

Q. 1. Gender is a socially constructed phenomenon. Evaluate this statement with theoretical underpinnings and also provide practical examples to support your answer.

Q. 2. Briefly explain Radical and Marxist strands of feminism. Elucidate the difference between the two while focusing on their chief areas of concern. Which one is more practical in its approach your opinion ?

Q. 3. Women have always been bearing the brunt of institutional misogyny, economic oppression, cultural discrimination and religious subjugation around the globe. How far feminism has been successful in tackling some key challenges to the women of the third world countries. Do you think it's right to say that feminism has always been about the white women?

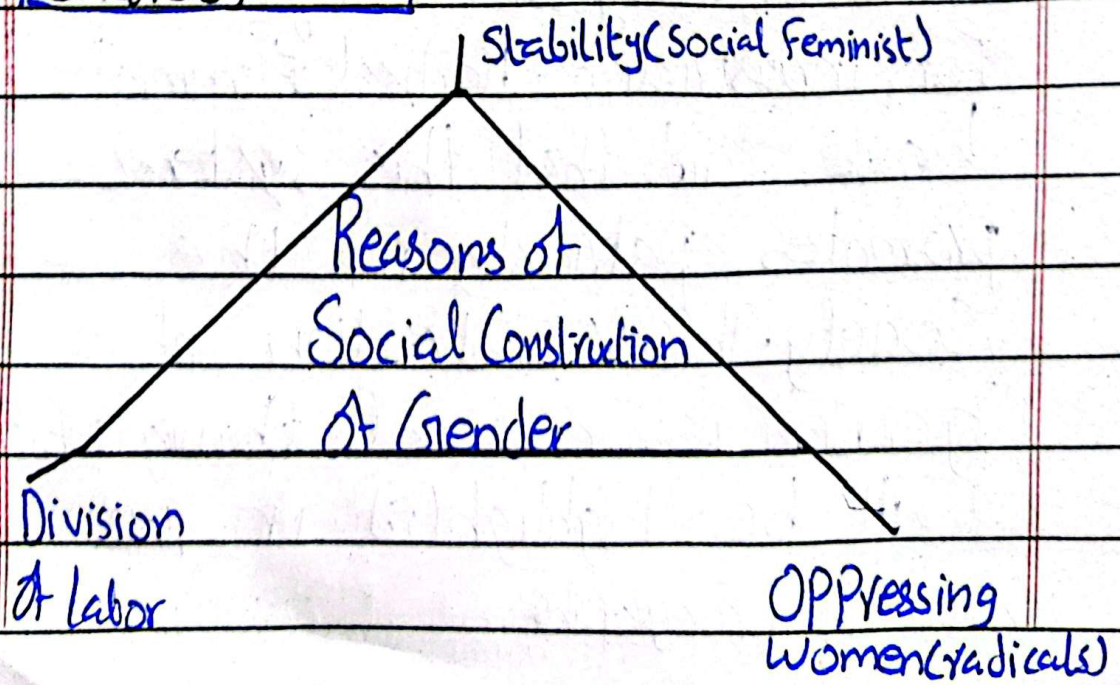
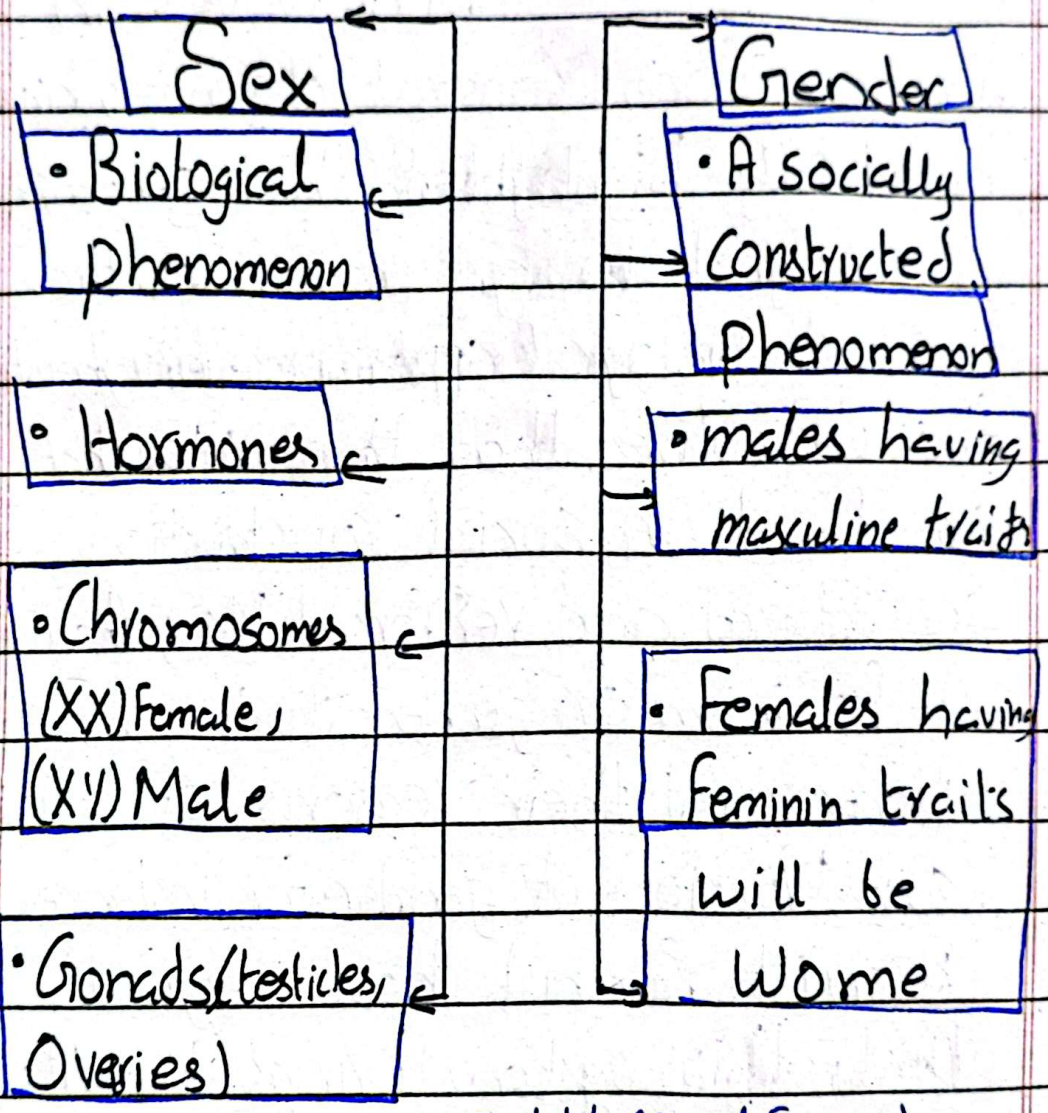
Question 1

