

Question

Explain the relevance of Modernization Theory and Dependency Theory to gender Equality. Critically Analyze the Subordination of women in modern societies in the light of these two theories.

Answer

I. Introduction

Modernization theory provides factors that can lead towards gender equality. This theory also tells that culture of each country is the cause of gender inequality. Similarly, dependency theory tells that why women are suppressed in the society, how patriarchy and rich countries are the cause of women inequalities. Both, patriarchy and rich countries would not make policies that can bridge the gap of gender inequality that will not be in their favor. So they exploit women still to expand

II. Conceptualization of Modernization Theory

Modernization theory suggests that every society has to go through same steps to reach the development stage. The footsteps of developed nations need to be followed.

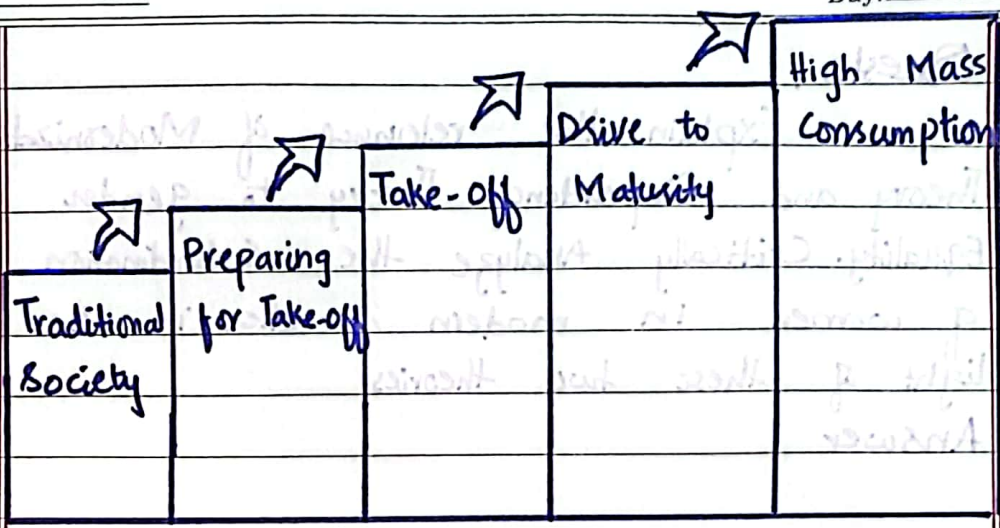


Fig: The Rostow Model

II(a) Gendered Analysis of Modernization Theory

Modernization theory suggests that by following the Rostow model, gender gap will also be bridged as women will also get benefits from this model.

⇒ Factors in Modernization Theory That Leads to Gender Equality

① Impact of Trade and ICT

Through modernization theory, the trade will increase, that means women will have more opportunities in the market.

Similarly, through ICT, physical labor will decrease and the demand of cognitive skills will increase. That will benefit women and will lead to gender equality.

- ① — Mass Media
- ② — Trade and ICT
- ③ — International Peer Pressure
- ④ — Shift from agriculture to manufacturing
- ⑤ — Globalization
- ⑥ — Access to Information
- Factors in Modernization Theory that lead to Gender Equality**

2. Mass Media

The mass media has made perception of women regarding what is right or wrong. As media is from the globe so women can get to know the culture of other countries as well.

3. International Peer Pressure

When other countries are doing something good for women, so it poses a challenge to home country as well. This way gender equality can be achieved.

4. Shift from agriculture to manufacturing

There is a huge shift of world from agriculture to manufacturing sector. It is easy for women to work in manufacturing sector.

5. Globalization

Globalization has increased the gender equality. As in globalized world, suppressed countries can be seen by world and women can know how to get their rights.

II(b) Subordination of women in modern society in the light of Modernization Theory

Internal culture of countries

According to modernization theory, women are suppressed due to the internal culture of their own countries. As modernization gives the model to reduce gender inequality but it cannot change the specific culture of that country.

Women get suppressed because the countries have their own social and economic factors.

II(c) Critical Analysis of Modernization Theory

Case Study of ~~England~~ Africa

According to the analysis of book "Women's Role in Economic Development", modernization theory does not reduce gender inequality. In Africa, Women Farming system is

Changed into Male Farming system due to technology. Now women are more marginalized there.

III: Conceptualization of Dependency Theory

Dependency theory argues that developed world has made developing countries dependent on them. According to this theory, the world is divided into 2 segments:

Core → Rich countries
Periphery → Poor countries

The core exploit the periphery and make them dependent on rich countries.

III(a). Gender Analysis of Dependency Theory

According to dependency theory, the rich countries will not bridge the gap between genders. It will even increase gender inequalities.

Reason of Gender Inequality according to dependency Theory

- ① Core (Rich countries)
- ② Patriarchy

Date: _____

Day: _____

⇒ Rich Countries will benefit at the cost of gender inequality

1- Women as Unpaid ^{domestic} labor

They will get women as unpaid domestic labor. This will benefit men as well as rich countries. So they will not change policies for the betterment of women.

2- Women as Cheap labor; Below Minimum Wages

When women work, then they will get below minimum wages. Women agree to work at such cheap pay because they do not have alternatives.

III.(b) Subordination of Women in Modern Societies in the light of Dependency Theory.

Case Study of Bangladesh

Bangladesh garment industry generates 80% of total export revenue of the country. The garment ~~revenue~~ industry of Bangladesh is dominated by women but still women are working in worst conditions there because they do not have many options. The system does not give them ~~privilege~~ privilege.

to ask for their rights

IV- Conclusion

Both theories, modernization and dependency, provide gender analysis of the society. Women are getting suppressed in the system even after so many actions and policies. Modernization theory and dependency theory provides an overview as to why women are getting oppressed.