

CSS 2016 (Gender Studies)

Gender Studies

Q.No 2 Write a short note on the status of Women's studies in Pakistan and give your views on the autonomy/integration debate in Women's Studies.

(2016)

Introduction

Women Studies, at first, started in the Western countries. Afterwards, it began in Pakistan in late 1980s. The purpose of the discipline was to aware everyone about the rights of women and their sufferings in the country. As a result of the subject, many women have eventually taken advantages from it. Regarding the Women Studies, a debate has been active whether it should be an autonomous discipline or be integrated with already existing disciplines. Hence, the subject "Women Studies" should be taught separately because it will clear the eye-hair of preponderance in the world.

2- Status of Women Studies in Pakistan

a) The beginning of Women Studies
Owing to the Hudood ordinance of General Zia ul Haq, women took the streets and roads stand against such strict and oppressive laws. Therefore, women realized to make the Women studies subject in universities and colleges.

b) The plan of Women Development Division

In order to make the Women Studies ~~separate~~ ~~distinct~~ subject, Women Development Division gave a five year plan in 1989. From here, Women studies was being considered to make subject in the universities and colleges.

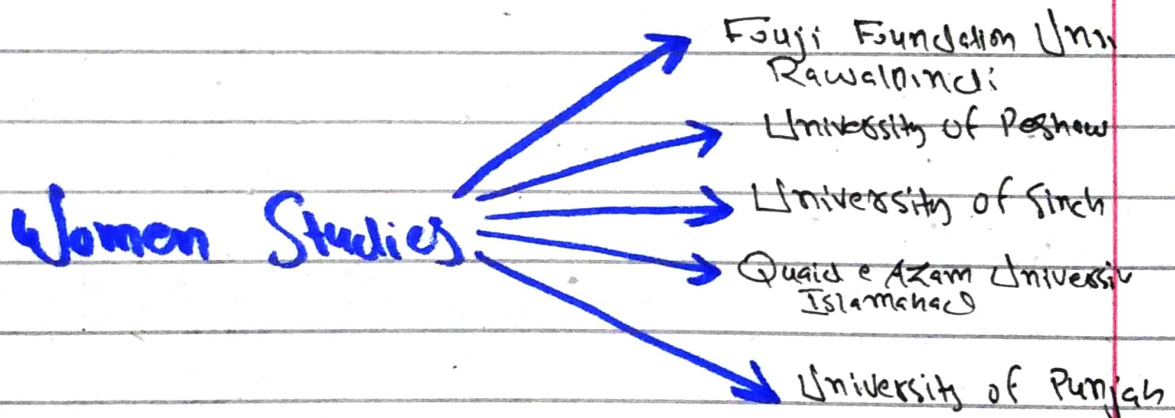
c) Curriculum Revision Committee recommendations

A committee was formed to make plan how Women studies should be made part ~~of~~ in every aspect. Following ~~of~~ the recommendations

given by the committee.

- i. Gender Studies as an optional subject of CSS
- ii. Gender Studies should also be studied in other existing subjects
- iii. Every material related to women studies should be translated into Urdu
- iv. A special fund should be formed for its working process

