

GENDER STUDIES

QNO2:

STATUS OF GENDER STUDIES IN PAKISTAN AND AUTONOMY VS INTEGRATION DEBATE

INTRODUCTION:

Gender studies in Pakistan is a multifaceted and evolving topic. The Gender studies programs and research initiatives are growing in the country. Due to this evolving status of Gender studies in Pakistan, numerous initiatives have been taken by the authorities to address gender related issues like gender based violence, women's rights etc. So the status of Gender studies in Pakistan

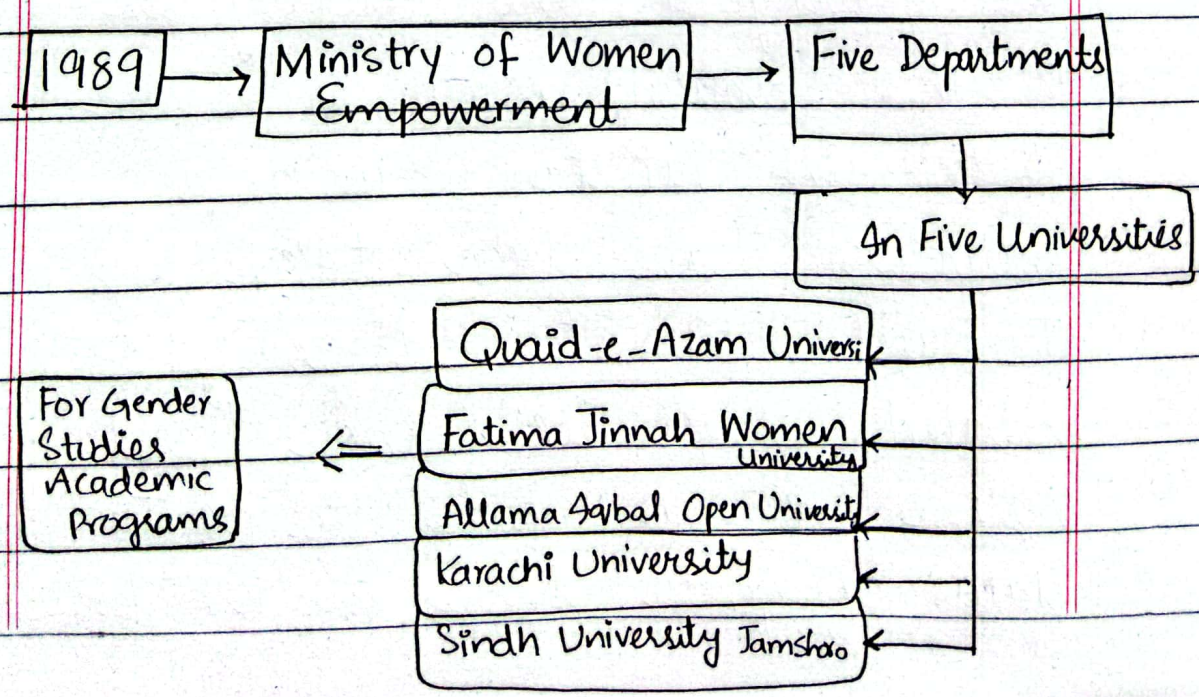
has achieved attention.

Here is a detail about the status of gender studies in Pakistan:

1) Academic Programs:

Gender Studies in Pakistan has achieved Academic status. Several universities are offering Gender Studies programs and courses.

