

# PART - 2

## Q1) Introduction

Gender Studies is an academic discipline and a social science. The status of Gender Studies in Pakistan is not up to the extent due to our cultural norms, but it is still offered as a degree of masters and bachelors in many educational institutions. The autonomy versus integration debate in gender studies revolves around the tension between advocating for women's autonomy and acknowledging the importance of integrating women into existing social, economic and political structures.

## Status of Gender Studies

### In Pakistan

The Center of excellence for women studies was founded in the University of Karachi, which is the pioneer institute of women studies in Pakistan. It was established in 1989 by the ministry of women development. The first M.A. in

Women Studies in Pakistan began in 1996. In 2002 Centre initiated M.Phil/Ph.D program. From January 2007 bachelors in Gender studies as well as in Women Studies was launched in many institutes across Pakistan. Many innovative courses and seminars are offered here as research is conducted here, technical training is also provided. Many other universities such as University of Jamshoro, LUMS and NU-IT offer degrees in Gender and Women studies.

## Autonomy VS Integration

### Autonomy Perspective

#### Emphasis on independence:

The autonomy perspective argue on the concept of women achieving independence and self determination. It involves the right to make choices, and which includes professional as well as personal choices.

## 2) Individual Empowerment

Autonomy feminists stress individual empowerment and self-realization as crucial for women's liberation. They often advocate for women's rights to education, employment and control over their bodies.

## 3) Challenges Traditional Roles

This perspective challenges traditional roles that may limit women's choices and opportunities. It seeks to break away from restrictive norms and expectations.

# Integration Perspective

## 4) Working with Existing Systems

Integration feminists argue that women's progress can be achieved by working within existing social, economic and political systems. This involves advocating for changes within established structures rather than seeking complete autonomy.



## 2) Collaboration and Inclusivity

Integration feminists often emphasize collaboration and inclusivity, suggesting that women can be better integrated into societal frameworks through partnerships with men and various institutions.

## 3) Institutional Change

This perspective aims at changing laws, policies, and institutional practices to address gender inequalities. It may involve initiatives such as affirmative action and equal opportunity programs.

## Points of Tension

### 1) Individual vs Collective Action

The autonomy perspective leans towards individual agency, while the integration perspective emphasizes collective action and system change.

### 2) Cultural Sensitivity

Autonomy feminists may critique cultural norms that restrict women's autonomy, while integration feminists might focus on

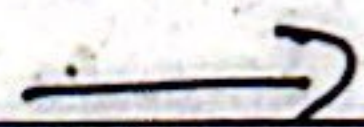
promoting gender equality, within existing cultural contexts.

### 3) Global Perspectives

In a global context, autonomy feminists may emphasize the importance of recognizing diverse cultural practices, while integration feminists may seek universal principles that promote gender equality across cultures.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the autonomy versus integration debate, reflects the ongoing dialogue within gender studies on the most effective strategies for achieving gender equality. While some argue for the importance of women's autonomy and independence, others stress the need for integration into existing systems to bring meaningful change.



Q4)

## Introduction

Women even today are dependent on men to fulfil their financial and economic needs. This need is due to existing cultural and societal norms. This financial dependence becomes a cause for prevailing disparities and female exploitation. The perspective of Marxist feminists is that they are against the existing social class of society and they urge on a classless society free from exploitation of women.

## How Financial Dependence of Women is Responsible

### 1) Male domination

Males dominate themselves on females because they are financially dependent on them. Whenever an individual of any sex becomes dependent on the other the other exploits the first according to its needs. This exploitation starts from home

as male is dominant due to the fact that he earns. This financial dependence of women becomes responsible for their exploitation.

## 2) Increased domestic Unpaid Labour

When men earn and provide for their women, this gives them an upper hand on them and makes them feel superior to women. This can cause men to give women for domestic work to do and women in no place to question that has to accept it as they are financially dependent on them.

## 3) Being financially Dependent Increases Chance of Violence.

Women who do not earn for them are most likely to be sexually or verbally harassed. Most of the men consider women as sex objects, specially when they are not in a position to earn for themselves and are dependent on them.

## 4) Her Rights and Her Words are not Respected

A Women who does not earn is not taken seriously at home and whatever she says is ignored by thinking that she has not seen the real outside world. This exploits her individual thinking and she even starts

to question her existence.

## 5) Not Able To Make Her Own Life Decisions

When Women are also financially dependent on men, they are not allowed to live their life lives according to their wants and desires. The way they should think, behave, wear and eat is often dictated by their men. This ~~(exploit)~~ results in exploitation of women.

## MARXIST FEMINISM PERSPECTIVE

The perspective of marxist feminism is that they are against a society where women are treated according to their social class. They want a classless society, where every individual woman is treated and respected, even if she comes from a poor background. Secondly, marxists believe that the existing Capital System exploits women and creates disparities. It is the men who benefit from this capitalism the most. Through this capitalism, women are exploited by asking to do domestic unpaid labour, they are forced to do it and childbearing responsibility is forced onto them alone. The Marxist feminist keep in mind about the production and reproduction factor.



