

NOTE: Attempt Any FOUR Questions:

- 1. Debate whether sex is socially constructed, considering biological and social factors in construction of sex categories. Discuss the implications of this debate for gender studies and social understanding of sex and gender**
- 2. Generate autonomy versus integration debate in Women Studies. How is gender studies considered as a multidisciplinary subject?**
- 3. Discuss different theories of Gender Based Violence. What form of violence is more prevalent in Pakistan and how can it be eradicated?**
- 4. What is development? How can women be included in development sector? Comment in the light of WID, WAD and GAD approaches.**
- 5. In the last two decades, globalization has had a huge impact on the lives of women in developing nations, including Pakistan. What are the impacts of the global political economy on Pakistan's Women?**
- 6. Mainstream feminist approaches all reject the idea that gender inequality is somehow natural. What are the main differences between Liberal feminism, Social feminism and Radical feminism?**

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Qno1:

Debate if sex is socially constructed, considering biological and social factors in its construction.

Ans:

Introduction:

'Sex' is often very interchangeably used with the 'gender' but both vary drastically in their context. As sex is a physiological and anatomical characteristic whereas gender is a social construct imposed by the structural factors including the society, culture, religion and even larger structures. One is born as a female or male but learns to be feminine or masculine. Thereby, prior is essentialist in nature whereas gender is constructive.

Judith Butler in her book 'gender Trouble: Feminism and subversion of Identity' sheds upon this gender performativity as an 'act' rather than a 'being'.

But interestingly unlike gender, sex isn't fluid in nature as God clearly demarcates the line between both the sexes through 'XX' and 'XY' chromosomes.

Sigmund Freud who is a widely acknowledge psychologist encapsulates the essence of sex in the following words.

"Anatomy (sex) is destiny".

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Biological factors:

In the present day world when man is questioning every eternal truth; it's natural for him to put a question mark in front of his own sex and to ponder over its fluidity. But just like some natural phenomena or catastrophes which occur regardless of any reason, giving the impression of some eternal power controlling it, sex falls under the same umbrella. Constructionalists like often tried to challenge the construction of sex through science. 'Sex Reassignment surgery' is a vivid example of it. In this surgery surgeons attempt to change the gender of the person by either constructing a female's 'male genitalia' or a male's reproductive organ is cut off. But some researches have proven that despite of the surgery behaviors and natural instincts are often observed in one's natural sex i.e. 'the urge to urinate like a man' even when one has changed her gender to a female has remained eminent.

Case study: As recorded by a sex psychologist from University of Kent; In a house in California two twins were born to David and Kate. Both were boys. On the parents desire to have a daughter, doctors reassigned the gender of one boy. On growing up, all

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his life even in those flamboyant clothes and makeup he simply did not adopt himself like a girl from within. Later on being revealed that he was born as a boy, he was relieved and changed his gender back to a boy.

Human body and its social construction:

Human body itself is a proof of sex being a biological thing rather than a social construction. Constructionists argue that labelling women as 'sensitive' and men as 'rational' is merely a construct and not an eternal truth. Whereas, science has proven that the rationale behind women being sensitive is that naturally men use their left lobe of brain four times more than women. The left lobe of brain is responsible for the cognitive and rationale decisions, on the contrary right side of the brain responds to the emotional stimulations.

→ **Chromosomes:** Naturally, women carry XX chromosomes, on the other hand a male is a carrier of 'XY' chromosomes. which builds up on the stance that male and female are made on respective physiological aspects differing from each other. Restricting the whole biology to social construction is hence an understatement.

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→ **Hormones**: The hormones which are released in a man is 'testosterone', and the hormones being released in a female is estrogen. While it's observed by medical researchers that male hormones are responsible for violent and aggressive behaviors i.e. 'anger'. The reason why a male using intoxicants is seen doing violence against women is because of the high number of testosterone being released in his body.

Anatomy is Destiny: The symbol to refer to - the sex of a female is ♀, as - the symbol to refer to a male is ♂, Poststructuralists however embrace - the ambiguity by introducing - the genders which are either none or an amalgamation of both "androgynous" via symbol ♀♂.

Sigmund Freud, like the essentialists negate - this "in-betweenness" and clearly advocates, sex's characteristic of being natural through his adage:

"anatomy is destiny".

