

Past II

Question 4

The financial dependence of women over men is responsible for prevailing disparities and female exploitation. Elaborate the given statement keeping in view the Marxist Feminism perspective.

Introduction

Marxist feminism was famous in 1980s & 1990s and its origin can be traced back to 19th century.

Marxist feminism focus on capitalist system as a form of exploitation of women. These men are not given right to own property and do job. Capitalist system is the gendered system where women face inequalities and men are supposed to work outside and women is supposed to do domestic work and is dependent on men for financial needs.

Key points of Marxist Feminism

Marxist feminism proposes some views and throws light on some disparities and exploitations women face by the hands of male in Capitalist System.

(1) Production of labor force

Women is not given right of reproduction whether she wants to have children or not. She is tasked with two important tasks. At one hand she is supposed to serve current workers and then reproduce next generation of workers and socialize them. She is constantly doing unpaid domestic labor in Capitalist society.

(2) Division of labor: Unpaid domestic labor

In Capitalist society, there is division of labor. Man

is given value ξ , he works in economic production. While woman is supposed to do domestic works which are undervalued and unpaid, ξ exploitation of women occurs by man.

(3) As a cheap labor

Women are reserved as a cheap labor, when ~~the~~ man are to go for wars, women were supposed to work in place of them for sometime with under payment of their works. Moreover, when man used to come back from wars, woman were to leave their jobs.

(4) Low wages of woman

Although man were controlling economic resources, properties, jobs etc, but when any woman was given job, she was paid low wages. In this way, woman was exploited.

Financial dependence of women over man is the main cause of prevailing disparities and exploitation of women.

Goals of Marxist Feminism

Following are some goals of Marxist feminism, keeping in mind gender disparities, which they think if attained will create gender equality.

(1) Abolish Capitalism

Capitalism, creates gender disparities and women exploitation. It is dominated by men. If capitalism is abolished, it will end patriarchy and gender inequalities.

(2) Classless Society

They talked about classless society, where there's no concept of upper class and lower class, and where all women and men are given

equal rights of property ownership and jobs which will remove gender inequality

3) Exposure of Women in public sphere

If women join public sphere and pursue job and gain

equal wage, gender inequality will diminish. So it was the aim

of Marxist feminism to

integrate women in public sphere

and ensure them jobs & good

wages.

4) Rights of Reproduction

They advocate for women's right of reproduction. Women should be

given right to decide whether she wants to be a mother or not.

It should be not like Capitalistic

system where primary job of

~~mother~~^{women} is to be a mother

5) Valuing domestic labor

According to their point of view

women are restricted to perform

domestic chores with no

payment given to them and

their work is not valued.
To remove disparities she
must be given pay for domestic
work.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Marxist feminism
opines that Capitalist system
creates gender inequality and
favours patriarchy and values
men over women. In economic
sense, women are restricted
to homes and they are
dependent on males econo-
mically which makes them
vulnerable, causes their exploitation.
To stop these gender inequalities
Capitalism be abolished and
gender equality be favored
in jobs and other matters.

Question 3

Different factors are involved
in constructing the Gender Identity;
however, one can also not overlook
the biological factors involved.

Discuss in the light of nature vs. Nurture debate.

Introduction

These are two schools of thought which explain the factors contributing to construction of gender identity i.e. maleness and femaleness. These schools of thought created a debate called Nature vs Nurture debate. Nature debate explains that heredity is responsible for gender identity i.e. while Nurture debate explains environment as a factor constructing gender identity. Both schools of thought hold importance.

Nature debate

Nature debate explains that by birth and through heredity gender identity is developed. They provide some examples to prove their point of view.

(1) Role of Genetics

Nature debates explain that

genetics is the factor responsible for gender identity. Girl get XX chromosome and boy get XY chromosome from each parent. So these genetics is not only creates gender identity but also physical appearance.

(2) Role of Hormones

Hormones also play role in constructing gender identity.

For example there are different hormones like testosterone and progesterone found in male & female respectively.

Another example is height: male are heighted than female.

(3) Role of reproductive organ

Presence of different reproductive organs construct gender identity e.g presence of penis in male and vagina in female.

(4) Role of heredity

Heredity also plays a role

Constructing gender identity.

Nustuse debate

Nustuse debate focus on environment and society responsible for constructing gender identity.

Following are some environmental or social factors contributing to social construction of gender identity.

(1) Role of Family

Construction of gender identity occurs from specific roles given to genders. Family is the 1st social institution, child interact and learns from family have pre conceived notions of how a girl and boy should think and behave. So their beliefs play important role in constructing gender identity.

For example, family teach girls to be polite do household chores, respect others,

• on the other hand, boys are taught to be tough, reasonable and practical.

→ Ana Oakley in her book *Sex, Gender and Society* refers to this treatment as "manipulation".

(2) Role of School

After family, second institution that child learns from and which constructs its gender identity is school. Here child interacts with other children and learn ^{gender} identity by playing and other learning mechanisms.

For example, in schools there are different play areas for girls and boys. Girls are provided with kitchen sets and blocks while boys are given toys like aeroplanes, cars,

(3) Role of Media

Media also plays an important role in constructing gender identity. Children see many

Cartoons or where a girl (heroine) is shown weak while boy (hero) is shown strong who helps girl. So these types of programs shape the reality and gender identity of child and child behaves the way, he interprets expectations from him/her.

