

## "QUESTION # 1"

Describe gender studies as a discipline. Also <sup>trace</sup> ~~take~~ the background of gender studies with special reference to its evolution in Pakistan?

### (1) Introduction:-

Gender studies is an academic principle dealing with rights and problems of all the genders. It plays a vital role in creating awareness in the society about gender equality and sensitize the people about gender related issues like patriarchy, gender based violence, women supression, health related issues and discriminatory norms etc. It developed as a discipline due to sincere efforts of some feminists, and is now being offered in a large number of universities. In Pakistan, <sup>too,</sup> gender studies has gained much importance due to steps taken by Ministry

of Women Development.

## (2) Gender Studies as an Academic Discipline:-

Gender studies is a well known academic discipline, which increasing number of students are studying at undergraduate and graduate level. The impacts of gender studies are very evident in daily lives, transforming people's thoughts and slowly changing the patriarchic and exploitative norms.

### (2.1) Definition:-

An academic discipline focusing on rights of all the genders and highlights the discriminatory practices resulting in oppression and exploitation of individuals on the basis of their gender is known as gender studies.

### (2.2) Origin:-



Gender studies appeared as a discipline as an offshoot of third wave of feminism. Its first program was offered in University of Kent in 1980.

**(2.3) Focus:-**

Focus of gender studies is on the gender identity and gender roles due to social and cultural norms. It argues the gender is not biologically determined, rather it is socially constructed due to patriarchic practices in our society. It also supports homosexuality and raises its voice for the rights of LGBTQs.

**(2.4) Objectives:-**

Following are objectives of Gender studies.

**i) To promote gender equality:-**

Women have always been suffering and are being

exploited by men due to their gender. So, the basic objective of gender studies is to change these norms and create awareness among people that all human beings are equal irrespective of their gender.

### ii, Bring an end to patriarchy:-

Another very important purpose is to reform the society by bringing an end to patriarchic practices, which give men an upper hand over women. As to feminists and general principles of gender studies, these patriarchic values are the root cause of women oppression.

### iii, Formulation of laws for security of women:-

Since political systems of the world has always been dominated by males; therefore, all the laws



were male centered ignoring problems of women. Instead, majority of laws like inheritance laws, tax laws, divorce and child custody laws<sup>etc</sup> were against women. The establishment of gender studies as a discipline was to bring women issues into focus and to ensure their rights through proper legislation.

#### (iv) Support to homosexuality:-

LGBTQs and transgenders are always exploited and marginalized in the society. <sup>Purpose of</sup> Gender studies is to create awareness about their rights and raise voice against their oppression through education.

