

Question 1.

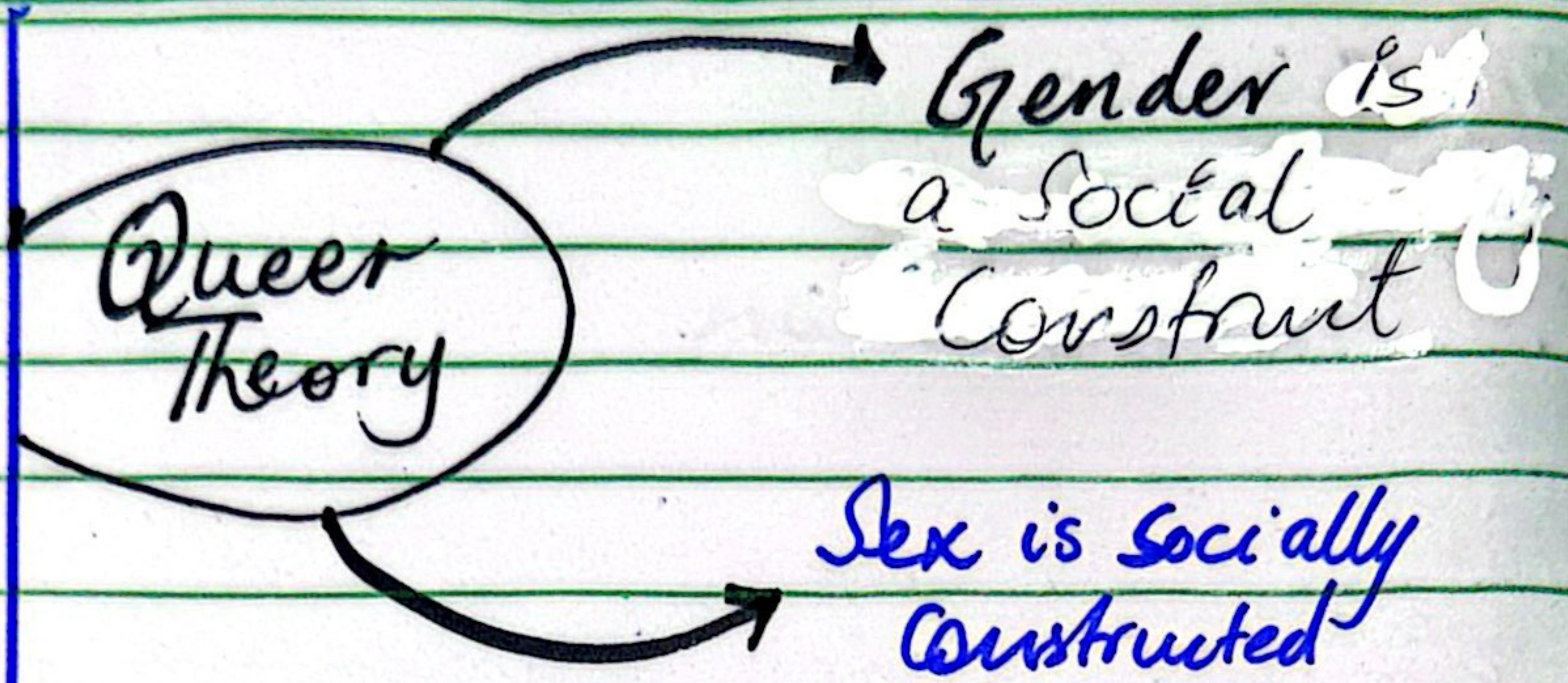
1. Introduction

In the Gender Studies discourse, "gender" is considered to be socially constructed. Not just gender, the Queer theory goes one step ahead to problematise the category of sex. The Queer theory argues that "sex" is also a socially constructed category because the discourse around masculinities and femininity is entirely a social assignment and not a biological one.

"One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman"

~ Simone De Beauvoir
The Second Sex.

2. Critically Analyzing the social construction of Gender through the lens of Queer theory



a. Discussing the Social Construction of Gender

The term 'Social Construction of Gender' is at the heart of feminist discourse. It argues that gender is learned and adopted through social learning and adoption of roles associated with a particular gender i.e. male or female. The contention posits that there is nothing inherent such as masculinity and femininity; it is culture that makes people 'pick' gender. (Rossmay Tong, 2009)

b. The Problematization of "Sex" as a social category through the lens of Queer Theory.

i. Proponents of Queer theory, spearheaded by Professor Judith Butler problematize "Sex" as a social category. This means they go a step ahead to define sex as a social category.