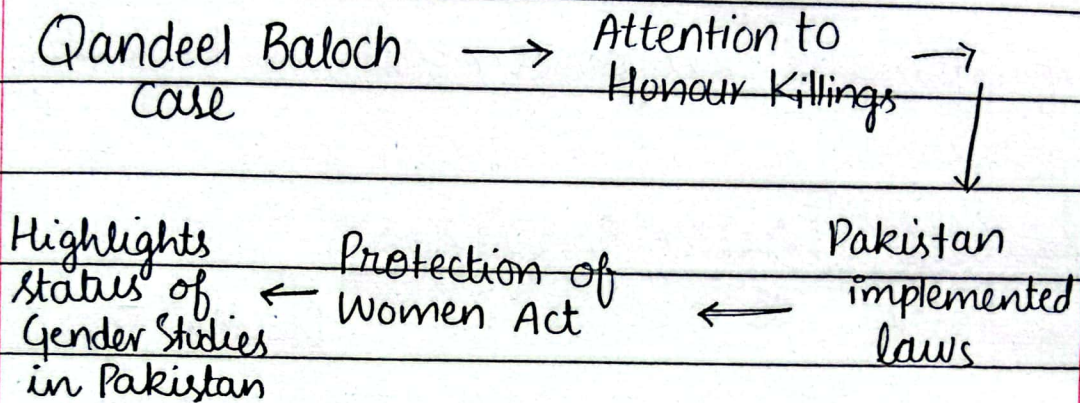
In 1986 → Nighat Said Khan helped establish Institute of Women's Studies Lahore (IWSL). aiming to close gap between theory and practice social movements.



2) Gender Based Violence:

Due to the evolving status of Gender Studies in Pakistan, it has also helped to address Gender based violence.

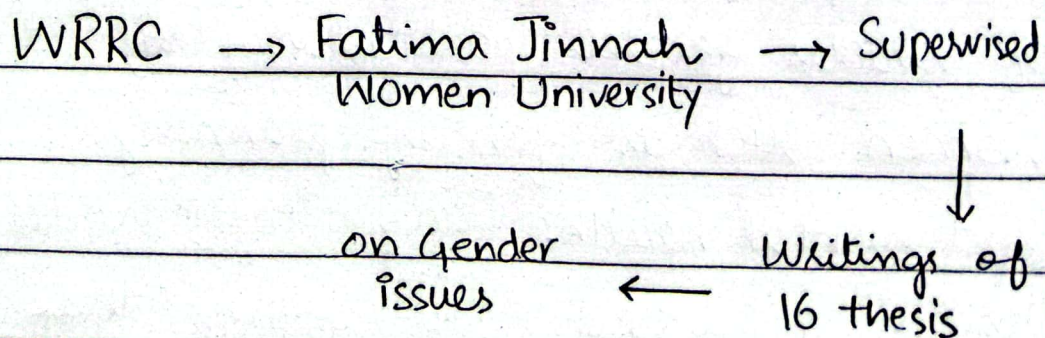
For example:



3) Research and Publications:

The status of Gender Studies in Pakistan can be further comprehended from the growing bodies of Research and Publications on women's empowerment

For example:



4) Women Empowerment:

The status of Gender Studies in Pakistan is also becoming prominent due to Women like Malala Yousef Zai and Benazir Bhutto who serve as examples of female empowerment and leadership.

5) Legal Framework:

Due to the importance of Gender Studies, Pakistan has also made many laws to protect women such as: Protection of Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010.

6) Healthcare:

Gender studies has also helped to address the health issues of various gender particularly of women such as family planning and mental health. Lady Health Worker Program is working to address these issues.

7) Feminist Movements:

Due to the Gender Studies, Pakistan has active feminist and women rights movements.

AUTONOMY DEBATE :

Autonomy perspective advocates that women should prioritize independence and self determination. This debate believes that:

"Women should focus on breaking away from oppressive structures and norms to achieve equality."

For example:

i) Self lead:

This autonomy perspective advocates that women have capacity to represent themselves and their interests.

ii) Members of various sexes are true representatives of their issues.

This perspective implies that people of different genders can effectively represent their

unique challenges. So, women can also be the true representatives of their issues.

iii) Self directive norms:

This means women has ability to set their own norms and rules for their lives.

iv) Independent struggle for every initiative :

Women have ability that they can independently advocate for various cases or initiatives. For example; Female students can make better improvements in their curriculum for better education.

