

Gender Studies.

Qy. The financial dependence of women over men is responsible for the prevailing disparities and female exploitation. Elaborate the given statement keeping in view the Marxist Feminism's Perspective.

1. Introduction.

Clara Zetkin, a first-hand Marxist feminist, once declared, "without financial independence, all other forms of independence remain an illusion."

This powerful statement encapsulates all the prevailing disparities and female exploitation and links it to the financial dependence of women on men. The exploitation and disparities of women start from confining women to unpaid domestic roles, providing women with unequal economic opportunities and recognizing of women economic value.

This leads to the financial dependence of women on men and causes disparities in the form of limiting women's economic autonomy, reinforces gender hierarchies, limits their social mobility and ~~form~~ upholds them in reproductive roles.

This financial dependence also makes women vulnerable to exploitation by men as women get vulnerable in relationships, they ~~loses~~ agency, their decision-making power is ~~is~~ taken from them. This overall ~~leads to~~ ^{contribute} results in towards the disparities and exploitation of women.

2. Marxist Feminism.

Marxist Feminism emerged as a branch of feminism that synthesizes Marxist theory with feminist analysis. According to this theory the bourgeoisie are men and women are the proletariat, where patriarchy and Capitalism intersect to double marginalize women by capitalists exploiting women for profit and patriarchy maintains the gender hierarchies. As the women role in domestic work are not recognized and are unpaid leading to financial dependence of women on men that causes exploitation and disparities for women. These issues were brought up by Clara Zetkin in the uprising of garment workers in New York (1913) and in the Mexican revolution (1910-1920) by Alexandra Kollontai.

3. ^{Female} ~~Women~~ exploitation and disparities due to financial dependence on men.

- a. Women relegated to the "kitchen and cradle"
 - pointed out by Alexandra Kollontai in Mexican Revolution
 - globally women perform 52% of unpaid work compared to men's 10%. (UN, Women 2022)
- b. Capitalists profiting from the unseen hands.
 - Silvia Federici "reproduction of labor force" allows capitalists to maximise profits by keeping wages low and relying on women's invisible contributions
- c. Unequal Economic Opportunities for women.
 - gender pay gap stands at 23% globally (World Economic Forum, 2021)

4. Ways in which financial dependence shape disparities.

a. financial reliance strips women of the power to make independent economic decisions.

Bell hooks "women who are economically dependent on men are less likely to leave abusive relationships... their voices are silenced by their economic vulnerability."

b. Financial dependence reinforces the already existing power imbalance between genders.

Traditional notion of men as breadwinners and women as dependents uphold patriarchal norms. ~~got~~

• Global estimates of 243 million women and girls experience intimate partner violence in 12-month period (WHO, 2021)

c. Without financial independence, women struggle to climb the socioeconomic ladder.

Persistent gender gap in poverty rates observed in many countries.

d. Women's unpaid labor not only sustain their families but lubricates the wheel of capitalist system.

The "invisible labor" as highlighted by Selma Selma James James

5. Financial dependence of women female & exploits them.

a. Financial dependence leaving women vulnerable to domestic violence

↳ fear of losing financial security traps them in abusive relationships.

b. Financial dependence restricts women's ability to make free choices.

↳ 48% of women dropping out of education or careers due to child care responsibilities

(Unesco, 2021)

c. Without economic independence, women lacks the power to participate equally in decision-making.

↳ underrepresentation of women in leadership positions across political and economic sphere.

d. Impact of financial dependence; intensified due to double marginalization.

↳ women of color, working-class and women living in marginalized communities face compounded disadvantage.