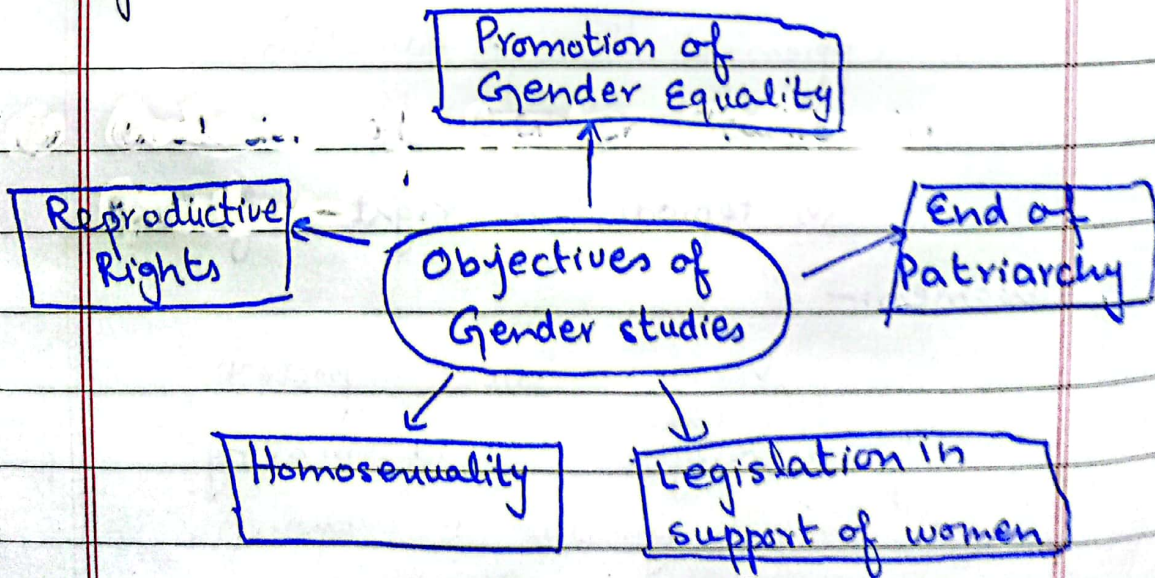
#### (v) Reproductive rights of women:-

Women are expected to focus only on child bearing and nourishing due to specific gender roles and their health

is totally ignored. This leads to a lot of reproductive problems like Gynaecological issues and breast cancer. Gender studies is a mean to sensitize society about seriousness of these issues and open ways to counter them.

**(2.4) Current status of Gender Studies:-**

Gender studies is a new discipline, but it progressed at a very remarkable pace. Today, it is being offered in a lot of institutions at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral level.





### (3) Evolution of Gender Studies in Pakistan:-

Serious efforts are being done in Pakistan for protection of rights, since its inception. Sincere leaders like Fatima Jinnah and Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan played a remarkable role in feminist activities. They set the path for women's education and other rights, that ultimately proved very helpful to establish discipline of gender studies.

#### (3.1) All Pakistan Women Association:-

All Pakistan Women Association was founded by Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan to help of women.

#### 3.2) Center of Excellence for Women Studies:-

Center of Excellence for women studies was established

by Ministry of Women Development in 1989. It opened centers in different Universities and offered a program of women studies. The first program was offered in University of Karachi. Later it was also offered in a number of other universities, some of which are:

- 1) Allama Iqbal Open University
- 2) Fatima Q. Jinnah Women University
- 3) LUMS University
- 4) Bahaudin Zakriya University.

### 3.3) Inclusion of Gender Studies in Competitive Exams:-

In 2016, gender studies was added in the syllabus of competitive exams to increase knowledge about women status and problems in young generation and government officials.



### (3.4) Objectives:-

Following are the objectives of development of gender studies as a discipline in Pakistan.

#### i, Improvement in Gender Parity Index:-

Pakistan is among the countries with lowest gender parity index. According to World Economic Forum, Pakistan ranks 142<sup>nd</sup> out of 146 countries with respect to gender equality. So, the basic aim of gender studies is to create awareness and improve gender parity.

#### ii, Improve living standards of women:-

Owing to marginalization of women due to Patriarchy, women are forced to live miserably. Hence, by promotion of gender equality, it is aimed

to raise living standards of women.

### iii, Hudood Ordinance:-

Hudood ordinances, introduced in 1979, had serious laws about adultery, and rape. This effected women exploitation. Thus, gender studies aim was to abolish hudood ordinance.

### iv, Establishment of Egalitarian Society:-

The objective to include gender studies in academia is to establish an egalitarian society without gender stereotyping so that all the individuals can play a role in progress of the country.

### (4) Conclusion:-

Gender Studies is a



comparatively new discipline, introduced mainly to reform the society. Its effects are evident in some spheres of life. But still much more hardwork and sincere efforts are needed to eliminate patriarchy completely.

### "QUESTION # 2"

Autonomous Debate in gender studies holds comparatively stronger views than integrationist school of thought. Justify with examples?

#### (1) Introduction:-

Since the inception of gender studies as an academic principle, two schools of thought emerged with respect to its inclusion in academia.

Autonomous school argues that Gender Studies should be offered independently as a complete program. On the other hand, integrationist school of thought supports the view that it should be incorporated

in already existing disciplines.