Example:

Traditional Gender studies / Feminist viewpoint:

Gender is social; Sex is biological.

How Queer theory Problematizes even "Sex" as a social category:

Professor Judith Butler argues that, when a corrective surgery is performed

on an ~~gender non-~~ inter-sex
infant; it is inherently
a social act, not a
biological one. Humans
perform a social act
to fit an otherwise
non-conforming infant into
the "two categories" of
gender. (R. Tong, Feminist
Thought, 2009)

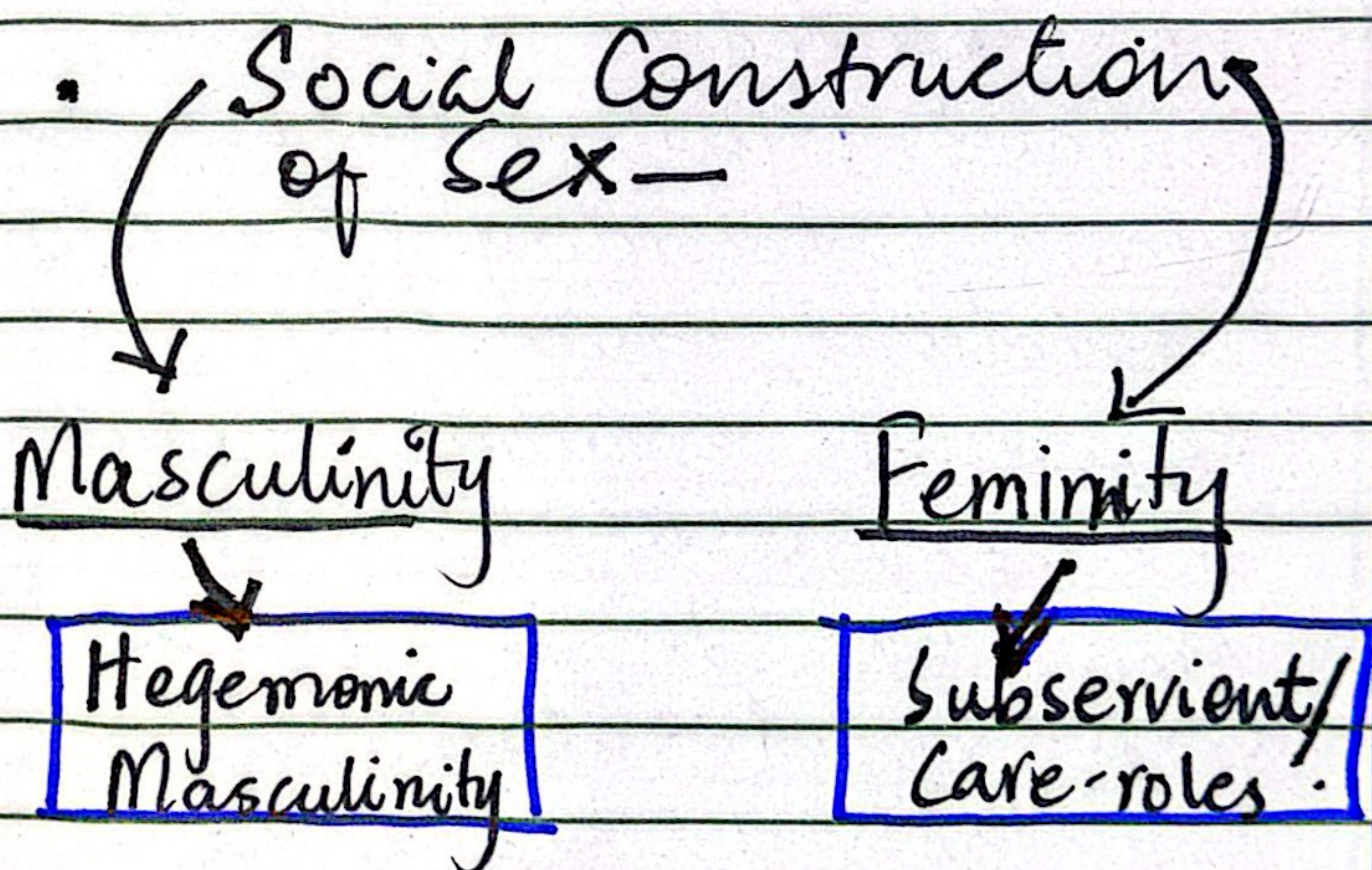
ii. Queer Theory's view of Biology as socially labelled:

Proponents argue that
which hormones make
up for females and which
one's make up for maleness/
masculinity is decided by
human beings who ^{then} associate
• the gendered meanings
with a particular sex

Example: Oxytocin and
Estrogen are labelled
as feminine/female
hormones making up the

female gender whereas Testosterone is labelled as hormone making forming the male/masculine category. Therefore, this discourse of labelling also makes ~~the~~ 'sex' a socially constructed category.

