

Q. No. 6:

Give a critical gender analysis of development theories.

Answer:

Development theories such as Modernization Theory, World System Theory, Dependency Theory, and Structural Functionalism have shaped global policies and socioeconomic structures. A gendered critique reveals the marginalization and invisibility of women highlighting how patriarchal frameworks are often enforcing inequalities. This analysis includes each theory's implications for gender dynamics.

1- Modernization Theory:

Modernization theory views development as a linear progression toward industrialization and urbanization, with Western societies

as an ideal model. This framework inherently assumes that traditional societies are backward and need to adopt modern values to progress.

Gender Critique:

Use marker for headings

i-Exclusion of Women

Modernization theory equates progress with public sphere - predominantly male - women's role is ignored and confined to private domain.

ii- Masculine Modernity

Technological advancements and political developments have often excluded women. Women are treated as instrumentalistically or they are used to measure the backwardness of a community.

iii- Environmental Exploitation

Leave a line space between headings for neatness

The male dominance over nature reflects implicit dominance over women, which reinforces patriarchal

norms.

Globally, women spend 2.5 times more hours on unpaid ~~labors~~ domestic work than men, highlighting ~~the~~ systematic exclusion from economic progress (UN Women, 2023)

ii- World System Theory:

This theory divides world into core, semi-periphery and periphery states, where core states exploits ~~resources~~ ^{and labor} of periphery state. This theory highlights ~~global~~ inequalities but ignores the intersectionality of gender.

Gender Critique

i- Reinforced Inequalities:

The development of core states (men) depends on exploitation of periphery ~~from~~ states (women), which exacerbates gender disparities.

ii- Neglect of Women's Labor:

Women in periphery states mostly perform under paid, insecure and precarious jobs, sustaining the global economy.

iii- Replication of Inequalities:

Gender based inequality at international or national level is often replicated at the domestic level. Where women are kept in subordinate roles.

In South Asia 27% of women face domestic violence, exacerbated by economic dependencies created by exploitative global systems (Human Rights Watch, 2023)

iii- Dependency Theory:

Dependency theory highlights that the global economy perpetuates the dependence of developing countries on developed ones. Their economic autonomy is also hindered.

Add and highlight references against these arguments

Gender Critique

i- Patriarchal Exploitation:

Men in leadership roles strengthen the systems that keep women dependent. Consequently, this exploitative and male dominant is reflected to the domestic structures.

ii- Economic Exclusion:

Women are systematically excluded from labor markets and from development processes, which paved the way for patriarchal dominance.

iii- Cultural Justification:

The economic dependency is often justified through traditional gender roles. Which limits the agency of women.

In Pakistan women hold only 19.3% of parliamentary seats, showing systemic barriers to political and economic participation (UN Women 2023).

iv- Structural Functionalism:

This theory considers that these are interrelated structures in every society. All structures perform their ~~one~~ specified for that structure which results into the stability of that society. Gender roles are also assigned on societal needs, often justifying the subordination of women.

Gender Critique

i- Gendered Division of Labor:

Structural functionalism accepts separation of spheres and considers it ~~normal~~. Which force women to unpaid domestic roles.

ii- Patriarchal Maintenance:

In this theory patriarchy is treated as ~~a~~ force to stabilization in the society. Even, challenges to its authority are

discouraged.

iii- Labor Market Disparities:

As this theory accepts the existence of spheres in the society so resultantly men are prioritized in employment structures. Women are discouraged to perform in some spheres. Which makes women dependent economically.

Globally, women occupy only 27% of managerial positions, demonstrating workplace disparities. (World Bank, 2023).

Recommendations for Inclusive Development:

i- Mainstreaming Gender Equality:

Policies must integrate gender perspectives at all levels of planning and implementation, ensuring women's participation in decision making.

ii- Economic Empowerment:

Government must address wage gaps and make sure equal opportunities for women in labor market.

iii- Education and Awareness:

Closing the education gap - two third world's illiterate population are women - is critical for long term equality (UNESCO, 2023)

iv- Intersectional Approaches:

Development projects must incorporate gender with race, class and ethnicity.

Conclusion:

Development theories are pivotal in shaping modern economies. have largely ignored women's contribution and experiences. A gender sensitive reevaluation is essential for creating equitable and sustainable development paradigms. By addressing inequalities and integration of women can construct a true inclusive process.

Minimum description under headings should be 5 lines