Criticism:

i) Cultural biased:

Critics argue Autonomy perspective is often rooted in western individualistic perspective and does not address problems in diverse cultural context.

ii) Agency vs Structure:

This debate centers on individuals and neglects the

impact of structural inequalities on people's ability to exercise autonomy.

INTEGRATION PERSPECTIVE

According to this perspective: "Women should work within existing systems to create change."

For example:

i) Collaborating efforts of other entities:

This perspective advocates that other entities especially men can contribute to bring changes for women. So they should work in integration. For example: HeForShe initiatives, men advocate for gender equality.

ii) Ensuring representatives of all sexes:

This would reflect diverse perspectives and would lead to take better decision to bring changes for women.

iii) Integrating women's development strategies across all fields:

It will ensure a holistic approach. For example, Gender inclusive policies in health and education.

iv) Reforms and social movements:

Reforms and social movements can be best possible in integrating all entities of societies.

Criticism:

1) Reductionism:

Integration perspective can lead to reductionist approach, where gender is subsumed under class or race.

2) Binary Thinking:

Integration perspective can polarise the decision making process, as it involves all entities and different sexes.

QNO3:

Factors involved in constructing Gender Identity

INTRODUCTION:

There are different factors which are involved in constructing Gender Identity. Where social factors are important and determine genders, Biological factors are also of huge worth and contribute a lot towards constructing gender identity. This leads to a Nature vs Nurture debate.

Nurture Prospective : Social factors determine gender identity

According to this debate, social factors determines the gender identity. Different social factors nurturing Gender identity are as follows:

1) Socialization :

Different societal norms play an important role in gender identification. Societal norms are different for different genders. So, gender is identified by societal norms.

For example: In our societies :

Boys → Encouraged to be Assertive

Girls → Considered to be Submissive

2) Social Learning Theory :

This theory also encourages the fact that how society shapes gender identities. According to this theory:

Children immitate behaviours they observe in their society/environment.

for example :

A Girl → Learn to be → Feminine

↓
watching her
mother

3) Gendered Toys:

In our societies, different kinds of toys are considered specifically for girls and some for boys. This also shape their gender roles and identities.

For example:

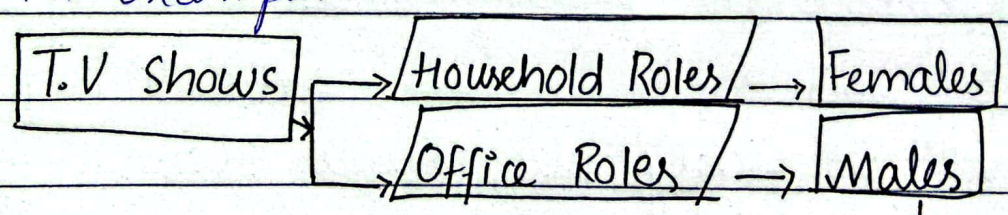
Girls → Toys → Dolls

Boys → Toys → Cars/Trucks

4) Media Influence:

Sometimes media portrayal of gender also shapes gender roles and identities.

For example:



Shapes Gender Identities

5) Peer Influence:

Interactions with peers can also reinforce or challenge

gender norms

For example: A boy can immitate behaviour of his female friend if they engage in non-stereotypical activities.

6) Cultural Variations:

Different cultures in our society also shapes gender identities.

For Example:

In some cultures gender roles are not as rigid as in other cultures.

7) Gendered Language:

The language used in society also shapes our gender identities.

This language includes our specific pronouns.