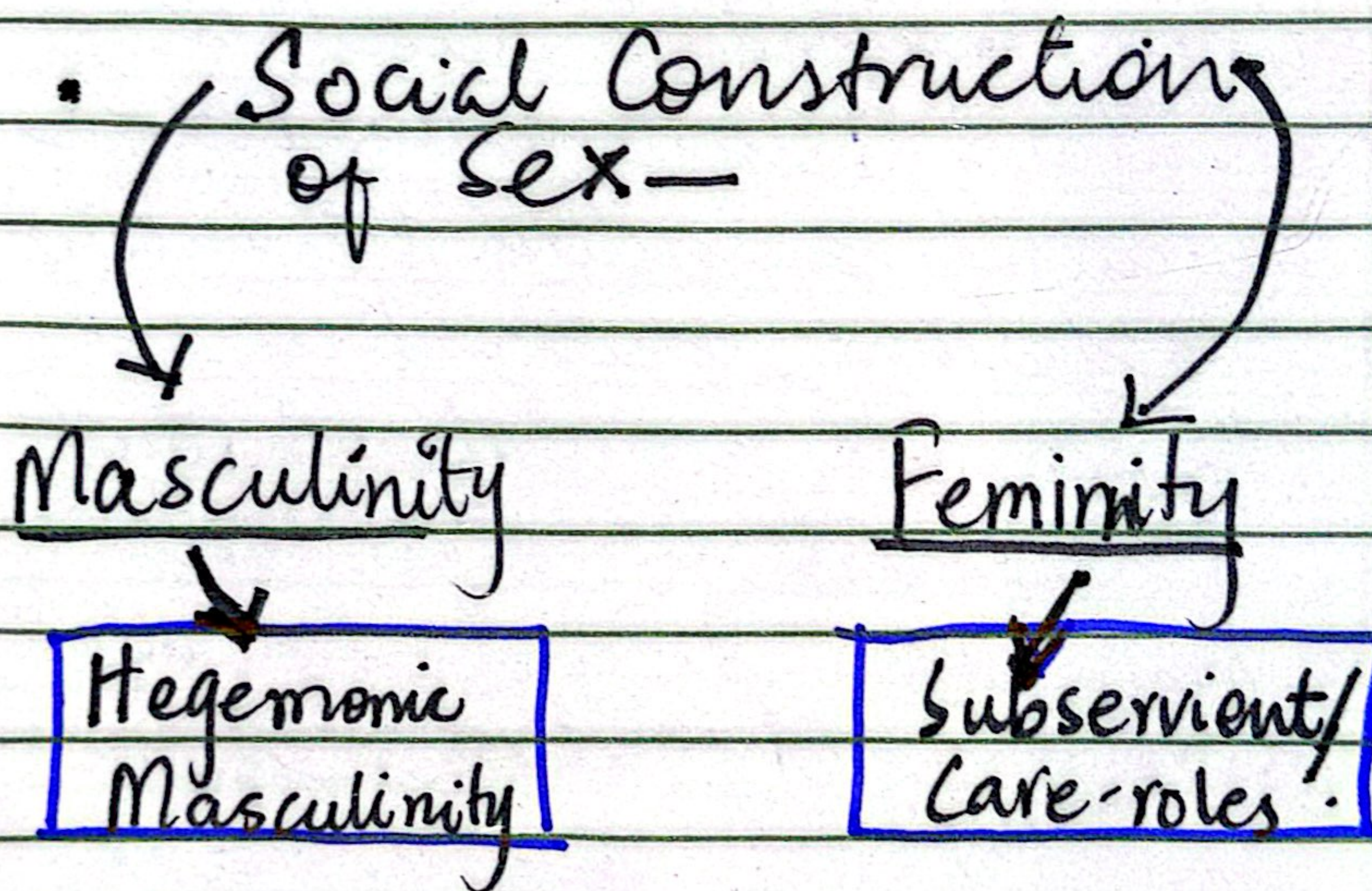
3. How Sex can be socially determined in context of masculinity and femininity:



a) How sex is socially determined in context of masculinity

female gender whereas testosterone is labelled as hormone making forming the male/masculine category. Therefore, this discourse of labelling also makes ~~it~~ 'sex' a socially constructed category.