Freud is globally known for his researches on humans and his all time famous theory of Oedipus complex. In which he illustrates the phallic age which lasts between 3-6 years and its implications on both the sexes.

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As boys according to him feel attracted to the mothers and develop an envy against the fathers. Symbolically, because fathers have a 'penis' like them which leads to them developing a castration among them. Whereas, girls in the phallic stage go through 'electra complex' in which they develop a penis envy against 'male'. On feeling threatened of the penis, they attach themselves to the father as a "defense mechanisms" working against the penis envy. Freud this way explores the "unconscious" to which he label as the 'tip of the ice-berg'.

Hence, this way Sigmund Freud also encapsulates the biological construction of sex. He deepens the binary and their heteronormativity because, to him sex is not something which is socially constructed but physiologically.

Conclusion.

In summation, with all the advancements and industrialization man has ventured on this journey of denying everything while embracing the ambiguity. This is the very essence of modern day man, but like some other truths which exist out there without making any sense the biological construction of sex is also among those eternal truths.

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Qn02-

Mainstream feminist approaches reject the idea that gender inequality is natural. D/W between liberal, social and radical feminism:

— Introduction:

From ecofeminism to the mainstream feminism there are different types and definitions of it. In Africa, feminism is the fight against female genital mutilation, In Europe it is an emancipation of witch-hunt, In Pakistan it is a liberalization of women who are often viewed as the 'enemies of men'. Hence, there is no monolithic definition of feminism. But on a birds view, it is an economic, political, social movement for the women, by the women and to the women. All the feminists across the globe agree: "That women are suffering."

Background:

The roots of inequality goes back to the time we hold the record of. A critic Mary Deter claimed that male critics throughout the history have viewed women as an 'exotic' specie or a marginalized 'other'. She writes that male historians did not take the

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record of female history to where account. As virgin wool captures this discrimination in the following

words: "This country is not a place for a woman"

This cry of her is an echo of her wounds which could never reach the male ears because of their entitled behaviors and derogatory attitudes. Her brother went to Oxford university while she was denied the basic formal education. Women writers were not even allowed to use their own pieces of writing from their names, in fact using a pen pseudonym was obligatory. The behavior towards women can be captured through the words of Aristotle who was a well-read philosopher in Greece "women are like the deformed men". Plato building up on this said, "Women are made from the inferior men".

In a world like that where women were denied the basic human acceptability towards being a woman, it took a long journey for feminism to reach where it is today.

Suffrage Movement: Suffrage movement was an attempt of women to demand the right of vote and property rights. It's captured as the feminists' first big win, in documenting that gender inequality is not natural. Through Seneca Falls a formal meeting was called which was joined by 65 women and 13 men. It led to the 19th amendment in America.

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constitution, giving women their right to vote

Civil rights Movement

It's critical to note that women who were granted the right to vote were predominantly the white women (not the slaves or black women). Europe in those times was a brutal aftermath of European colonization, which in the name of mission: "Civilizing them", entirely exploited them and aimed to change their race by dehumanizing them. Women and slaves were mandated the same status, both could not vote, own property and were seen as a mere commodification. This movement was war against all these human right violations. Eventually leading to:

United Nations

Four world conferences for women

Mexico

Nairobi

Beijing

5000 participants

Global acceptance of feminism

15000 participants

Beijing Declaration and platform of action

17000 participants

Legacy of success

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These struggles of mainstream feminists which started from the start of human history till now are an attempt to illegitimize these injustices in the name of 'natural' phenomenon. Because this narrative of men being superior and women being submissive and subordinates has been written by the male centric power structures, which in academia is termed as 'logocentric'. The natural order on the contrary is equal coordination of both male and female. As pope, the bishop of Rome has put it like:

"The 'two of you' have not been created to exist side by side or together. In fact, you have been called to exist equally with each other beside each other."

likewise Islam, the second most-popular religion has given the same message in the following words

'O Adam, you and your wife do dwell in the garden and enjoy'

(2:34) Al Quran

Different types of feminism:

Throughout the history feminism have been through different waves and varying development-theories often recognized as WID, WAO and GIAD. These dynamics have differed where

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motives, dividing them in various school of thoughts:

⇒ Liberal Feminism:

liberal feminism is often acknowledged as the mother of radical feminism as it emanated in the first wave of feminism. They equally coordinated with the men in various domains wherever needed. The most prevailing demands of these feminists were the rights of vote and property rights. Liberal feminists hence did change the patriarchy but in a subtle way. The most prominent advocates of this branch of feminism were Mary Wollstonecraft and Jane Austen. Mary Wollstonecraft in her work 'A vindication of the rights of women' put the entire emphasis on the importance of education and how it liberates women and opens new avenues for them. She captures the essence of liberal feminists in the following words:

"I don't want women to have power over men but over themselves." - Simone de Beauvoir

⇒ Radical Feminism:

Radical Feminists on the flip side criticized the

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liberal feminists for not holding men accountable. They instead of changing the system demanded a complete cleansing of manhood from their domain. They saw men as the evil to all their problems. The anger and vengeance were the two main driving emotions of the radical feminists. They demanded the right over their body & reproductive rights / right of abortion are the two champions of this approach of feminism.

Case study of Pak.

In Pakistan, Aurat March is often criticized for the demands it put forth by the placards, which include slogans like 'Mera Jism Meri Marzi'. It is a demand to ascribing complete autonomy over one's body. It has sparked a lot of controversies in the country. Another slogan which has triggered the patriarchal mindsets is 'Apna khana khud garam karo'. It is another claim of feminists against the historical ritual of females making and heating up the food for the men of the house. Both of these demands are of radical feminists, who majorly them of men as a problem and a hindrance in their emancipation.

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Social Feminism: Social feminism is an amalgamation of Marxist feminism while it challenges other power structures too besides the capitalism. This approach of feminism challenges and roars against the underlying structures which are the one orchestrating women as the alienated class in the society. Its characteristics resemble with the capitalism because it also divides the society in two groups like 'proletariat' and bourgeoisie. It underscores the tussle between women versus the power dynamics, threatening their existence in the society. It claims that women are seen as an 'object' which can be commodified and not as a living entity with dreams and aspirations. The entire motto is the 'profit' which can be taken from women. The driving force in this exploitation of women is the "surplus" which is gained from women exploitation.

Captain Anshuman's Case study:

The case of 'Anshuman' and his wife from the India makes the exploitation of women from the lens of socialist feminism. Captain Anshuman after his tragic death was awarded by 'Kirti Chakra' which was collected by his wife and so was the money from India's 'Next to kin' policy. It was her right as Anshuman had written her

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name for it. But later on her mother and father in law started under pressuring her to hand over that to them and also expressed their desire to re-marry her to their younger son (Anshuman's brother). She left the house and her ex-husband's family took medical assistance to defame her, labelling her as a 'gold-digger'.

Conclusion,

To conclude, Feminism is a fight against every evil which act as an obstacle against women's attempt to fly higher and higher. The ideas in the different approaches of feminism might be different but all of them mutually agree to the Chinese adage that:
'Women hold up half the sky'

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Q no-3

Different theories of Gender based Violence, what form is more prevalent in Pakistan:

Introduction:

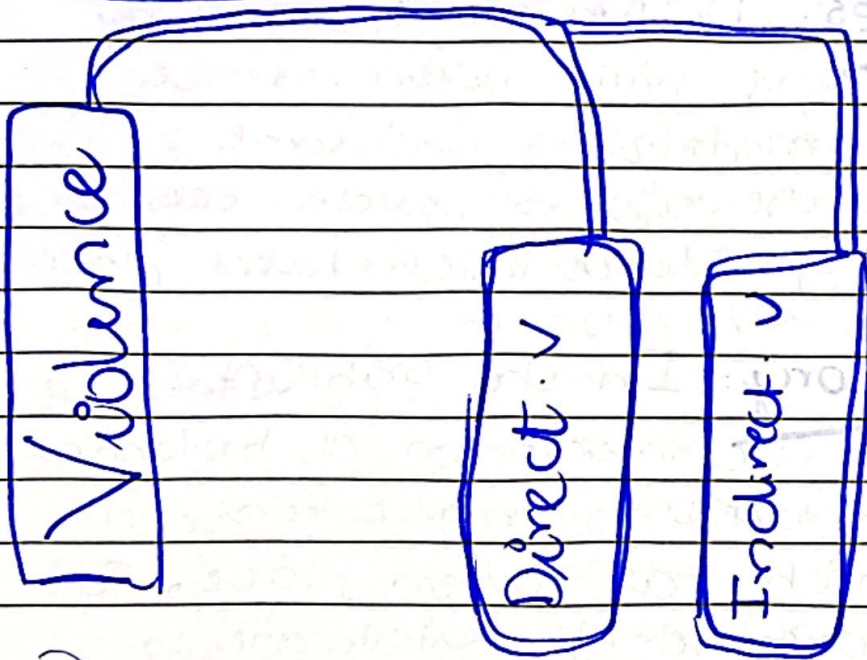
Gender based violence means inflicting emotional, psychological, physical, economic-social damage to someone based on their gender. Violence is 'the most dark abyss of mans means' to show dominance over someone. Throughout the history man has been seen as a defensive-social animals who tends to use two main approaches in the situation of threat and this 'Fight or flight'. History has witnessed him using the prior more than latter. Back in the days of hunters and gatherers, man used to kill his enemy to save his life expectancy and it also got stronger and stronger in his instincts with the Darwins theory of human evolution, in which

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Darwin introduces the idea of 'survival of the fittest'. This ideology is often transformed into the ego of man where he wants to prove himself fittest and capable for his survival.

Structure of violence :



Direct violence is more fearless and adamant in nature. On the contrary indirect violence often includes, a barrier between the one violating and getting violated. It can be cyber bullying, emotional torture, blackmailing...

Formula for violence ?

In the terminology of crime its often said that the amalgamation of intention with crime makes the 'injury' a crime. In the case of violence - the availability of a violator, an intention and the victim

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makes it liable.

Mens rea + **Actus Reus** = **Crime**
(Intention) (Enjory)

Different theories: Different theories by various analysts have given violence varying lens, some magnify it and some minimize it but all the theories provide with a logical reasoning of violence which takes place.

① Biological Theory: In the light of biological theory, the intervention of biological aspects are often used to make sense of the violence which has taken place. For instance the hormone of testosterone in men is often used as a justification to mask the violent behaviors of men. Literature is filled with the male centric view of men justifying extra marital affairs using their biology and when women would retaliate, they are often seen indulging in aggressively violent behaviors to shoo them away.

Example: The example of Pakistani model and social media influencer **Gandee Baloch** who was

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murdered by her brother in the name of honor killing is often justified as his 'honor' on which his male ego did not allow him to tolerate what his sister was doing.

② Medical theory: In this theory medical reasoning is provided to view the violence from the lens of a medical personnel i.e. a doctor / Psychologist who diagnoses OCD "Obsessive compulsive disorder" or some medical sickness in the culprit which provided him to act violent.

A 'retard' who is not sane is prone to inflict some kind of violence on anyone, such cases are often met with less severe consequences because the PPC requires for the culprit to be 'sane' in order to be held accountable for his ordeal.

③ Feminist theory: This theory views violence as a result of entitled and prevailing masculinity which gives men the authority to overpower women in their capacity. In this approach the violence is being inflicted on one primarily for being a woman. Marriage in conventional societies is seen as a licence to get as violent as one wants to. In most of the cases the crime is done by a father, husband or a relative. Studies show that rape, honor killing,

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are the crimes which are 85% committed by a close relation.

Example: The case of Zahra Baloch who was brutally cut into pieces by her husband and then hung on the ceiling fan marks an example of the domestic violence which takes place in scores and mostly go unregistered because in South Asia such violence are considered as a 'private matter'. The constitution not acknowledging 'marital rape' as a crime is a living proof of that.

→ Prevaling Form:

In Pakistan the most prevalent form of violence is undoubtedly 'domestic abuse'. A survey conducted by APWA in 2024 showed the number of violence against women in Pakistan was around 29,4000 among which 20,314 cases were of domestic abuse, which is predominantly seen in the province of Sindh and Punjab.

It's ironic that Pakistan was among the few countries to sign the 'CEDAW' in the very first meeting. It has the following laws promulgating in the favor of women but all in vain.