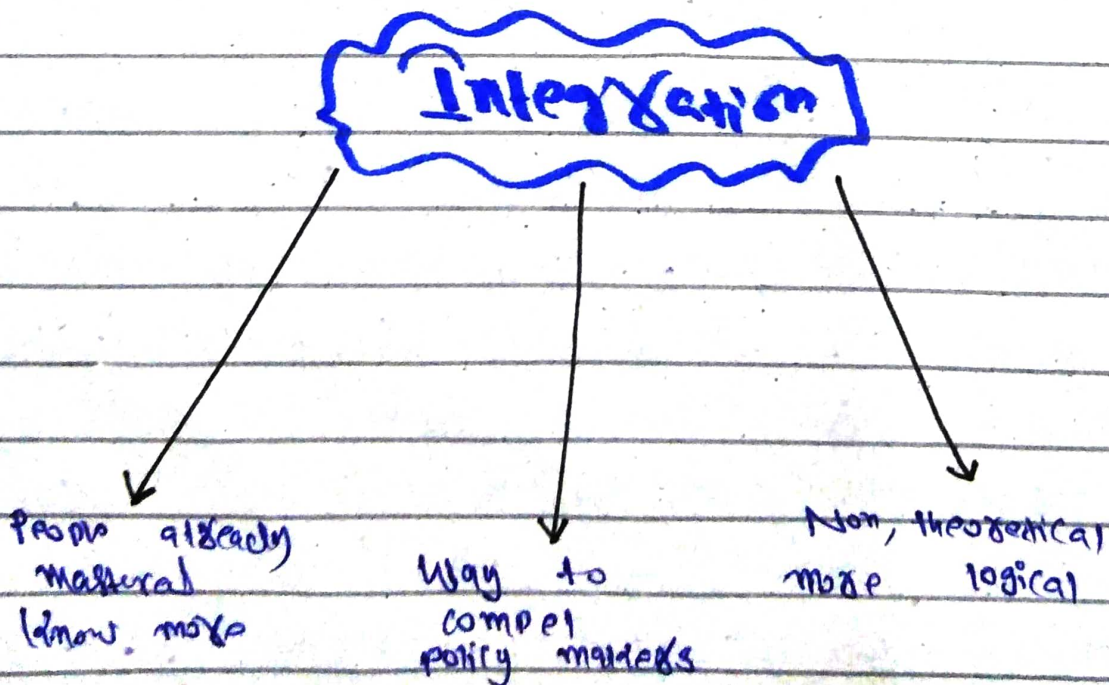
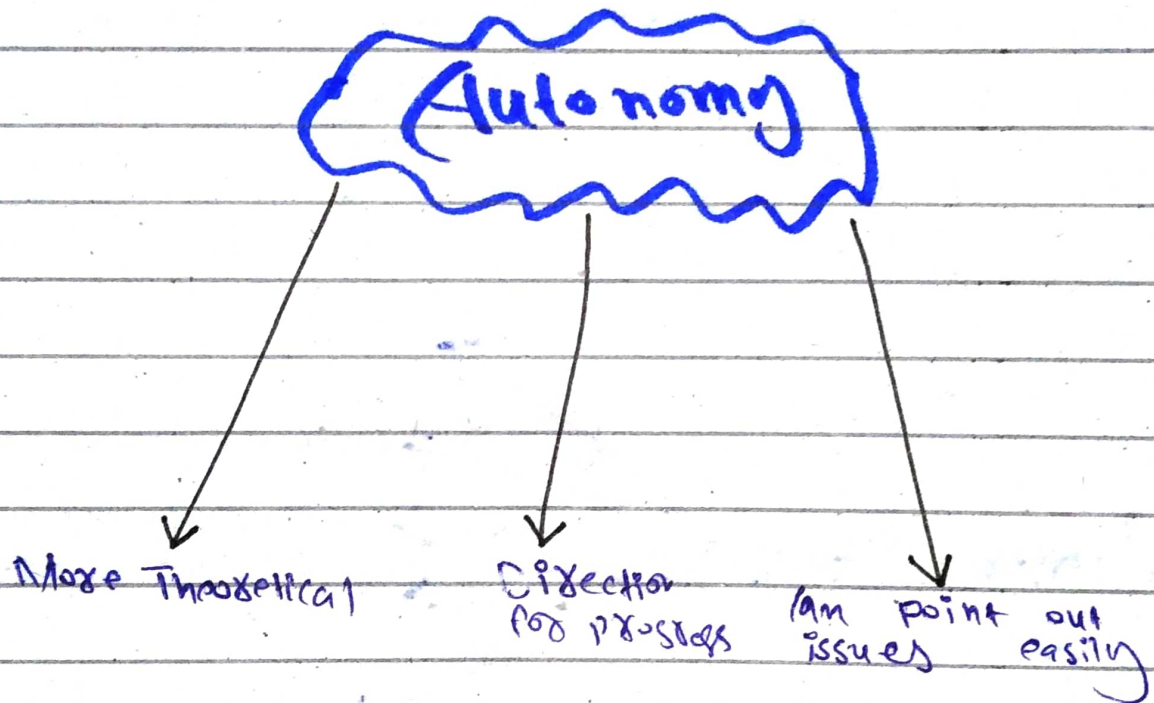
d) Status of Women Studies



Women Studies is being taught in the universities in the country. Besides, University of Karachi started the subject in 1989. In Sindh University, Mphil started in 2002 and M.A in 2004. With the help of these universities, Women Studies has benefited women

3- Autonomy and Integration Debate

This debate is about the Women Studies which should either become an autonomous or integrated with already existing <u>interdisciplinary</u> <u>relationships</u> and <u>discipline</u>, e.g. Sociology, etc.



a) My point of view
Women Studies can get excessive attention through being an autonomous subject, whereas if it is an integrated with any other discipline, will lose its main purpose for what it was formed. Being a separate subject, it can ~~stress~~ the address the issues and problems of women throughout Pakistan. In Pakistan, the most students only do student for getting a good job. Therefore, integration with any existing discipline can not attract the attention of many people. As autonomy, it can be upgraded and improved with the passage of time. It will address the going condition of women in Pakistan. So, autonomy of Women Studies is the best choice to become more effective and workable.