He → for Boys

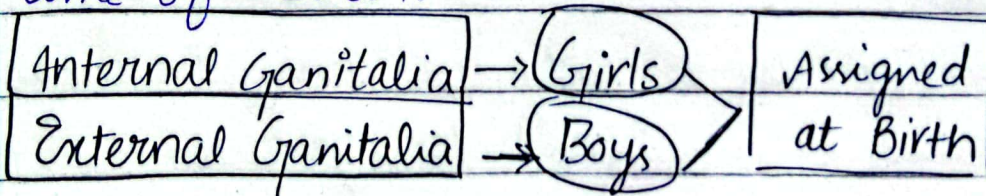
She → for Girls

Nature Perspective: Biological factors determining gender roles:

Not only the social factors, but Biological factors also determine Gender identities. Here are some biological differences to determine gender identities:

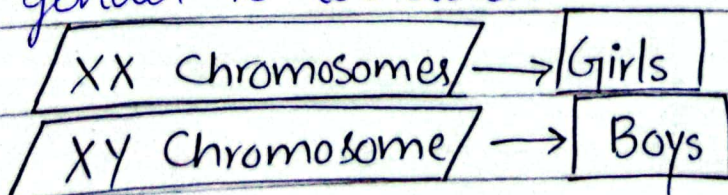
1) Reproductive Organs:

The development of Genitalia determines gender identity of a person at the time of birth.



2) Chromosomes:

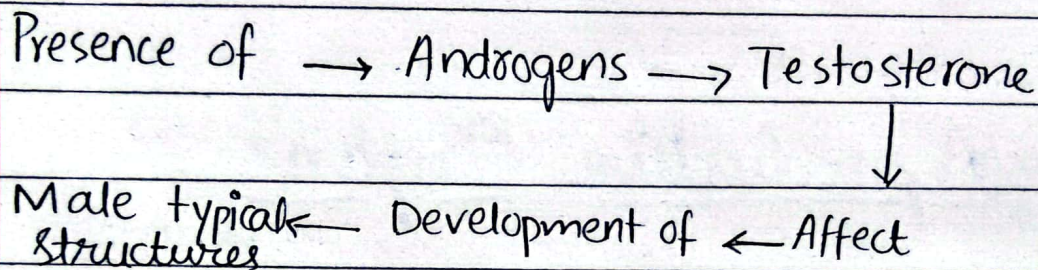
The difference of Chromosomes also determines the gender identities.



3) Hormones :

Hormonal exposure during parental development influences the differentiation of the brain and reproductive organs.

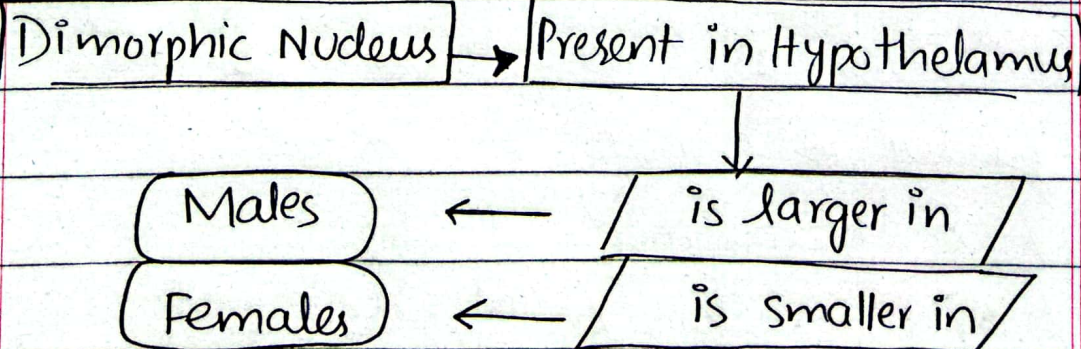
For Example:



4) Brain Structures :

Brain differences in areas like Hypothalamus have been linked to gender specific identities.

For Example:



5) Genes and Gender Identity:

Genetic factors may contribute to an individual's sense of gender identity.

For Example: Some Genetic variations are associated with transgenders.

Conclusion:

So along with social and environmental factors, Biological factors also play a significant role in the identification and construction of gender identities.