A.

INTRODUCTION

Marine Olives in her book Social Construct of gender, has beautifully highlighted that gender is assigned to a person on the basis of biological appearances. Throughout their lives then these roles that are based on social construction are intorced and reinforced. Many theorist of feminism, or gender studies have underscored their reasons of social construction of gender. For instance, Marxist Feminist have argued that this system brings benefits for industrialists. Radical Feminists have said that this system promotes patriarchy in the society. Thus, construction of gender is a real thing which will be highlighted in up coming paragraphs.

B. Difference Between Gender and Sex - Elucidated in a Flow Chart.



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C. Reasons of Social Construction of Gender According to Theoretical Perspectives

1. Gender Roles Bring Stability in the society

Social theories of gender studies have highlighted that gender roles that are constructed, brings stability in the society by assigning different work according to their roles. For example, during birth a female is assigned a role of being nurturing, and throughout she is infested with idea of a mother. Whereas, male is told to be the sustainer of family.

2. Institutional Marginalization of Women is done through Gender Construction

Radical feminists have argued that gender is a mean through which marginalization of women is possible, as it promotes

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patriarchy. For example, Women are subjugated due to patriarchy based in society

4. Division of Labor Force becomes Possible

Marxist Feminists have given their stance that gender roles enables division of labor in the society. For example, men were suppose to join military, whereas, women will be the beneficiary, and of nurturing nature.

5. Industrialist Can gain maximum benefits

Moreover, industrialists have become able to gain maximum benefits due to this social construction. Men can do harsh labor, whereas women cannot so they will not be paid, but they will consume goods

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6. ~~tab~~ Nurturing of next generation of labor is only possible through gender roles.

