

Q) Write a note on colonial and Capitalistic perspective of gender.

Introduction

The colonial and capitalistic perspective of gender emerged in late 1800s. The word colonial referred as, when one country invade the other and impose their tradition, culture, and values. On the other hand, capitalism referred as a system where the mean of production is privately owned, and profit is the driving motive. Nevertheless, both system has exploited women and make them suffer for their goals.

"Colonialism and capitalism have jointly produced gender differences, turning women into subject of both economic and culture domination" (Sylvia).

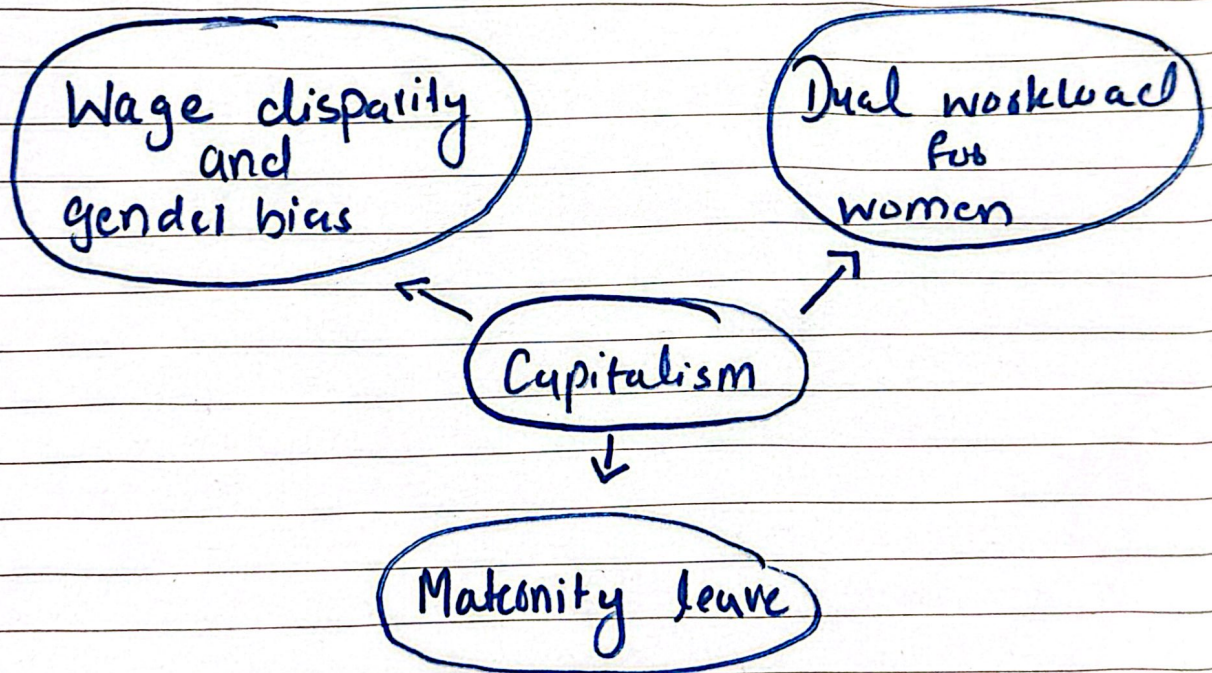
Capitalism

Capitalism is a system where business are privately owned such as land, factories, and transport. The driving purpose of these system is only profit. However, later

argues that, in such system women are exploited merely. These system exploit women's in means of **wage gaps, dual workload, and maternity leave**. Nevertheless, these systems later on lead towards feminist movements and marxist feminism.

"Capitalism thrives on women subordination, at home and in workplace". (Heidi Hartmann).

Dismal state of women in capitalistic time:



1) **Wage disparity and gender bias:**

In capitalistic systems women earns significantly

lower than men. Capitalistic commodify women and gave them half of what men earns for the same job.

"Women earns only 77 cents for every dollar men earns"
(W.E.F report, 2024).

The state of women in Pakistan is in more inferior state.

"Women earn 34% less than men for doing same job."
(Pakistan Bureau static, 2023).

2) Dual workload for women:

The workload or responsibilities on women are doubled in capitalism. Despite entering the workforce women are responsible to take care for the childrens at home. This double burden leaves women overworked and undercompensated.

"Women holds half the sky, but Capitalism pays them half the wage" (UN, women report).

3) Motherhood and Maternity leave:

The motherhood and maternity leave is

perceived as another stem for women exploitation. The National longitudinal Survey of young women in USA found that each child reduces a wage of 5% for women, while men wages are unaffected.

In capitalism women maternity leaves are not paid. However, after some time it gets paid.

Capitalism and second wave of feminism:

Capitalism is one of the root causes for second wave of feminism. When first wave emerged the women thought by gaining right to vote would solve their problem. Nevertheless, it does not and in midst of that women got embroiled further to secure their rights and ~~the~~ capitalism is one of them. Moreover, it is also associated with Marxist feminism.

"Women domestic labour sustain capitalistic exploitation."
(Friedrich Engels).