Q No 4:

Marrist's Feminism Perspective

INTRODUCTION:

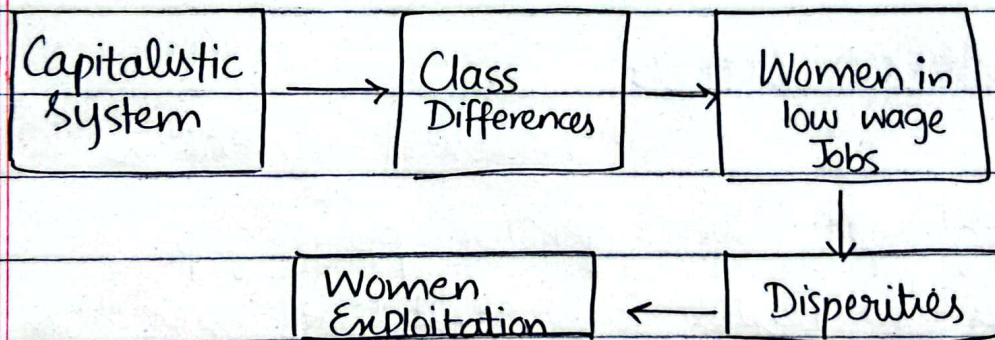
Marrist feminism also known as 'Social feminism' is a branch of feminist theory that combines Marrist and feminist ideas to examine the ways in which Capitalism and Patriarchy intersect and impact women's lives. Marx highlights that financial dependence of women over men is responsible for prevailing disparities and female exploitation.

How financial dependence of women over men is a reason for female exploitation and disparities :

Day: _____
Marx identified different ways due to which females are dependent on males financially and are being exploited.

i) Class Struggle:

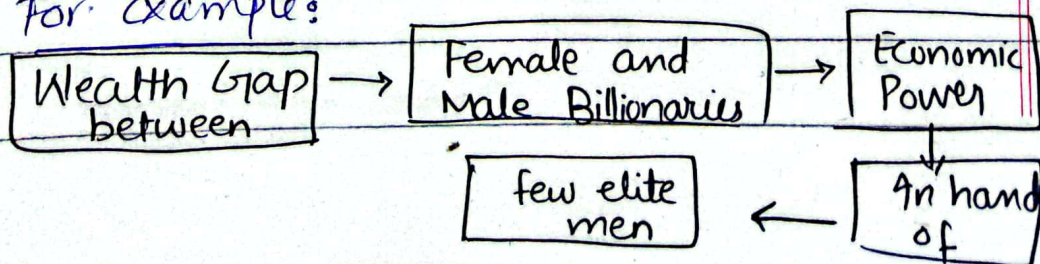
Marxist feminism emphasizes the role of class struggle in understanding the exploitation of females. He argues:



ii) Economic Base:

Marx argues that economic structure controlled by 'Bourgeoisie' is the root of women subjugation.

For Example:

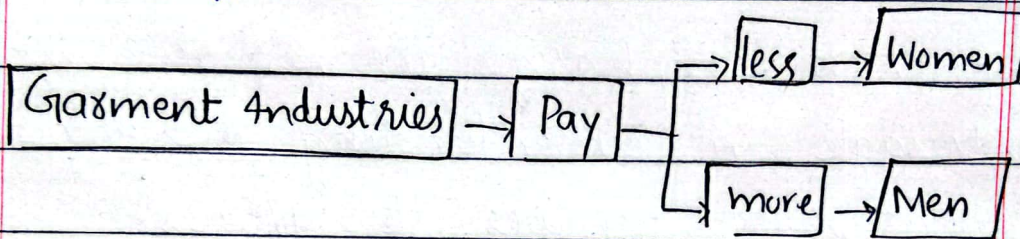


iii) Capitalism and Exploitation:

vi)

Marx argues that Capitalism is believed to exploit both working class and women, by extracting surplus ^{value} labour from their labour.