Conclusion

Women Studies has been taught in many universities of Pakistan since it was first started in 1980s. With the passing of time, M.Phil and M.A was also given for the subject. Women have been understood with the help of the subject. A debate regarding the Women Studies is autonomy and integration, it was debated either Women should become a separate subject or be integrated with already existing discipline. But as an autonomy, it can easily address the all issues and sufferings of women. Otherwise Women Studies, as being integrated with any existing subject, will lose its ground.

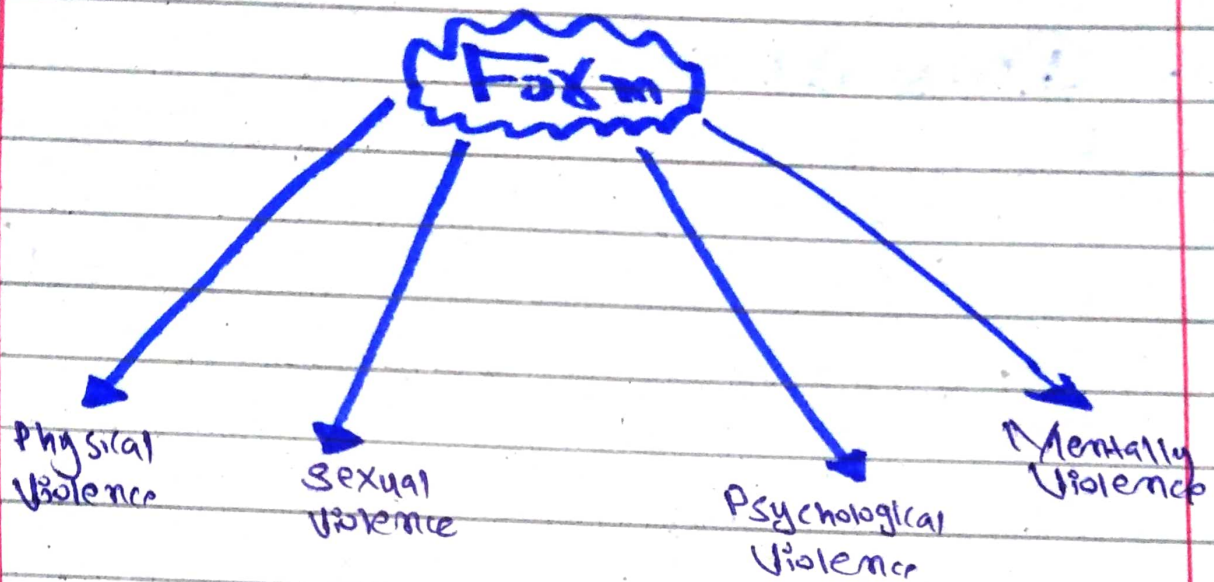
Q.No.2 What are the sites and forms of violence against women in Pakistan and how in your opinion view this menace can be eliminated from our society?

1- Introduction

There has been seen physical, mental, sexual and psychological violence in Pakistan. As being an Islamic country, the women have to go through many difficulties even a rich woman is not left in exception. Violence has become very common in every corner of Pakistan, especially in urban areas. The majority of women are victim of psychological and physical violence in Pakistan. The only one way forward is making women financially stable and a law which execute the person who kills his daughter or wife on the pretext of honor killing. Besides, there are also

Other ways to eliminate violence from our society.

2- Forms of Violence in Pakistan



1. Physical Violence

Physical Violence in Pakistan has become rampant, especially after Islamization Policy of General Zia ul Haq. Men think women are weak and beat them badly and suspect every movement of their women. There are many physical violence cases, which have also become national level. For example, in 2016, Gandeel Babu

was killed by his own
brother on honor killing. And
in 2021, 27-year old Noor
Munir was beheaded by her
own husband. Hence, physical
violence has been increasing
in Pakistan. According to
the 2017-18 report, Pakistan
Democratic and Health Survey,
88 percent of women aged
15 to 49 had experienced
intimate partner violence in
their lifetimes.

b. Sexual Violence

This type of violence is
the sex which is not
on consent based. Many women
even if they are in mad
or not, have to listen
to their ~~women~~ husbands.