In addition, gender construction enables the industrialists to get next generation of labor free of cost. Women will only do nurturing as they cannot do harsh labor. Whereas, men will contribute as they can do harsh labor.

7. Makes Women dependent on Men

Some theorists have also argued that social construction of gender makes women dependant upon men for even basic necessities. For example, in medieval times a women was deemed as the property of men, as she was dependant.

Do Ways For Overcoming the Issues of Social Construction of Gender

Issues Can be Resolved

Marxist
 Revolution by Women can eliminate gender roles

Radical Feminists
 Patriarchy from the Society should be eliminated

Women in Development
 Including Women in Developmental Projects

E. Critical Analysis

Indeed gender is a constructed phenomenon that brings stability in the

Society. However, it is the very reason of women's subjugation in the society. For example, while division of labor can bring stability in the society but, it also makes women dependant on men even for basic necessities.

F. Conclusion

In a nutshell, gender is a constructed phenomenon that becomes the primary reason of subjugation of women in the society.

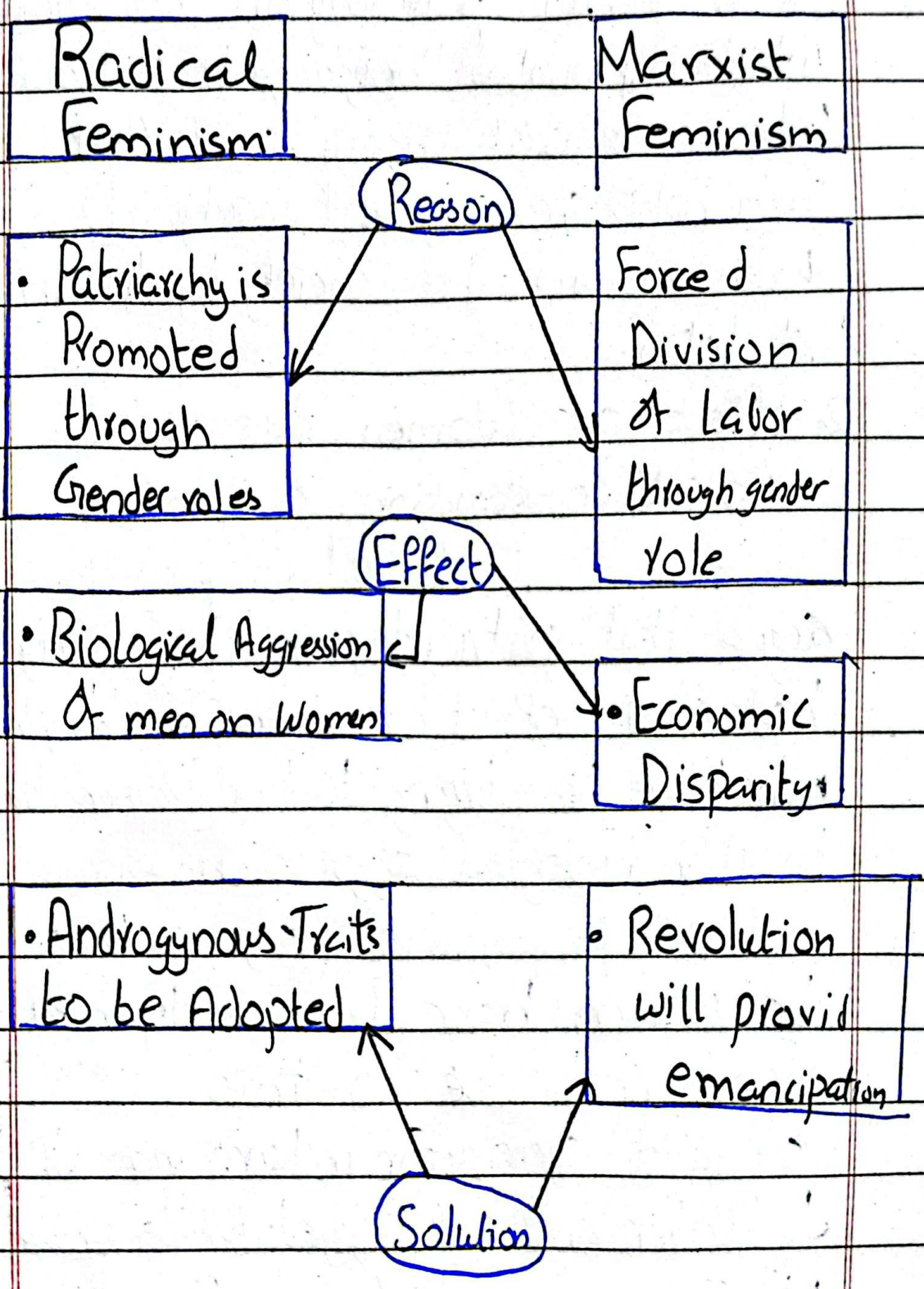
Question 2

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INTRODUCTION

Professor Abigail Wright in her book *Feminist theories: Understanding Women subjugation* has highlighted these theories of radical and marxist approach. Both theories delve into depth of understanding subjugation of women in the society. Radical feminism highlights that social construction of gender promotes patriarchy in the society. Whereas, marxist theorists argue that social construction of gender promotes division of labor in the society that becomes the reason of women subjugation. Coming paragraphs will highlight the differences in approaches and provide which theory is best to explain the reason of women subjugation.

