

## Question :-

Critically explain gender inequalities and women subordinate position in developing world in light of modernization theory?

Answer.

### 1 Introduction :-

“Critical examination of gender inequality according to modernization theory.”

Moderinization theory was emerged in 1950s as an explanation of that how the industrial societies of North American and Western Europe developed. The basic perspective of this theory is that social & economic

development in any country is beneficial for its people, especially for women. This theory is in favour that in developed countries women are in better condition and their rights are reserved due to social and economic development of these countries while in developing countries specific gender gap is present because these countries are not able to give equal rights to women. Samuel Huntington, Walt Rostow were the supporters of this theory. Because, they analyzed the problem of women in third world countries. In some perspectives, this theory is right because in developing countries women subordination is somehow present but

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we can't ignore the oppression against women in developed countries also. There are also some problems which women face in developed countries.  $\rightarrow$  Dependency theory also criticized on ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> aspects of modernization theory. But overall, we can say that somehow this theory is right because the progress of women in developed countries is far much better than developed countries. So, we can say that social & economic development of countries can decrease gender gap and oppression against women.

2

Condition of women in developing countries:-

In developing countries like in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and in Pakistan women are facing so many challenges. Some of these challenges in developing countries are given below.

(2.1)

### Lack of access to education and health care:

In some developing countries women have less access to education and health care because of <sup>less</sup> developmental status of these countries.

Forexample In Afghanistan only 37% girls are enrolled in schools as compared to 66% of boys.

This report was published by UNICEF on

gender equality situation in these developing countries. This report also mentioned that in Iraq 20% of women have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) which can cause serious health problems. Although Iraq is a muslim country but still FGM is present in some areas of Iraq like in Kurdistan region of Iraq which raises concern on women situation in such countries.

(2.2) Less political participation of women in developing countries:-

§ Political participation of women in developing countries is also less as compared to developed countries

"According to UN-Women"

In Afghanistan <sup>women hold</sup> only 27% of the seats of lower house of parliament. And women face threats and harassment from conservative groups. In Iran, women are banned from running for president, or becoming judges. In Iraq, women are excluded from the peace talks and reconciliation efforts.

(2.3)

## Exposure to violence and insecurity in developing countries

Women usually face violence in developing countries and their customs, traditions, less developmental rate and conservative mentality of people <sup>specially men</sup> compels them to do violence.

on women. Many international organizations highlighted this issue like

Amnesty International published report on women rights and said that in Afghanistan 87% of women face gender based violence. In Iran, women are forced to do hijab against their will while in Iraq women have been targeted by sexual violence, abduction and torture by extremist groups such as ISIS.

(2.4)

**Discriminatory laws and norms in developing countries limits women freedom:—**

There are many discriminatory laws and norms in these countries which

restrains them to live their life freely and according to their personal will.

## || According to Human Right Watch report ||

In Afghanistan women are subject to Sharia law that limits their rights & freedom. In Iran women are subject to Islamic Penal Code that impose harsh punishments for adultery, apostasy & homosexuality. In Iraq women are subject of Personal Status law that discriminate against them in matter such as divorce, marriage etc.

By understanding all such situations we can say that situation of women in



developing countries is not really good but oppression against women is also present in developed countries such as USA and even in China which shows criticism on modernization theory that oppression against women is due to less developmental status.

### (3) Overview of women subordination in developed countries as a critique of modernization theory.

Women subordination in developing countries is justifiable because they are far less in developmental process but in developed countries women also faced

developing countries is not really good but oppression against women is also present in developed countries such as USA and even in China which shows criticism on modernization theory that oppression against women is due to less developmental status. (d)

### (3) Overview of women subordination in developed countries as a critique of modernization theory.

Women subordination in developing countries is justifiable because they are far less in developmental process but in developed countries women also faced

oppression concept of which criticize  
theory of modernization

Forexample :-

(a) Forced abortion  
in China due to  
one child policy  
of 1979 to 2015.

(b) US supreme court  
overturned 50 years  
old jurisprudence on  
abortion due to unborn  
protection and consider  
abortion as illegal  
in 12 states of US.

In both the above situation  
women are in oppression  
because in one situation  
government restrain women  
to use their abortion  
right while in China  
government forced women

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(3.1) Dependency theory  
as critique of  
modernization theory.

Dependency theory also  
criticized on modernization

theory by highlighting  
unequal distribution of

of resources between

developed countries and

developing countries.

that is the main

cause of economic

~~issues~~ <sup>problems</sup> in developing

countries. Because this

unequal distribution compels

developing countries to

become fully dependent

on developed countries.

And as a result they

can't perform their

role for betterment of

their working class and

also not for betterment  
of women.

# Comparison of women progress in developed countries vs developing countries.

If we look upon the comparison b/w developed and developing countries regarding women progress then we can easily find out the fact that concept of modernization is true because situation of women in developed countries is overall much better than developing countries. For-example, IPU and UN women " during the 67th session of Commission of status of women " published report " Women in power in 2023 " which

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

clearly showed that in developed countries women are in much better condition than in developing and in countries that are victims of proxy war

## Conclusion :-

So, Conclusively, we can say that women situation in developing countries is not much better because of their socio-economic situation and modernization theory also mentioned same that countries should be socially & economically developed to promote gender equality. So, we can say that development in social & economic field with enlightenment of mind is necessary for protecting women rights in developing countries.