There are also many
other women who were
target of sexual violence.
For example, Ayesha Iqbal,
a TikTok creator, who was
harassed and groped
by more than 400 men
on Independence day. In 2020,
around 5,000 instances of

Sexual violence, including rape, gang-rape and other types of sexual assault, were reported in Pakistan.

c. Psychological Violence

This violence refers to threats or coercion to have control over women. As many women in Pakistan are dependent on male's financial resource, they, as a result of it, fell into cage of their dominance.

Violent husband threatens his wife of sending back to her parents' home or divorce.

According to United Nations Research, Study Group that 50% of the women in Pakistan

are physically battered and

90% are mentally and

verbally abused their men.

So, insubordinate women in

Pakistan are prone to

psychological violence. This violence

has suffocated the freedom

and rights of women.

d. Mentally Violence
Mentally Violence is also about
the subjugation and marginalization
of women through threats,
verbal rhetoric, coercion and
pressure. Women see no other
way to go and accept
that violence without raising
any question. A study by
Women's division on "Battered
Housewives in Pakistan" reveals
that domestic violence in
approximately 80% of the
households. Women have continuously
been victim of domestic
violence which occurs in
many forms. Mentally violence
majority prevails in rural areas
where women are almost
illiterate and unable to get
job. As a result of it,
women come under the
oppression of their husband
because of not having
own resource and financial
independency. So, mentally
violence of women is related
to their financial dependency
on their husband.

3- Measures to eliminate violence from Pakistan

a) Education mandatory for all women
Women can become financially independent through education.

The reason is that education shall enable them to get any good job. A jobed woman would be dependent on her husband, who therefore can not control or strict to her. ~~that~~

b) Legislation of governments

Governments must pass a law against those who are involved in violence against women of any form. When a person culprit is executed or given life imprisonment, it will give a warning to those who are addressees of it. Women should be protected through the legislations by governments for all women.

c) Equal opportunities for all ~~people~~
regardless of gender

Women should be encouraged through job opportunities. All women therefore can easily become financial stable and able speak against their violence. Parents should send their daughters to other house with making her ~~the~~ financial independent. A good education can only ensure her to get job.

d) Role of media

Media should give depiction of any kind of violence against women. The culprits must be taken to the task. Media has to show women their strength of unity and cooperation. Through media, a woman, victim of the violence, can get rights and rid from oppression. Media, over and above, shall play unbiased role, even if the violent person belongs to any elite person.

4-

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are three main types of violence in patriarchy (Physical, sexual, psychological and mentally violence). Patriarchy women are most victim of physical and mental violence, by her husbands or brothers. It is believed that most women are target of violence owing to their financial dependence on their male. These violence can be terminated through several ways that include education for all women, job opportunities, role of government and media. If these above mentioned work women cannot go through gender based violence.

Write note on Women's movement in Pakistan. What are its strengths and weakness

Introduction

The feminist movement in Pakistan was influenced from the Western movement. It was followed by the strict Islamization policies of General Zia ul Haq. Over and above, these are two types of feminism in Pakistan: Secular feminism and Religious feminism. With the help of these feminist movements, the women eventually dragged the attention of the nation to show their sufferings, discrimination, marginalization and oppression by men. Now, the movement has become able to address the every concerns women go through in the country, but it is also seen the participant in the movement belong to rich family and do not know ~~the~~ how other women in poor family feel.

They see all women of Pakistan same and oppressed.

So the feminist movement started in Pakistan in order to address the issues of women and it gained strength in 1980s.

Feminist movement in Pakistan

1) How the movement started

Though Fatima Jinnah and Begum Ram Liaquat Ali Khan had already started the work on feminism. Mrs.

Liaquat Ali Khan founded

All Pakistan Women's Association in 1949 in order to improve the moral, social and economic status of women. However, the

Islamization of General Zia ul

Haq threw down the gauntlet to women to take streets and roads for their rights.

Therefore, the real wave of feminism, to say, arose in 1980s against the policies of General Zia ul Haq.