(2) Autonomous debate is comparatively stronger than integrationist school of thought:—

Autonomous debate is no stronger as compared to integrationist's views, due to following arguments.

(2.1) Studying separately will lead to better understanding of subjects:—

Autonomous scholars debate that studying of women studies in isolation would help in better understanding of subject. On the contrary, its incorporation in other disciplines would divert the focus of students and it would be difficult to obtain desired results.

(2.2) Women studies as radical tendencies—  
The basic purpose of gender



Studies to end patriarchy and reform the existing social norms. This can only be achieved, when students would study independently without loss of focus. But integration would indulge different disciplines creating confusions about gender problems and their solution. For example, a student of psychology may assume psychological disorders as the causes of gender inequality instead of patriarchy.

(2.3) Better solutions can be obtained through autonomy:-

Autonomy would lead to the interaction of likeminded people, which can provide better solutions to eliminate women exploitation from the society. However, this is not possible through integration.

(2.4) Increase in research culture:-

Independent subject

will assist in increasing the research related to gender issues. This will in turn provide sensitivity in the society. On the other hand, integration would result in decrease in research on pure gender issues. Instead, it would incorporate other sciences due to loss of focus.

**(2.4) More academic opportunities:-**

Autonomy means more academic opportunities to students of gender studies in the form of scholarships and funded projects. Moreover, it will also increase the recognition of the subject. But, with integration, gender studies would lose its identification.

**(2.5) Helpful in alleviating status of women:-**

Separately studying



gender issues through the lens of women exploitation due patriarchic values would create awareness, and it would <sup>also</sup> help in alleviating the status of women and their living standards. However, integration would not help in achieving these aims.

**(2.6) Autonomy ~ A symbol of women empowerment:-**

A separate <sup>sub</sup>subject for the study of issues would create enhancement in women importance - and would lead to increase in women empowerment.

In addition, it would increase population with feminists thinking, which is the main objective of this struggle.

**(2.7) Increase in women literature:-**

Historical literature is full of men history; while, women are totally ignored.

Gender studies as a separate discipline would play a significant role in enhancing women based literature.

**(2.8) Protection of rights of all genders:—**

Gender studies not only focuses on women's problems and rights but also studies issues of all <sup>the</sup> genders including LGBTQ and transgenders. Autonomy would cause increase in awareness about their problem and would help in legislation to ensure their rights.

**(3) Critical Analysis:—**

The arguments of this autonomous school of thought proves that the only way to progress is to study gender and gender related issues separately. This will help in achievement of all goals from



creating sensitivity in society to improve of conditions of women and all other marginalized genders. On the contrary, incorporation in other disciplines would not provide us desired results.

#### 4) Conclusion:-

To conclude, it is proved that the real aims and objectives of Gender studies and feminism can be achieved if it is offered as an independent subject.

This will not only create more opportunities for the society but also would help in reforming the society.

## (1) Introduction:-

Violence means to hurt and exploit someone physically, socially, emotionally, or economically. Gender based violence means a person is harmed due to its gender. Different theories have been formulated identifying different psychological, social, and cultural factors that are responsible for this increasing violence. In Pakistan, women suffer from gender based violence in the form of domestic violence, sexual harassment, workplace harassment, honour killing, acid attacks and killings due to dowry. Various laws have been formulated, which need to be implemented



in true spirits for complete eradication of gendered based violence.

## (2) Gender based violence:-

Gender based violence means to abuse someone physically, emotionally or economically because of gender. According to reports, 70% of Pakistan women suffer from domestic violence. Also, 1 in every 4 women is subjected to workplace harassment.

## (3) Theoretical Perspective of Gender based violence:-

Different theoretical models exist on gender based violence.

### (3.1) Psychiatric model of violence:-

Psychiatric model of violence identify different mental and psychiatric issues as the cause of violence.