B. Difference Between Radical Feminism and Marxist Feminism Elucidated in a Diagram



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1. Reason of Women Subjugation

Radical theory

highlights that reason of women subjugation is patriarchy in the society which is promoted through gender construction.

Whereas marxist theory argue that gender roles are assigned to subjugate women in the society by division of labor

2. Effect on Women due to

Social Construction of gender

Radical proponents

argue that patriarchy in the society has adverse effect on them. For example, men have been trying to bend women due to their biological aggression. Whereas

marxist proponents argues that both women have become dependent upon men due to this

capitalist system. For instance, men will do labor and get payed. While women will perform reproductive role and remain dependant upon men.

3. Feminism Waves Vis-a-vis theories

Both the theories are an offshoot of Second wave of feminism; both of them tried to define the issues. However, marxist feminism was able to include all women, whereas, radical feminism was limited to white women.

4. Solutions For Women

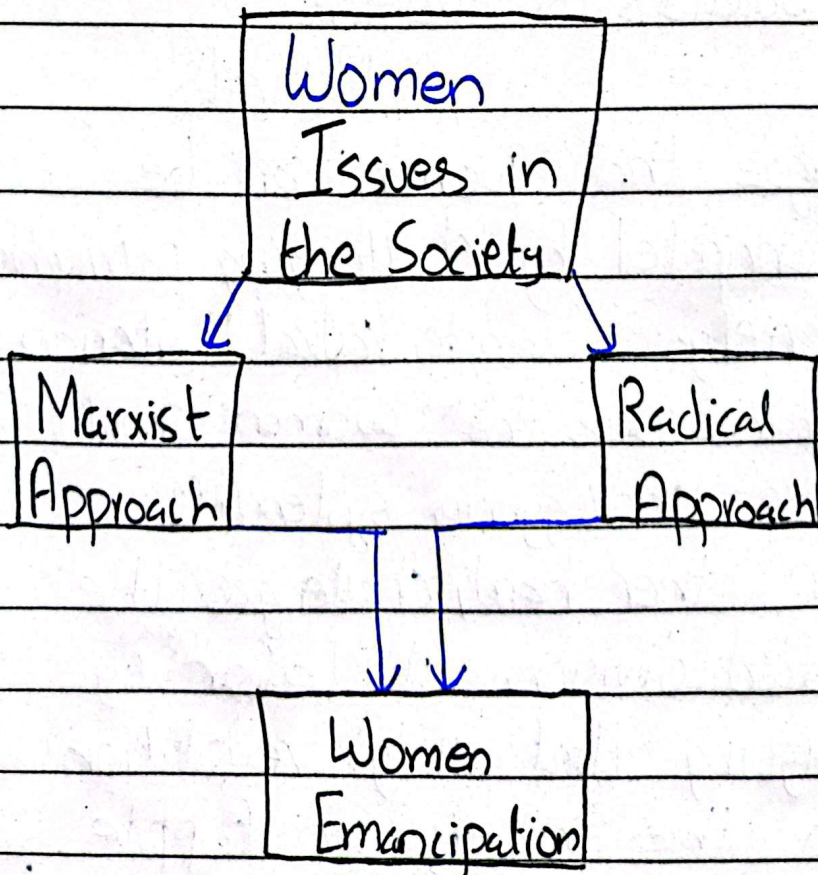
Radicals

argue that women can be emancipated by challenging patriarchal society. For example, radical Libertarian feminist says that women should adopt androgynous system. Marxists on other hand, challenges the forced division of labor by arguing that only revolution in the society can topple the capitalist system. That will be able to achieve emancipation in the society.