For example:

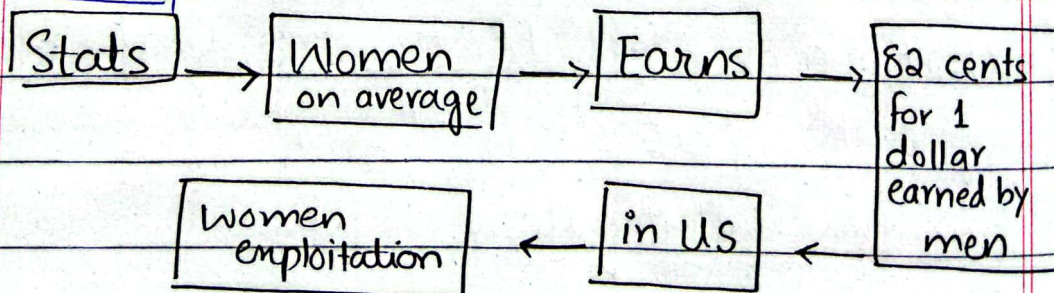


iv) Wage Gap:

vii)

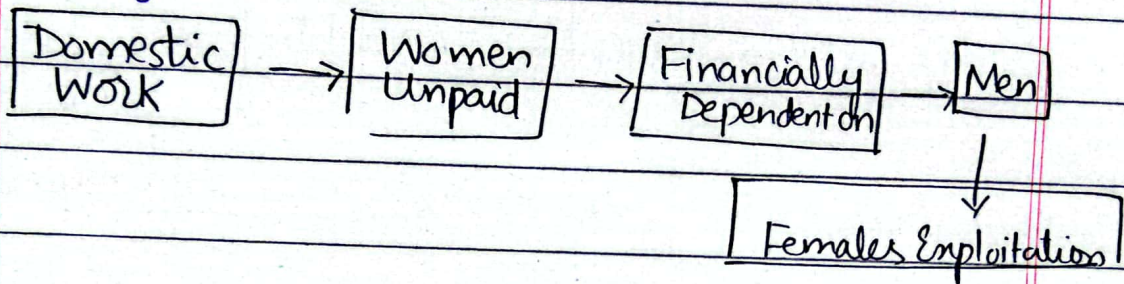
Marxist feminism highlights the gender pay gap as a result of Capitalistic exploitation where women are paid less as compared to men.

Example:



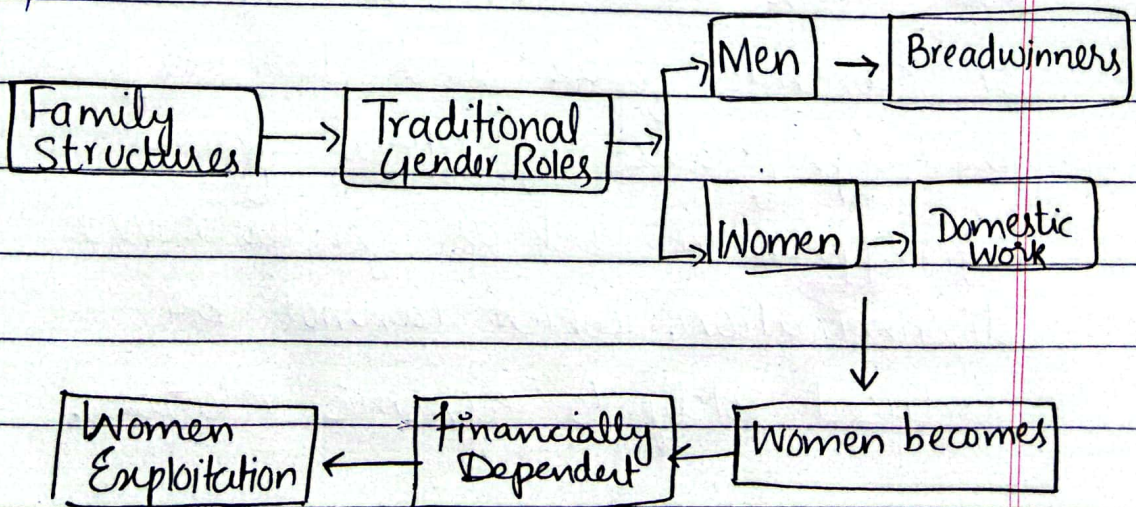
v) Unpaid Domestic Labour:

Marx sees women's unpaid domestic labour is seen as a form of surplus labour for capitalism, supporting the male workforce.



vi) Bourgeois Family Structure:

The traditional Nuclear Family is considered as a tool for capitalism, as it upholds patriarchal values.

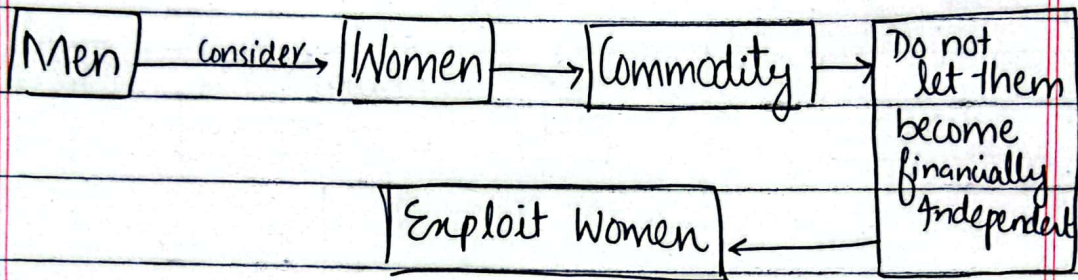


vii)

Commodity Fetishism:

Marxist

feminism Critiques the objectification and Commodification of women's bodies and sexuality by Capitalism.

Criticism:i) Economic Determinism:

Critics argue that Marx places excessive emphasis on Economic factors and downplay the significance of other forms of oppression such as gender based discrimination, which cannot be reduced solely to economic relations.

ii) Class ^{Centric} Struggle:

Critiques
~~Some~~ also argue

that ~~excessive~~ Marxism tend to prioritize class struggle over gender based struggles.

3) Overemphasis and Revolution:

Revolutionary approach of Marx may not be a paratide approach.

4) Patriarchy as By product:

Marxist treats patriarchy primarily as by product of Capitalism, while it is a system of oppression in its own right.

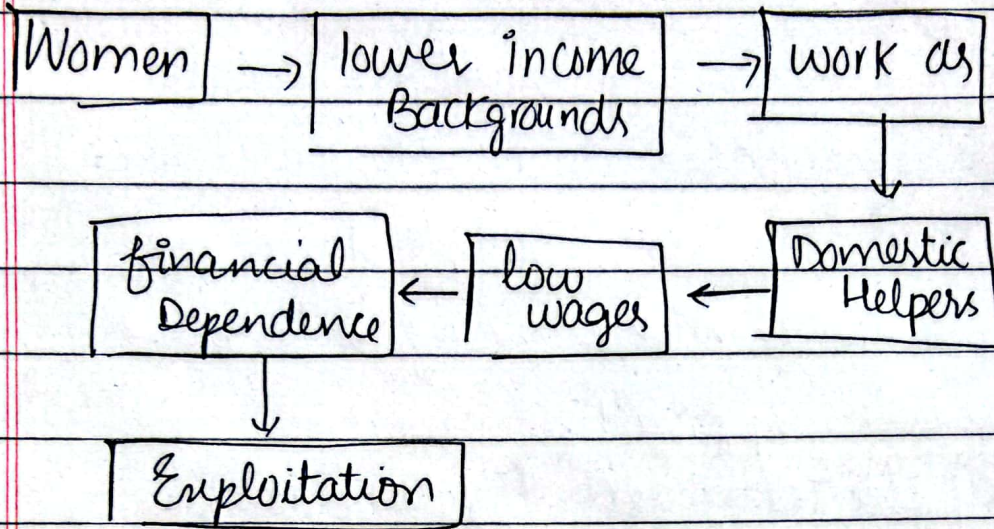
Marxist feminism and Pakistani women's exploitation:

Seen from the lens of Marxist feminism, Pakistani women are also being exploited due to their financial dependence on men.

