considered marginal could be accepted and celebrated by society at large. Furthermore, the women's movement within the punk subculture played a crucial role in raising awareness about gender and sexuality issues. Through explicit lyrics and narratives, they addressed topics such as violence against women, reproductive rights, and sexual identity. This helped broaden societal understanding of the complexities of gender and sexuality and encouraged greater acceptance of diversity. Thus, the women's movement within the punk subculture not

only transformed perceptions of fashion and gender but also inspired broader discussions about individuality and acceptance in society.

Women in punk are not only active on stage but also in various forms of advocacy and social change. Many of them are involved in feminist, LGBTQ+, and human rights organizations, using their platforms to promote positive social change. This activism not only strengthens broader social movements but also inspires individuals outside the punk subculture to engage in similar efforts. Another impact of the women's movement within the punk subculture is its influence on media and the representation of women. Media coverage of this movement often highlights the power, courage, and creativity of punk women, helping to change stereotypes about women in the music industry and popular culture. This representation sets an example for younger generations regarding the diversity of roles and identities for women. The women's movement within the punk subculture also creates inclusive spaces where individuals feel safe to express themselves. These communities support diversity and inclusivity, offering support and solidarity to those who may feel marginalized in mainstream society. These spaces help build strong social networks and provide emotional and social support. Thus, the women's movement within the punk subculture has had a profound impact on broader society.

By challenging social norms, influencing fashion and aesthetics, raising awareness of gender and sexuality issues, and engaging in advocacy and social change, they have created significant and lasting resonance. The impact of this movement continues to be felt today, demonstrating that resistance to traditional norms and promotion of gender equality can lead to positive change in society. This movement not only inspires the punk subculture but also the broader society to continue fighting for equality and social justice. This research provides a deeper understanding of the dynamics of

gender resistance within women's punk subculture. It expands knowledge on how women in the punk subculture express themselves and challenge dominant gender norms. The research also highlights the role of collective identity, solidarity, and activism in shaping spaces for free expression free from gender oppression. Socially, this research contributes to further recognition of women's contributions within the punk movement and popular culture in general. It also provides insights for non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups to design programs that support self-expression free from gender oppression. Additionally, the research encourages the development of more inclusive and supportive policies for women in the fields of arts, music, and political activism.

This research also strengthens the argument for integrating a gender approach into cultural policy and broader community policies. Moreover, it provides guidance for educational practitioners to promote gender awareness and foster appreciation for diversity in popular culture within learning environments. This encourages policymakers to pay more attention to the needs and aspirations of women in building inclusive and fair environments. Furthermore, the research significantly contributes to inspiring young women to engage in resistance movements and social activism advocating for gender equality and social justice. Additionally, it prompts further reflection and dialogue on gender norms and ways to build a more inclusive and fair society for all individuals. Overall, this research is not only about understanding gender resistance within women's punk subculture but also about reinforcing awareness of the importance of recognizing and appreciating gender diversity in popular culture. The contributions and implications of this research span a wide spectrum from academic to practical realms and from social to policy domains.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

This research provides a deep

understanding of gender resistance within women's punk subculture. This study explores gender resistance within the female punk subculture through the lenses of culture, identity, and activism. The research findings indicate three main roles in gender resistance within the punk subculture, they were the role of women in the punk subculture; the expression of identity and gender resistance; and the impact of women's movements within the punk subculture. They use fashion, music, and political activism as tools to challenge dominant gender norms in society. The solidarity among these women plays a crucial role in combating sexism, patriarchy, and gender stereotypes within the punk movement. Women's activism within the punk subculture is not just about fighting individual gender injustices but also about advocating for broader social change. They use their voices to advocate for gender equality and social justice. Thus, this research highlights the importance of recognizing women's contributions within the punk subculture to broader social and cultural changes towards inclusivity. To support gender resistance within subcultures, there are several specific policy recommendations that can be implemented; Firstly, education and awareness should be enhanced by integrating gender equality and stereotype reduction materials into school curricula. This is crucial for broadening knowledge about women's contributions within subcultures and reducing existing stigma.

Secondly, it is important to provide financial support for subcultural initiatives that emphasize gender inclusion. For instance, granting subsidies for music or art festivals showcasing women's work in specific subcultures can strengthen their participation. Thirdly, policies promoting protection and safety should be promoted to create a safe and inclusive subcultural environment for all members. This includes preventing harassment, violence, and gender-based discrimination. Fourthly, collaboration between government and subcultural communities is essential. Such partnerships can facilitate joint initiatives advocating for gender equality and addressing challenges faced by women within subcultures. Lastly, advocacy for women's representation and participation in subcultural decision-making should be encouraged. This can enhance women's active roles in event organization, artistic programming, and resource management. By implementing these

recommendations, it is hoped that a more inclusive and supportive environment for women within subcultures can be created. This will also strengthen gender resistance within popular culture more broadly. Further research is needed to compare women's punk subculture with men's punk subculture or punk subcultures from different cultural backgrounds to understand differences and similarities in gender resistance practices. Moreover, future research could explore the impact of public policies, such as education policies or mental health policies, on women's participation in punk subculture and their practices of gender resistance. Conducting further research in these areas will deepen our understanding of gender resistance within women's punk subculture and their contributions to broader social change.

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