3. How Sex can be socially determined in context of masculinity and femininity:



a) How sex is socially determined in context of masculinity

There is a widely known social phenomenon of 'hegemonic masculinity'. This very phenomenon forces men to be less emotional, stoic, provider of the family and the protector of women - 'A Ghairat mand' mand in Pakistani context to be specific.

Explanation: Masculinity in terms of sex is socially constructed because men are expected to use their mental, physiologically (biological) faculties according to the society's expectations which they learn to emulate through the course of their lives. Men who do not fit into these rigid categorization are labelled ~~less~~ 'unmanly' (long)

b) The debates around femininity prove it to be a social construct in terms of "sex".

Explanation: women/girls are expected to show ethic of care (cultural feminism), be emotionally vulnerable and perform homechores. They are also expected to be less demanding of public space and conform to the whims and wishes of their male guardians/spouses. (Butler)

Example: Women and girls are incorporate submissiveness into their psychology. If they revolt, the society questions their "womanhood" labelling them as "ye mard hai ya aurat" or "isski tarbiyat larkiyon jesi nahi hui thi".

4. Conclusion

It may, therefore, be concluded that the Queer theory problematizes sex as a socially category by questioning the ground on which

Society defines ~~what~~ what is male and female. It concludes gender and sex to be unstable and context rich and evolving categories that cannot be defined. Similarly, the debate around masculinity and femininity also argues sex as a socially determined phenomenon as both the genders are expected to leverage their mental and physical capabilities according to societal norms.

Question 2.

1. Introduction

Feminism is a cultural and an intellectual project that comes with a huge variety of discourse to challenge patriarchy and vouch for women's rights and liberation. Various feminist movements brought evolving agendas of feminist struggle. Liberal Feminism fought for women's equality and workplace rights, Radical feminism questioned the system of patriarchy whereas Marxist/ Socialist Feminism problematized capitalism and patriarchy as root causes of women's oppression. Hence, these theories had some inherently different opinions for alleviation of women's plight. Therefore, a compare and a contrast exist. These differing thoughts also carry some valuable implications for feminist practice in contexts

like Pakistan.

2. Comparing various theories of Feminism

1. Liberal feminism: Brought forward in 1960-70s during the first wave of feminism to highlight issues of women's inequality in workplaces, lack of feminist history from academic literature and a rallying for greater space and voice for women in public spheres.

2. Radical feminism: A Project of Second wave feminism, it further advanced the concerns of women's inequality and oppression. The central question, in comparison to Liberal feminism was same: Women's rights and liberation.

3. Marxist/Socialist Feminism:

In consonance with Radical and Liberal feminism, it boosted women's voice for ~~an~~ ^{the} equal rights and abolishment of inequalities against women in all spheres of public and private life.

3. Contrasting Liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism and Marxist/Socialist Feminism.

1. Liberal Feminism:

This movement mainly voiced concerns for women's rights in spheres of public life and curbing inequality by including women as equals to men. Even in literature, they asked for rights within the system.