For example, various factors contributing to this dependence.

1) Class Based Exploitation:

In Pakistan:

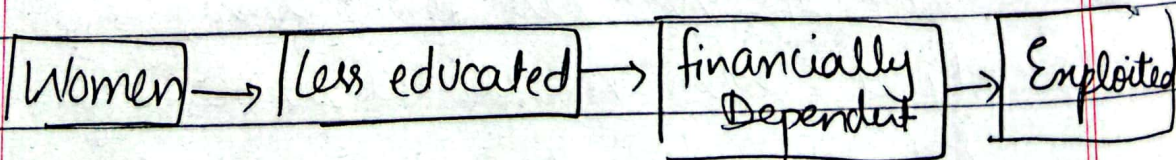


2) Unequal access to Education:

Pakistani women often have limited access to Education.

"Gender Parity Index for Primary Education in Pakistan was 0.91 in 2019."

(UNICEF Report).



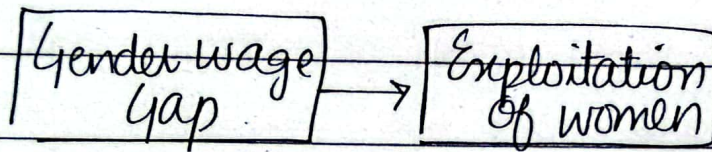
3) Gender wage gap:

Gender wage

gap also makes Pakistani women exploited.

"Pakistan ranked 148/153 countries in gender wage equality."

(World Economic Forum, 2020)



4) No ownership of means of production:

In Pakistan women are less likely to own means of production which leads to their exploitation.

5) Patriarchal societal norms:

Patriarchal

Society of Pakistan also exploits women.

Conclusion:

Marxist feminism broadly shows how females' financial dependence on males is becoming a reason for their exploitation.

QNO5:

Waves of Feminism

Introduction:

Feminist movements are social and political campaigns that advocate for the rights and equality of women in various aspects of life including social, political spheres.

1) First wave of feminism:

First wave of feminism was a historical period of feminist activities that took place primarily in 19th and 20th century.

It was instrumental in challenging traditional gender roles and societal norms.

Goals of first wave of feminism:

1) Women Suffrage:

Achieving the right to vote for women was the primary goal of first wave of feminism.

2) Legal Equality:

Advocating for the changes in laws to ensure women's equal status in areas like: Marriage, Property rights and divorce.

3) Access to education:

Demanding equal educational opportunities for women, including access to higher education.

4) Workplace Equality:

Seeking to an

End to workplace discrimination and equal pay for equal work.

5) Abolition of Slavery:

Some first wave feminist were also involved in the abolitionist movement, working towards end of slavery.

Role of first wave of feminism in Pakistan:

First wave of feminism did not impart any major influence on Pakistan because it was the time when Pakistan ~~did~~^{was} not a independent country but was a part of British India.

Second Wave of

Feminism

Second wave of feminism emerged in 1960s and continued through 1980s. This ~~was~~ wave was built upon the achievements of first wave and expanded the focus of feminist movement to address a wider range of issues beyond just legal and political rights.

Goals:

1) The end of oppression:

Based on this common experience, women constituted united groups to end this curse of oppression.

2) Reproduction rights:

The Food and Drug Administration approved an

Date: ___/___/20___

Day: _____

oral contraceptive pill, made available in 1961, that was an important step towards Reproductive rights of women.