- Women Protection Act 2006 — (1)
- Work place Harassment Act 2010 — (2)
- Act control and prevention Act 2011 — (3)

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- Property right Act 2012 — ③
- Domestic abuse Act 2013 — ⑥
- Anti Rape Ordinance 2020 — ⑤

The constitution of Pakistan in its preamble after the sovereignty of Allah enshrines that

"All are equal in the eyes of law. And there will be no discrimination on the basis of gender"

— Article 25

It is ironic that the country is active in the convention and conferences for the women ranks on 145 out of 146 on the global gender gap index. The efforts of the country are unprecedented but its lack of execution and ineffectiveness shows that there is a long way to do for us. And has to start with securing the women of Pakistan, because:

'No nation can rise to the heights of glory unless you have your women side by side you'

— Quaid-e-Azam

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③ Globalization, and its impact on the lives of women including Pakistan. On the global political economy in Pakistan.

Globalization and its impact:

Globalization translates to the interconnectivity of the entire globe by enhancing the man to man contact and diminishing the distance in between. It is as aftermath of the industrialization, which resulted in an economic bloom and mass economic production. After the disillusionments of the Great wars, man was back to the normalcy, testing his limits, pushing his boundaries and wanting more and more. The profit motive began to flow in the blood of everyone but what made it more challenging was the competition which came with the globalization. America, for instance is known as 'melting pot', it introduced the phenomenon of American dream.

This essence of globalization transformed the women and changed their motto from a 'domesticated housewife' to a 'liberating woman'. This marks the biggest change among cultures. As women, chained to the household chores for centuries break it away and took the charge of their lives. They realized

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that

"There are more similarities in men and women than differences. They are not from Mars, we are not from Venus" - Emma Watson.

Women in Pakistan.

Pakistan is an interesting case study because of its secular and religious roots, as its law is derived from common law and shariah. This hybridity has been seen in the sphere of women predominantly. The founder of Pakistan, again and again emphasized on empowering women and keeping side by side but ironically, his very own sister whom he called his 'alter ego' was brutally ridiculed and prejudiced on her gender during her elections against General Ayub Khan. He famously said:

"Our culture does not allow us to make a female the leader of this country".
- Ayub Khan

From that to the Pakistan where Benazir Bhutto became the first female prime minister of a Muslim country and thrice. The progress of Pakistan regardless of all the obstacles have been dynamic. In the terms of legal representation, too, it has only been progressive

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- ① The constitution of 1973 reserved 10 seats for women in the parliament-
- ② The constitution of 1962 reserved 6 seats for women in N.A
- ③ The constitution of 1973 reserved 20 seats for women in N.A
- ④ Gen. Pervez Musharraf exacerbated those to 60 in NA and 17 in senate

W.W Rostow's model of economic growth:

The evolution of Pakistan in the context of women can be analyzed in the light of economist W.W Rostow who gave a model of economic growth. This model is four-tier in nature and captures the transition of a society from a traditional society to economic boom.

TRADITIONAL SOCIETY



PRE CONDITIONS TO TAKE OFF

TAKE OFF

MATURATION



Final stage = MASS PRODUCTION

Pakistan in the light of this model is in its maturity stage. As women are now fully

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Status of women in Pakistan:

well aware of their rights. The female contribution to GDP is 34%. The major work they play in the agrarian society of Pakistan is in agriculture but ironically 0% tax is collected from this domain of economics in Pakistan. But in contrast to the prior years where women were confined to the four walls (chhaat dewari) is no more the case. The Chhavi Punjab is Mariam Nawaz, An international female right activist in Malala Yousafzai, who got a noble prize in 2014 for her work in the education domain for female. She even made an NGO on her name which financially help the underprivileged women. Just like Benazir Bhutto income support.

The chain of NGOs started with the Pakistan biggest non political NGO APWA but now there are countless NGOs running in the country. Which is also an eminent source of income for women affiliated with them.

Conclusion:

A sage once were rightly said that the two most powerful weapons in the world are pen and sword. And third is even more powerful and that is a woman. The journey of women

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emancipation in Pakistan from being a burden to the economy to taking the hold of their lives rightly encapsulates the journey of Pakistani women in the following words.

I am the captain of my fate

I am the master of my soul.