2. Radical Feminism: In contrast to Liberal Feminism, Radical Feminism Questioned

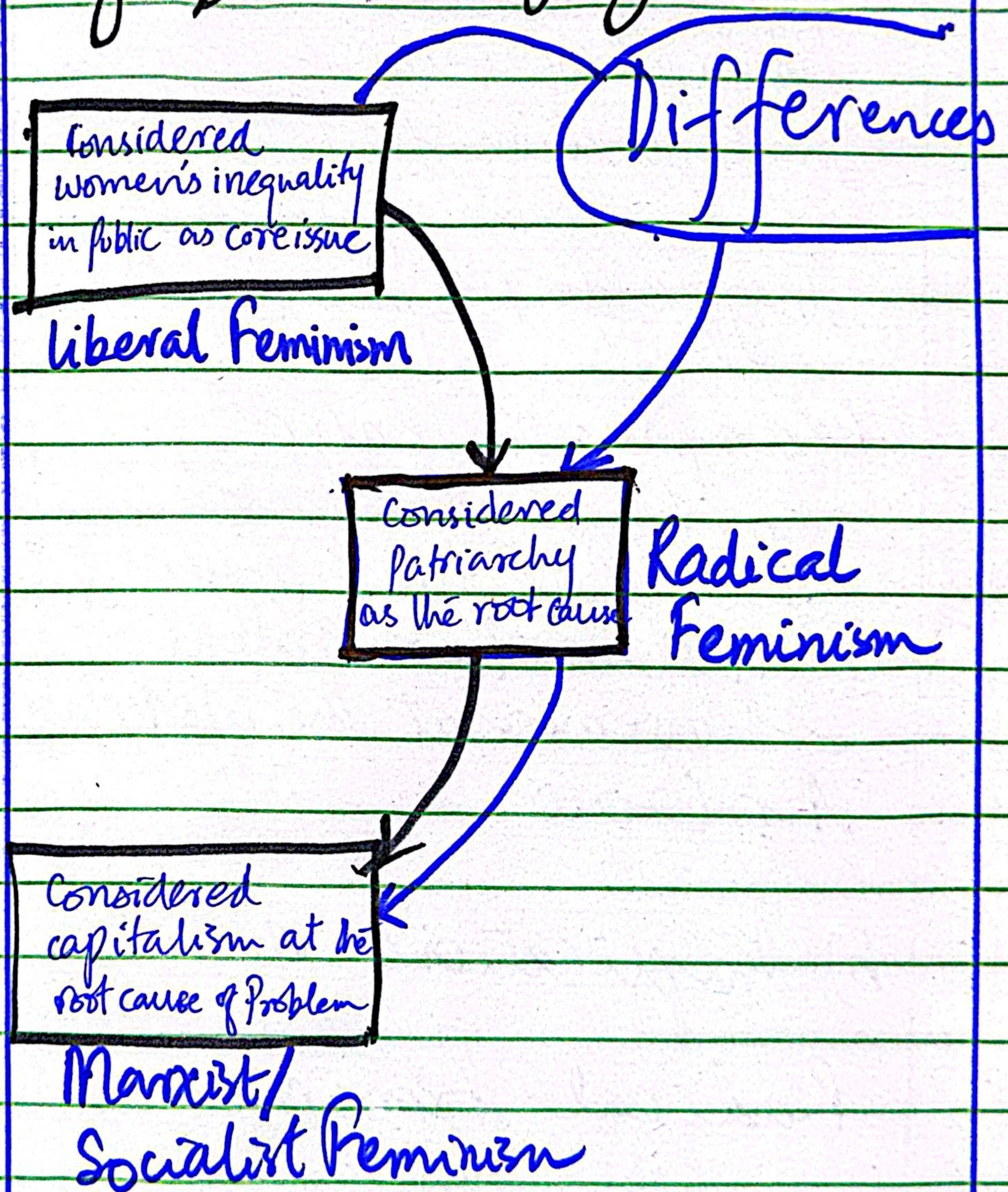
the root of the problem :
Patriarchy. The movement
rallied for disintegration
of patriarchal norms from
public and private lives
of women to grant them
equality because they
believed that 'Personal
was political' (Vindication
of rights of women,
Ann Oakley)

3. Marxist / Socialist Feminism:

Contrasting this theory
~~movement~~ with the
former two, it differed
in its essence by
agreeing with radical
feminism that patriarchy
was the root problem.
However, it added that
the state capitalism was
coupled with patriarchal
forces exacerbated
women's plight. Therefore
it raised the concern

to demolish the roots of capitalism and patriarchy.

4. Main differences between these feminist theories in their understanding of Women's Plight:



5. Implications of feminist theories for Feminist Practice in

Pakistan:

a) Implications of Liberal Feminism:

Liberal feminism carries an implication for Pakistani women in terms of feminist struggle for workplace rights.

Example: The Entire suffrage movement and Protection Against Workplace Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010)

b) Implications of Radical Feminism:

"Personal is political"

All the issues that Pakistani women face are a collective common concern

Example: Aurat March
and its Slogans like
"Mera jism, Meri Marzi"
and 'Apna Khana Khud
Baram Karo (Annetty
International, How "My
body, My Choice" Became
a Rallying Cry, 2020).

c) Marxist/Socialist

Feminism - Reproduction
of free labour power, unpaid
for women's house care roles,
informal contracts with lady
Health workers. Non recognition
of Home based workers.

4. Conclusion:

In conclusion, one may
say that there is a plausible
contrast between liberal, radical,
and Marxist theories of feminist

thought, alongside similarities.
This makes these theories
offer nuanced and multi-disciplinary
analysis of gender and women's
issues related to inequality. These
theories, therefore, offer the
above discussed insight and
implications for feminist practice
in Pakistan.

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