This movement fought tooth and nail against the strict laws.

b) Types of Feminism in Pakistan

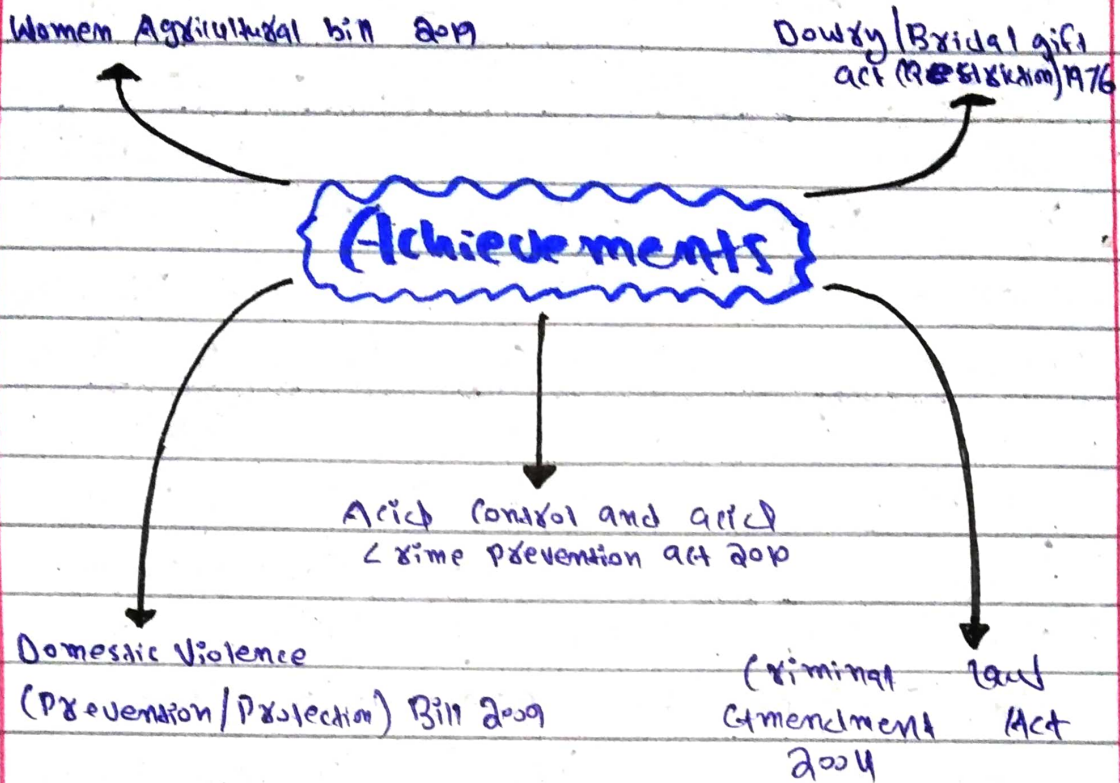
Talking about the feminism nature in Pakistan, there are two types of feminist movement: Secular Feminist movement (supported by Riffat Hussain, ~~Amira~~ ^{Amira} Wedood and Asma Bakhsh) and Modern Islamic Feminism (Shah Nawaz Rouse and Fouzia and etc). Islamic feminism states that women are given the sufficient and the best rights in Islam and those should be implemented; whereas secular feminism is based on western thought.

c) Decline and rise

During the stint of Benazir Bhutto, the feminist were getting big support from NGOs and government itself for the welfare of women in Pakistan. For their social, economic, political and moral status; the effectiveness of the movement somewhat declined when Pervez Musharraf came in power. As the period of PML-N ended due to the advent of another military rule, General Pervez Musharraf passed many laws in favour of women.