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C. Both Theories Remains Important

Both theories are important as they have highlighted different reasons that have made women 'marginalized'. Disregarding either of the theory means that issue of women can not be solved as it is left out.



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D. Critical Analysis

Radical theory and marxist theory, although both of these theories have striking contrast among them on the basis of their reasons, effects and solutions, but both of them are important. By disregarding either of it, women emancipation is not possible. Thus, both the theories need to be taken in account to liberate women from the shackles of the subjugation.

E. Conclusion

In summation, both theories are different on the basis of their approaches, effects and solutions. But both are important to highlight different threats

"Security is Emancipation
from Threat" ~ Ken Roth

tries to
letter

Question 3

A. INTRODUCTION

Anita Bhide
an Indian feminist has rightly
concluded that feminism, which
has its root in 'US and Europe'
are providing for women in the
third world. It is true in a sense
that feminism has been able
to resolve issues that women
have been facing in their lives.
For example, religious clerics have
always subjugated women through religious
dogmas. But, interdisciplinary studies due
to feminism, have given women
freedom from the 'chains of
discrimination by highlighting the
women role models. Coming paragraph
will provide how feminism has been
able to achieve benefits for all
rather than white females only.

B. Examples
Bearing the

1. Institutional
Misogyny

2. Economic
Oppression

3. Cultural
Subjugation

4. Religious
Subjugation

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B. Examples of Third World Women Bearing the Brunt

1. Institutional Misogyny

No equal pay for genders
e.g. Managerial post pays in MNC's

2. Economic Oppression

Forced division of labor in Southern Punjab
Low wages for women

3. Cultural Subjugation

Forced marriages
so women do their reproductive role

4. Religious Subjugation

Business and trade to be mened by men only

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C. Feminism Proves to be a Panacea for Challenges Women Facing in Third World

1. Dowry Deaths Have Become Stagnant Due to Feminism

Dowry deaths which were at one time ~~were~~ growing exponentially have become stagnant due to feminism. Government of Pakistan has taken an action against dowry by legislation and public awareness.

2. Women are Not Facing Work Place harassment

Work place harassment has come to an halt in Pakistan due to feminism. Work place harassment act 2010, has criminalized the act of harassing women psychologically, physically, or sexually.

3. Legislations against anti-Women Practices has been achieved

Anti-women practices in Pakistan are being deterred due to feminism. For example Badle Sulha and marriage to Quran have been criminalized under section 498A and 498(B).

4. Government is Working to eradicate rape issue from the society

A Rape issues are being dealt by government due to feminism. For example, anti-rape crises cell has been installed in PTM's, Islamabad by the government

5. Acid Attacks have been countered due to Sharmeen Obaid's documentary

Acid attacks have come to halt in Pakistan after sharmeen obaid Chinoy highlighted the plight of

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victim in one of her documentary
"Saving a girls face" ^{that led} due to legislation
on acid attack.

7. Equal pay act has been passed
Feminism was
able to highlight that women
face economic discrimination on
the basis of gender. Constitution of
1962 of Pakistan provided equal pay
under section 15.

8. Inter-disciplinary Studies have Counted
religious and cultural subjugation of women

Feminism led to
interdisciplinary studies. Such
studies have been able to
overcome religious dogmas. For
instance, Hazrat Zainab ^(R.A) was
appointed as first lady market
inspector during era of Hazrat
Umer (R.A). It becomes clear that
women are permitted to
do job and earn their
livelihood.

D. Critical Analysis

It has been said that feminism only provides for white women. But, it is not true, as the third world women were able to achieve things due to feminism in west. For instance, equal pay act was passed in US and Pakistan simultaneously.

Moreover work place harassment act 2010, was legislated as the feminism highlighted the issue in the west. Similarly, cultural practices against women were highlighted through feminism.

E. Conclusion

All in all, feminism has highlighted issues of women across the globe, and provided for the solutions at all.