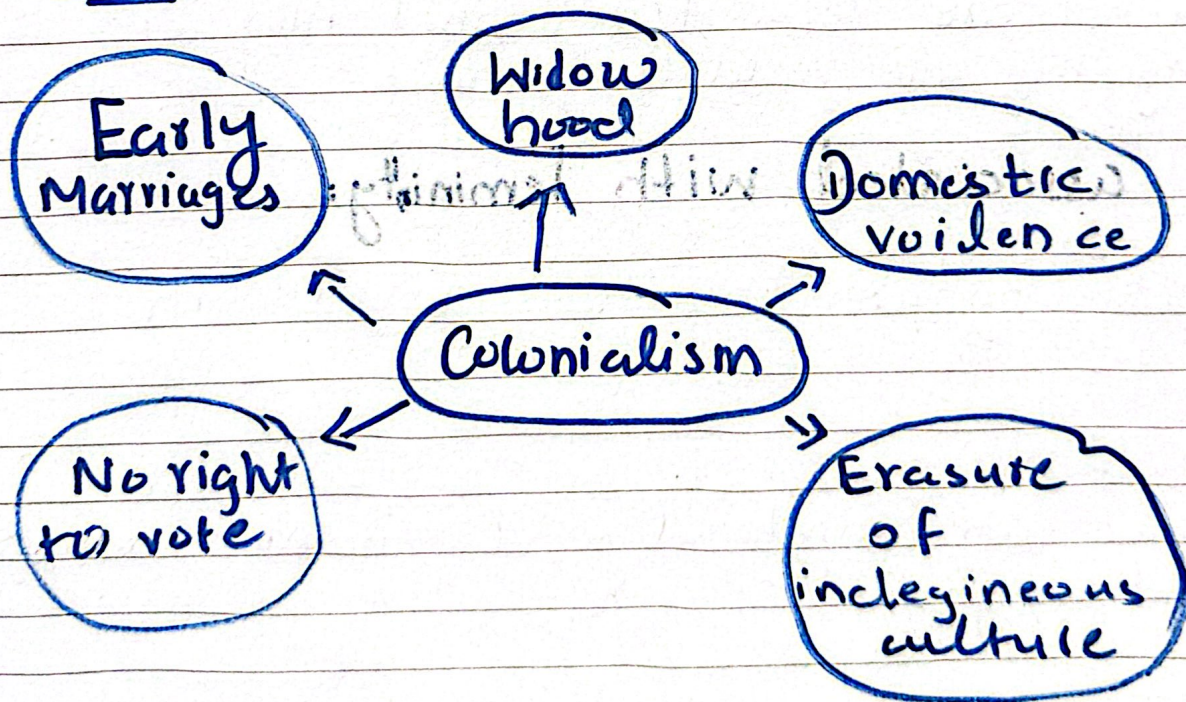
Colonialism:

Colonialism is a system, when one country intercept other and impose their rules and laws. However, in gender

perspective men are colonizers and women are colonized. Colonizers are the one who set rules and colonized are the one who followed them. In, colonial times women faces severe constraints and no rights in both public and private sectors.

"Before colonization of any country, it operates smoothly, but colonized destroys their indigenous culture and living". (Chinua Achebe).

Dismal state of women in colonial time



Domestic violence normalised:

In colonial times domestic violence is prevalent. Men beat their wives and was socially tolerated. If women ran away from these injustices, she was treated as a thief. However, if a man murdered his wife, he was hanged, but if women does the same, she would be burned alive. This reflects how the society treats genders and extreme gender bias.

No property or voting rights:

The women in colonial times are ceased to exist legally. They have no voting and property rights, they can not buy their own property, as their identity. It seems like their identity is merged into that of her husband.

"A married women ceased to exist legally, her identity merged into that of her husband".

Early marriages and widowhood:

The women are forced to get married by age of 13 or 14 years in colonial times. If a women was not married

Until 25 years, she was seen a socially humiliation and treated more unfairly. However, the women, whose husband died is expected to marry within 7 years of time frame by law.

Colonialism influence on women's right

movement:

Colonialism is perceived as the root cause for first wave of feminism. When women are oppressed and legally bonded they initiated to secure their right to vote. Which is also the agenda of first wave of feminism.

"The wave formally began when 300 men and women gathered at Seneca Falls convention to demand equal rights for women".
(Pacific university).

However, later on it also lead towards post colonial feminism.

Improvement during American revolution:

The American revolution forced women to work in male dominated fields and gave them a chance to participate in community actions.

Group like daughter of liberty formed, and boycotted british goods and made clothing for soldiers. This all leads towards women rights in the US constitution.

"Women who spun for liberty, also began to speak for liberty".
(Linda Kupper)

Conclusion:

The colonial and capitalistic times has improved womens life significantly. However, womens are suppressed and have no rights to live, but it becomes the pave for women to speak for themself and to proof themself. They secure right to vote and emancipation from patriarchy. Nevertheless, somehow patriarchy is still rooted in our systems.