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Q: Write a detailed note on the colonial and capitalist perspectives of gender.

1. Introduction:

The colonial and capitalist eras influenced genders greatly. The colonial era marks the origination of patriarchy, where men themselves were ruled by leaders, and women were slaves to men. The capitalist era began with capitalism ~~domi~~ exploiting the people at that time. Unfortunately, women were the worst affectees of that time and these colonial and capitalist system dominated on their lives too.

2. Colonial Perspective of Gender Colonialism:

The colonialism began in 18th century with British being masters and colonizers of the entire subcontinent. The Men and Women, at that time, had to follow their masters and leaders in order to ~~five~~ save their lives and

- live peacefully.

The situation of Men:

~~Men~~ As patriarchy was prevalent at that time, so men ~~we~~ ought to follow their masters and lords. There was no role of women at any place outside their houses.

The situation of women:

Women were dominated by men.

Their only job was housekeeping, feeding children, cleaning houses and ~~making~~ preparing fire in the winter. However, the elite and middle-class women had servants to help them.

Some severe conditions faced by women of that time were:

• Pressure of Early Marriages:

Women/^{girl} were forced to marry at an early age. Young girls were married at the age of 13 or 14 years ⁱⁿ at the colonial time period.

• Widows were forced to remarry

soon:

There were also strict rules for

the remarriage of widows. They were pressurized to remarry within 7 years of the demise of their husband. Some were even remarried within an year after the end of their first marriage.

↳ Violence against women was common:

Violence against women was quite common. Women were unaware about their rights. Even if the woman was ~~beaten~~^{left} by her husband, she was declared a thief. If a man murders his wife, he was hung. If a woman murders her husband, she is burnt with him.

Such were the practices common at that time.

↳ Lack of inheritance, property and voting rights for women:

Women were also not included in inheritance. They were not granted property rights and share. If a man dies, his wife could only receive one-third of his property. Women were not well-informed about voting rights and procedures.

3- Capitalist Perspective of Gender:

Capitalism:

Capitalism is the system in which all means and sources of earning and making profit are under the control of a minority group called 'proletariat'. and Whereas, whom they sell their sources and those who work for proletariats are the working class or 'bourgeoisie'.

The situation Men:

This system was severely criticized by Karl Marx as it adversely impacted genders. It leads to exploitation due to class system, where men was also suffering due to heavy workload. They also had to work for a specific class; whereas the upper class holds the control.

The situation of Women:

Capitalism also suppressed women as they had to do more work — both household works and that in the social sphere. This situation of women

in this era were expressed by Frederick Edgle as:

"The husbands were the proletariates and the wives were bourgeoisie."

► Double Burden on Women:

Women were dually burdenized. ~~with~~ They had to ~~work~~ do hometasks as well as work in agricultural, and ~~to~~ also fulfil their economic needs. This was an ~~et~~ aspect of exploitation of women in this era.

► Lower wages of women as compared to men:

Women did more hefty tasks than man. But they were not rewarded as per their efforts. They were paid very less as compared to their male counter parts for the same sort of work.

► Paid leaves was not given to women:

Women were not given paid maternity leave. However, ~~soo~~ after some time, Italy announced 20 ~~days~~ weeks of paid

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maternity leave, but US only gave 12 weeks of unpaid leave.

► Women efforts were not considered:

Women were not mainstreamed in decision making. Their efforts were also not appreciated and considered in any field.

4. Conclusion:

Both ~~cap~~ colonialism and capitalism dominated a large ^{part} of human history. They were also exploitative towards the rights of men and women in their own ways. Although they had severe conditions for both men and women, women remain of the losing side. Colonialism applied strict laws and regulation to control women, whereas, capitalism, through its class system, caused disparity in the wage gap and social roles of men and women.