## i, Psychopathology Theory:-

Psychopathology theory illustrates that mental instabilities and disorders are responsible for violence. People with such disorders exercise violence on their partners.

### → Criticism:-

This theory is criticized on the basis of fact that there is no exact disorder identified, that is linked with violence only. Moreover, there are many people with psychological disorders, who are not violent.

## ii, Substance Abuse Theory:-

According to Substance Abuse theory, use of drugs like alcohol are responsible for violence in the society.

### → Criticism:-



Critics argue that scientifically, there is no process approved yet, that explains violence as a result of use of drugs. In addition, many people don't violent even after the consumption of drugs.

### 3.2 Social-psychological model of violence:-

Socio-Psychological model explains the social factors which build norms of the society which ultimately lead to violence.

#### (i) Social Learning Theory:-

Social learning theory illustrates that violence is learned through family and society. It explains that violence is learned in two steps.

(i) Modeling: The first step is observation and imitation of violent acts,

(ii) Reinforcement: - In second step, violence is reinforced through rewards for exercising violence.

iii, Resource Theory: -

According to Resource theory, the individual bringing more resources to a household is more exposed to violence. This is the reason of majority of working women bearing domestic violence.

iv, Theory of marital power: -

According to theory of marital power, power to take decisions is exercised by the person who brings more power base. When there is



asymmetrical distribution of power and authority to make decisions, weaker one suffers ~~with~~ violence.

### (v) Investment Theory:-

Investment theory

explains that residing of an individual in an abusive relation is linked with investment in terms of time, moments and — pictures exchanged etc. The more is the investment, the more will be victim ~~will~~ is likely to stay in that relationship.

### 3.3) Cultural model of violence:-

The cultural factors responsible for inducing violence in the society are explained by cultural model of violence.

(i) Culture of violence

theory:-

Culture of violence theory shows that violence occurs because of patriarchic norms and social construction.

An individual observes violence <sup>base</sup> his father against the mother in his family in his childhood, later, he learns through social interaction that he is allowed to harm an individual from another gender due to stereotypes related to masculinity and aggression. Moreover, rewards for a violent person increases his will to be more aggressive.

(ii) Gender with masculinity theory:-

Gender with masculinity theory states that individuals with defects are more likely to be violent towards other gender. This aggression



seem a way to show their masculinity.

#### (4) Gender based violence in Pakistan:-

In Pakistan, women are forced to bear violence in different forms like domestic violence, sexual abuse, honour killings, acid attacks, and dowry killings.

##### (i) Domestic violence:-

Majority of women population have to suffer domestic violence by their husbands. According to a report, 90 percent of women in Pakistan suffer with violence once in their life in the form of push, slap, or beating. Different laws like domestic violence have been passed to counter this, but most of the women

do not consult legal <sup>authorities</sup> ~~teachers~~.  
Awareness through education, and media is required to teach them about their rights.

### ii, Dowry killings:-

Almost 10,000 women in Pakistan are burned or killed, because they are unable to bring dowry with them. Dowry act was passed to eradicate this practice.

### iii, Acid Attacks:-

A large number of people suffer due to acid attacks for different reasons. Acid attack act was passed in parliament which impose fines and imprisonment on such offenders.



(iv) Honour killing:-

Different women are killed by their husbands, brothers or fathers in the name of honour. Also, in some cases, they have to suffer due to conservative feudal practices of *vanis* or decisions taken by *jirgas* in feudal societies.

(v) Sexual violence:-

Cases of sexual violence are continuously increasing. Women suffer in the form of rapes, workplace harassment, child marriage etc. Different laws exist which need to be implemented in true spirit to combat this.

(5) Conclusion:-

Gendered Violence is among those

evils which needs to be addressed immediately. Different theory exist which explain violence through psychological, social and cultural ~~proct~~ perspective. In Pakistan too, women are suffering alot due to gender based violence. With time, different law had been made but their implementation is not upto the mark. Hence more legislation and impressive implementation is required on urgent basis to free the society from this evil.