

QUESTION 2: (CSS-2016)

Critically analyze the various approaches to women's development focusing on WID, WAD and GAD?

INTRODUCTION:

Before feminist movements, the development programs always ignored gender roles in the developmental projects at community, society, state or world level. Women were marginalized from such activities which play major role in the progress of the state. However, with different waves of feminism came a shift in integrating women in development programmes in hope of eradicating poverty and strengthening the social, economical and political status of women.

Eva Rathgeber identified three major school of thoughts on gender and development namely:

- 1- Women in Development - (WID)
- 2- Women and Development - (WAD)
- 3- Gender and Development - (GAD)

These school of thoughts differ from each other on the basis of their origin, theoretical framework, approach, focus and the issues they highlight.

These school of thoughts help in increased visibility of women's contribution to development, enhanced the understanding of the importance of gender equality in development and promotion of gender based policies and programs that not only address the needs and aspirations of men but also women and intersex.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (WID)

1- BACKGROUND OF WID:

The term women in development (WID) is coined in 1970's. In WID the main focus was to integrate women in developmental works.

⇒ UN conference on women in 1975, was the first global conference on women which sought to address the issue of gender roles and to support women rights.

⇒ Ester Boserup's (1970) "Women Role in Economic Development" published in 1970's proved as a spark for the theory of WID where she discussed how women are undermined and neglected in developmental projects. It reasoned why women are treated

differently, by hegemonic society of men.

These events paved a path for the role of working women in developmental projects and resultantly, US Congress in 1973 passed a bill which required USAID to include women in developmental projects.

R- Theoretical Framework of WID:

The foundational base of WID lies in liberal feminism where liberal feminists were talking about equal rights and opportunities while its theoretical framework lies in the theory of 'Modernization' that focuses internal factors as the core problem of women's subordination in the developing world.

"World Bank in its report 'Globalisation, Economic Growth and Gender Equality' appears to be a strong proponent of

the views of modernization theory for marginalization of women.

3 Main Focus:

Main focus of WID is to integrate women in society. Women are considered as fragile who are unable to do labourious or intellectual works and only fit for raising children and doing household works. So, WID demanded the emergence of women in society to perform developmental works, in order to make them economically fruitful for the state as well as for themselves.

4 Features:

WID highlighted the internal cultural factors for the marginalization of women and provided the negative impacts of colonialism and capitalism on domestic lives of women.

Paul Collier in his book "Women in development: Defining the Issue" stated "WID has had a lasting impact on the way in which development planners think about women"

5- Criticism:

WID is criticised by the critics as it didnot why women position was always declining, and what are the sources of oppression.

WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT (WAD)

1- Origin:

WAD originated back in 1975 in response to the criticism raised on WID. and questioned the sources and nature of women's subordination and oppression.

Chelana Kalbogh in her book "Women and Development" described WAD as an approach that focuses on why the women always have been an integral part of exploitation and inequality in developmental processes.

2- Theoretical Framework of WAD:

The foundational basis of WAD lies in radical feminism while 'Dependency theory' works as its theoretical platform. As world powers always marginalize under-developing world economically and socially, women condition is also analogous. The hegemony of men always make women dependent on them.

3- Main Focus:

It rejected the notion of women in development and stated that women have always been part of development process. It focused on the relationship

between women and development process and how women are active participators in development.

4- Features:

WAD highlighted the external factors i.e. world power politics responsible for the marginalization and oppression of third world women.

R.K. Supra in her book "Women and Development" viewed "WAD as a careful approach on integrating women in larger structures than the social relations of gender".

5- Criticism:

It focus on the exploitation by the external world was criticised as it talked about the submissive role of men and women in the world and failed to analyze the relationship between patriarchy, mode of production and women suppression.

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

1- Origin

It originated in 1980's and focus on gender rather than women.

2- Theoretical Framework:

The foundation basis of GAD lies in post-modern feminism while its concept is based on world system theory. As world is divided into core and peripheries same is the case with gender where men are considered as core and other genders i.e. women, intersex and transgender as peripheries.

3- Main Focus:

It rejected the notions of WID and WAD and worked on the emancipation of all genders. It talked about

rights of all genders. They took in consideration the fluidity of gender and talked about the rights of transgenders.

4- Features:

It has two main goals.

1- To prove that unequal relationship between the sexes hinders development.

2- To change the structure of power where decision making and benefits of development are distributed on equal basis of gender neutrality.

5- Criticism:

GAD is criticized for emphasizing the social difference between genders while neglecting the bond between them. It largely emphasized the rights of transgenders.

FLOW CHART

	<u>WID</u>	<u>WAD</u>	<u>GAD</u>
Origin	1970	1975	1980
Theory	Modernization	Dependency	World System Theory
Focus	Integration of women	Role of women in development	empower all genders
Core Problem	Internal Factors	External Factors	Both Internal + External
Strategies	To provide Rights	Women as economic actors	Women + Intersex

Conclusion:

To sum up,

All approaches for the development of women in the society, have one aspect in common; that they resisted the inequalities prevailing in society or world order on the basis of gender and through different theoretical frameworks tried to attain equality in rights as it is the core element for development of a country. The ultimate goal of all approaches is to achieve gender equality.