(4) Role of Culture & religious beliefs

Religious beliefs and culture shape the gender identity and roles. If society has specific norms, people adopt it whether they are discriminating or wrong. If women is seen weak, next generation will see the same. Religious belief also play role for example in Hindu community after purpose of women is to live for her husband, if he dies she was burnt with him in cremation ceremony. If widow is allowed to live, she will spend her life as outcast.

Conclusion:

To sum up all, gender identity is shaped by, both and also through societal and environment factors. Both nature and nurture are involved in creating gender identity, and sole of biological factor can not be ignored.

Question 2

Write a note on Status of gender studies in Pakistan. Also write a Comprehensive note on autonomy VS Integration debate in gender studies.

Status of Gender Studies in Pakistan

In Pakistan women issues got more highlighted in 1970s due to sincere feminists of that time. To introduce the discipline in Country Center of Excellence of Gender Studies was established as

project in 1989 by ministry of women development. Its purpose was to make women visible at many fronts.

Academic Discipline

Nighat Said Khan helped establishment of Institute of women's studies Lahore in 1986

5 departments were formed under ministry of women empowerment in 1989

1. QAU - Women Studies Center
2. Fatima Jinnah Women Uni Rawalpindi - Women's research & resource center
3. AIU - Women Studies department
4. Karachi Uni - The Center of excellence for Women Studies.
5. Uni of Sindh, Jamshoro - The Faculty of Institute of Women Development studies

Karachi Uni - Center of excellence conducted two certificate courses in 1992 & 1994 & introduced discipline of women studies in

Pakistan

→ First 2 year M.A in Women Studies in Pakistan began in 1996

→ In 2002 it initiated Mphil PHD program

→ From 2004, discipline of Women Studies was introduced as a subsidiary course at first year.

→ From January 2007 BS (Hons) 4 year program was launched

→ In January 2010 M.A (evening) program was started.

Political Initiative for Gender Roles

Pakistan Association for Women Studies was formed in Karachi in 1991. with a purpose to bring about empowerment of women, and transforming gender biased society into one of inclusive gender equity.

Initiatives Under Curriculum Revision Committee

Committee made some recommendations to encourage interest in this subject.

- 1) To introduce Gender Studies as one of qualifying subjects of CSS & PMS (and was implemented by FPSC)
- 2) Translation of Key text of Women Studies into Urdu
- 3) HEC should give special funds
- 4) Women Studies should be incorporated into syllabi or text books of College & Schools.

Autonomy vs Integration debate

Origin:

Concept of this debate has origin from Women Studies which was initiated in 1980s. In Women Studies feminist took into consideration nature of field thought whether

it should be kept separate or incorporated into another major discipline.

So autonomy vs integration debate in women studies initiated that debate in gender studies. Proponents of autonomy and integration of gender studies have their own point of views.

Autonomy of Gender Studies

Autonomy means independence. It means that gender studies should be kept as independent discipline and should not be incorporated into any other discipline.

Proponents of this school of thought presented some reasons to keep gender studies as independent discipline, they are also called separatist.

- (1) Only way of progress
Gender study can progress only

if it is kept independent discipline & free from other discipline's influence. In case of integration, we would not be able to work freely and highlight gender based issues.

(2) Undermine gender studies & its goal

According to them, integration will undermine work on gender studies & feminist goals. It will hinder gender studies & feminist goals.

(3) Integration will impose constraints
Autonomy will help gender studies & feminist to focus all their energies on teaching of gender studies and explaining new concepts. Integration will be a freedom and create constraints.

(4) Best mean of generating knowledge
Autonomy is best mean of generating new knowledge through

interaction of like minded people.

Integration of Gender Studies

Integration means incorporation of Proponent present following reasons for integration of gender studies.

- (1) Only way to bring big changes A/c to integrationist, there is dire need of bringing big changes in society related gender & gender based issues. So change can only be brought by integrating gender studies in any other major discipline.
- (2) Best way to Compel policy maker

They argue by incorporation of gender studies in any other major discipline is the only way to ~~be~~ compel policy maker to keep in mind gender while formulating a policy.

Both views have strong

arguments and it is important to take both of them into consideration before taking any step

Question 8

Write a short note on the following.

- (a) Queer theory (b) Malala Yousafzai

Queer theory

Queer means odd or peculiar or unusual till 1980s

It is an umbrella term for LGBTQ. It stands for lesbian and gay sexualities.

Coined by:

It was coined by Teresa Laouetis

According to this theory, gender identities are not fixed, they are fluid, and dynamic and collectivity of possible sexualities that an individual moves towards and attain during any stage of life.

Historical context

Before 1970s & 1980s there were no sexual divisions except male and female. Homosexual were called mentally ill and homosexuality was considered crime, unlawful and punishable. In 1970s gay liberation front was established in Britain. and 20,000 people man died of AIDS in 1987. Government staff, NGOs informal institutions supported homosexual. Gay liberation front campaigned for homosexual and then law and policy making started.

Main Features

Following are some features

(1) Gender Performativity

According to this theory, gender identity is constructed when person performs any gender role repeatedly.

2) Identities are not fixed

Gender identities are not fixed and does not determine who we are.

Proponent

(v) Judith Butler

In his work "Gender Trouble"

gave concept of other

He said homosexuality is

considered other by society

and challenged heterosexuality.

The immediate effect of Queer theory was to destabilize all other notions of gender and sexuality.