6. Conclusion.

Q5. Discuss three waves of feminism. Also, highlight the impact of these movements in Pakistan

1. Introduction.

Feminism, a multi-generational movement striving for gender equality, has unfolded in distinct waves, each leaving mark on the landscape of women's rights and influencing societies like Pakistan. The first wave of feminism demanding suffrage rights made Pakistan one of the first to Muslims countries to grant women the right to vote, the second wave of feminism demanding equality and reproductive rights developed Women Action Forum (WAF) in Pakistan that challenged General Zia's discriminatory policies, and the third wave of feminism that is still going on, demanding environmental justice, LGBTQ+ rights through Aurat March to Pakistan addressing diverse issues in Pakistan like sexual harassment. Although these feminist movements has brought many changes, challenges still remains as women still have limited access to education, there is a high rate of gender violence and many more.

2. The first wave of feminism.

a. Origin of the first wave of feminism

Started in late 14th centuries and prevailed till the early centuries, fueled by enlightenment ideas and injustice borne of the industrial revolution, the wave fought for the fundamental rights like suffrage and education access.

b. Demands of the first wave of feminism
Voting rights, property ownership, equal education

c. Key figures and movements of first wave.

- Mary Wollstonecraft "Vindication of the rights of women"
- Susan B. Anthony; illegally casted vote
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton led the fight for suffrage in Britain

d. Success and Achievements.

- right to vote was given to women through 19th Amendment to US Constitution
- Opportunity to gain higher education given to women

e. Criticism

Focus on white, middle class women neglected the concerns of women of color and working class women creating internal divisions

f. Impacts on Pakistan:

- 1947, Pakistan became the one of the first muslim countries to grant women the right to vote
- Muslim Family Law Ordinance of 1961 granted women more rights in marriage and divorce

3. The Second Wave of feminism (1960-1990)

a. Origin:

response to the limitation of the first wave and anti-war and civil rights movements, the second wave challenged traditional gender roles, sexism and sexual inequality.

b. Demands of the 2nd wave.

Reproductive rights, equal pay, dismantling gender stereotypes.

c. Movement and key figures

- Betty Friedan's book "The Feminine Mystique"
- No more miss America
- National Conference of new Politics and Chicago women Liberation Union

d. Success and Achievement.

Expanded the definition of feminism, encompassing issues like sexuality, violence against women, and workplace discrimination, leading to legislative changes in many countries.

e. Criticism

Some point out that feminists focus on individual rights and experiences marginalized systemic factors like capitalism and colonialism in upholding gender oppression.

f. Impact on Pakistan

Women Action Forum (WAF) was established, challenging Zia's discriminatory policies

4. The third wave (1990s - Present)

a. Origin

emphasizes intersectionality, recognizing how race, class, gender identity, and sexuality intersect to shape women's experiences. and critiques mainstream feminism for neglecting voices of women of color, LGBTQ+

b. demands

Intersectionality, global feminism, sex positivity, LGBTQ+ rights, body autonomy.

c. Movements and key figures

Kimberlé Crenshaw to coin the term "intersectionality"

Judith Butler "Gender trouble" and "bodies that matter"
queer and transgender politics

Success and Achievement

The Third wave broadened the feminist agenda to be more inclusive and responsive to the diverse experiences of women globally, fostering solidarity across borders and identities.

Criticisms

The movement lacks a unifying focus compared to previous waves and can overlook commonalities that ~~the~~ bind women together.

Impact on Palestine

Aurat march being held annually in Palestine addressing diverse issues like sexual harassment, body shaming, and discrimination against LGBTQ+.

Conclusion

Q6. How ~~would~~ women Quota can eliminate the prevailing Gender Disparities at economic, political and social sphere of society.

1. Introduction.

Pakistan, like many countries, face significant gender disparities across social, economic and political spheres. At social level women have limited access to education, they face gender based violence, and are underrepresented in leadership. In the economic sphere women face unequal pay, have limited access to finance and women dominates the informal sector. whereas in the political sphere the situation is more where as women's representation is really low & their political representation is bare minimum and the power structure is dominated by men. In this system of disparities women's quotas present a potentially transformative tool for accelerating progress towards equality; but their effectiveness requires careful consideration.