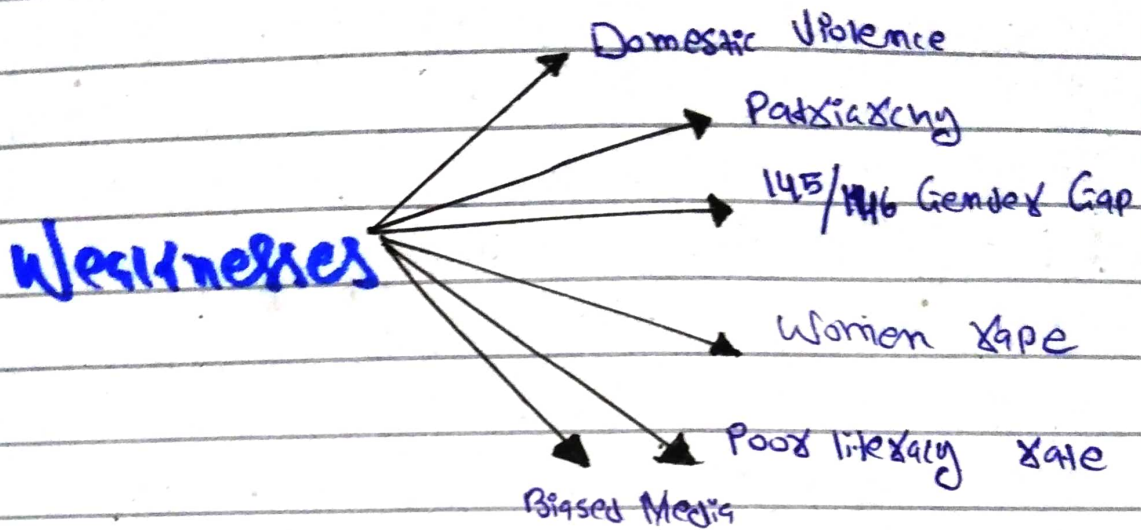
Achievements

3- of Feminist movement



These all above mentioned acts are the result of Feminist movements, efforts and struggle. Women have legally been protected by the legislations. Since the start of the movement, women in Pakistan have noticed many improvements, in education, employment, political quota and health sectors. Though Pakistan ranks 145th out of 146 countries on the World Economic Forum's 2022 Global Gender Gap index, it has improved the lives of

4- Weaknesses of Feminist movement



In spite of many efforts of feminist women in Pakistan, the women still go through many issues and problems. They don't want to reject the relation of abstinence, if she refuses, she will be accused of having affair with any person. Over and above, they go through domestic violence. According to a report, married women in Gilgit Baltistan have higher level of domestic violence (88%) and psychological (69 percent). Talking about the status of women in education, they have literacy rate at 48% whereas 70% of male according to 2002 report.

80, Conclusion

The feminist movements started in Pakistan against the poor treatment of women. These movements played pivotal role in getting women sufficient rights in every walks of life. These are two types of feminism in Pakistan: Islamic feminism and Secular feminism. With the help of feminist movements, women have been given protection and many rights through laws and bills. GIS compared to the success of the feminist movement in Pakistan, it has more weaknesses due to patriarchal society. Despite the fact, women have been given more seats in NA, representation, candidate seats, equal education and more.

Q.No. What are theories of social

construction of gender?

~~Introduction~~

The social construction of gender is a theory in feminism and sociology about the manifestation of cultural origins, mechanisms, and corollaries of gender perception and expression in the context of interpersonal and group social interaction. These are some theories of social

construction: Gender role theory,

Functionalist approach of Talcott Parsons' view, Feminine and

Masculine Culture, Butler's Gender performativity, Doing Gender, Zimmerman's theory, Gender

Schema theory by Sandra Bem and Sex Role theory. These

are theories of social construction of gender, explain

how a person is constructed or become man or woman.

Every theory has different view regarding the roles played by genders

2- Gender Role Theory

This theory states that men and women are expected to go through their genitalia. For example, a man may to wear dress that is expected and accented by society, whereas a woman shall wear women dress. So, this is how it constructs their gender. On other hand, if a person (for example, woman) wears clothes of male, she shall be criticised and called social deviant. So, men or woman are given roles by society to go through.

2- Functionalist approach of Talcott Parsons, view

Gender inequalities exist in the society. These inequalities create a division of labor. They create a social system in which particular segments are clearly responsible for certain respective acts of labor. The functionalist perspective was developed by Talcott Parsons model of family. This idea

developed during 1940s and 1950s.

3- Feminine and Masculine Culture

Masculinity and Femininity differ in the social roles that are associated with the biological fact of the existence of the sexes. Femininity stands for sex society in which social gender roles overlap. Masculinity stands for a society in which gender roles are clearly distinct.

4- Butler's Gender Performativity

There is no inherent truth to gender instead gender is constructed by social expectations and gender performance. Repetitious performance of males and females of society in accordance with social norms constructs the gender.

5- Gender Zimmerman's Theory

However, many tasks in the society are gendered. These tasks are expected

-to different genders. For example, cooking, washing, cleaning house and many others are expected to women to perform in society. (Talking about the men, they are believed to protect family and earn money by his children.

6- Gender Schema theory

This theory was given by Sandra Ben. The word Schema basically means a pattern of thought or behaviour that organises categories of information and relationships between them. This theory was introduced during the early 1980s; it suggests that culture influences children to develop their ideas about what it means to be a man or woman.

7- Sex Role theory

Boys and girls adopt the roles of their respective sex. The society reinforces the role of sex in the personality of boy and girl.

8- Erikson's psychosocial theory of development

Erikson was one of the few theorists to look at development across the entire course of the lifespan. Erikson's theory suggests that people pass through eight distinctive developmental stages as they grow and change through life.