2. Prevailing Social Gender disparities.

a. limited access to education

48% Pakistani girls complete secondary education compared to 69% of boys (UNESCO, 2022)

b. Women face gender based violence

One of three women in Pakistan experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime (Human Rights Watch, 2022)

c. Underrepresentation of women in leadership.

women hold only 30% seats in local government (UNDP, 2023)

3. Preventing Economic Gender Disparities

a. Women face unequal pay and opportunities

Gender pay Gap in Pakistan stands at 34% (ILO, 2022)

b. Women have limited access to finance.

Only 5% of bank loans go to women businesses (WFP, 2020)

c. Women only dominates the informal sector.

• 70% of women in Pakistan work in Informal sector (World Bank 2022)

• faces precarious conditions and limited social protection.

4. Political disparities of women

a. Low representation in legislature

Women only make 21% of National assembly
(Inter-Parliamentary Union)

b. Women's limited political participation

Women's voter turnout remains lower than men (Azadi Foundation 2022)

c. male-dominated structure

5. Ways in which Quotas can bridge the Gap.

a. Accelerating the women's ^{presence} ~~participation~~

Creating role models and paving way for future

b. Quotas disrupting the status quo

forcing institutions to prioritize gender equality

c. Increase women decision making.

6. Concerns over Quotas to bring equality

a. Tokenism of Quotas

Filling positions without addressing underlying inequalities

b. Reverse discrimination of women

women are sometimes shamed for achieving only through Quotas in workplace

7. Application and Effectiveness of Quota in specific spheres:

a. Social Quotas.

- 20% educational seats → improve access to education
- Gender quotas in police recruitment more responsive and accountable law enforcement
- Gender-balanced juries in high profile cases.

b. Economic Quotas

- 25% of government contracts awarded to female business
- Providing funding for public-private partnership based on gender diversity.

c. Political Quotas.

- increasing reserved seats for women in national and provincial assemblies to 50% from 33%.
- party quotas for female candidate during elections can break monopoly of male-dominated political structure

8. Conclusion.

Q7. What are various forms of Gender based violence?
What types of violence is more prevalent in
Pakistani Society.

1. Introduction.

Gender based violence (GBV) casts a long, dark shadow on the world, it is a powerful spectrum of physical, psychological, sexual, economic harm inflicted upon individuals due to their specific gender. ~~men~~ GBV mainly targets women and affects their wellbeing. In Pakistan GBV is manifested through many ways that includes but not limited to domestic violence, Honor killing and early marriages. This social issue can be a grave one that despite great and powerful measures could not be eradicated from the face of earth, however through strengthening legal frameworks, empowerment of survivors, transforming mindset and engaging men and boys this issue can be solved effectively.

2. Gender based violence

Gender based violence (GBV) is a pervasive and deeply rooted issue that transcends geographical, cultural and socio-economic boundaries. It is a violation of human rights that ~~dis~~ disproportionately affects individuals based on their gender, reinforcing power imbalances and perpetuating inequality. Understanding the various dimensions of gender-based violence can be done through its various types.

3. Types of Gender based violence.

a. Physical violence.

Beating, sexual assault, forced abortion, acid attacks, inflicting brutal physical trauma

b. Psychological violence

Intimidation, threats, verbal abuse, and emotional manipulation leaving invisible wounds

c. Sexual violence

Rape, forced prostitution

d. Economic violence

Denying financial resources,

e. Harmful traditional practice

Child marriage, female genital mutilation

4. GBV in Pakistan.

a. Domestic violence

1/3 women in Pakistan experience physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner (HRW, 2001)

b. Honor killing

c. Early marriage.

more than 20% Pakistani girls before age of 18
(Girls not brides, 2022)

5. Ways to eradicate GBV

a. Strengthening legal framework.

Criminal law act (2020) with harsher punishment.

b. Empowering survivors of GBV

Darul Aman house

c. Transforming mind sets

Khadija Ishaq project, Aurat March

d. Economic empowerment

Girls learn Pakistan.

e. Engaging men and boys to Address toxic masculinity.

Men Engage Pakistan

6. Conclusion.