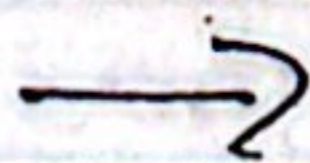
## Conclusion

Women, even in this contemporary world are mostly exploited due to the fact that they don't earn for themselves and are financially dependent. This financial dependence creates disparities and gives men the upperhand to treat women according to their own desires.

## Introduction

Gender Based Violence (GBV) refers to any harmful act directed at an individual or a group based on their gender. It is a pervasive issue globally and takes various forms. In Pakistan's society, as in many other societies, various types of gender based violence exist.

## Types of Gender Based Violence



## 1) Domestic Violence

This includes physical, emotional or psychological abuse within the household, often directed at women. It can involve physical violence, verbal abuse and controlling behaviour.

## 2) Honor killings

These are murders committed against individuals, where women is considered as a honour of men. If she does try to do anything to damage that she is eventually killed in a very disturbing manner.

## 3) Sexual Violence

This includes rape, sexual assault, harassment, and other forms of coercion. It can occur within the family, in public spaces, or during armed conflicts.

## 4) Child Marriage

Forcing children, particularly girls into early marriage is also a type of gender based violence. It deprives them of their childhood, education and often results in various health risks.

## 5) Human Trafficking

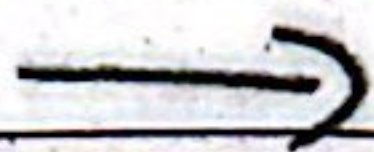
Women and girls are often victims of human trafficking for purposes of forced labor, sexual exploitation or other forms of abuse.

## 6) Cyber Harassment

With the increasing use of technology, gender-based violence has extended to online spaces. Women may face harassment, threats and the non-consensual sharing of private information.

## Violence in Pakistani Society

In Pakistan society, like many other societies, domestic violence and honor killings are prevalent forms of gender-based violence. These issues are deeply rooted in cultural norms, patriarchal structures and traditional practices. This prevalence is exacerbated by factors such as economic disparities, lack of education, and inadequate legal frameworks.



# How to Eliminate Gender Based Violence

## 1) Legal Reforms

Strengthening and enforcing laws against gender-based violence is crucial. This includes measures to protect victims, punish offenders and ensure fair justice.

## 2) Education and Awareness

Promoting education, particularly for girls, and raising awareness about gender equality can help challenge traditional norms and reduce the acceptance of violence.

## 3) Community Engagement

Involving communities in the conversation is vital. Community leaders, religious figures and local influencers can play a key role in changing attitudes towards gender-based violence.

## 4) Support Services

Establishing support services such as shelters, counselling, and helplines for survivors can provide the necessary assistance and encourage reporting.

## 5) Economic Empowerment

Empowering women economically can contribute to reducing vulnerability. This involves providing access to education, vocational training, and employment opportunities.

## 6) Media Influence

Media can be a powerful tool for change. Promoting positive portrayal of women, challenging stereotypes, and highlighting the consequences of gender-based violence can influence public opinion.

## CONCLUSION

Conclusively one may say that, it is important to recognize that combating gender-based violence requires a comprehensive, multi-dimensional approach that involves individuals, communities, governments, and international organizations working together.

# Queer Theory

Queer Theory challenges and expands our understanding of sexuality, gender and identity. Emerging from the intersections of feminist theory, postmodernism and LGBTQ+ activism, it encourages scholars and activists to question societal norms and binary classification related to sexual orientation and gender identity. Queer theorists argue that identities are not fixed categories, but are fluid and socially constructed.

Central to Queer Theory is the critique of heteronormativity, which assumes heterosexuality as the default of normative sexual orientation. It explores how power structures contribute to the marginalization of non-normative sexualities and genders. Judith Butler's concept of performativity is pivotal, suggesting that gender is not an inherent trait but something we perform based on societal expectations.

→

Queer theory has influenced various academic disciplines, including literature, film studies, sociology and cultural studies. It has also played a crucial role in LGBTQ+ activism by challenging discriminatory practices, advocating for equal rights and fostering a more inclusive and affirming societal attitude towards diverse expressions of identity.

## Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai's story is one of remarkable resilience and advocacy for education and human rights. Growing up in Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala's early life was marked by the Taliban's increasing influence and their attempts to restrict education, particularly for girls. Malala, with the support of her father, continued to attend school and became an outspoken advocate for the right of education.

In 2012, she survived a targeted attack by Taliban, which intensified her global prominence. Malala's response to the violence was characterized by her unwavering commitment to her cause. Her activism has since expanded beyond Pakistan, making her a global symbol of courage and perseverance.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Malala's contribution to education and human rights have been widely recognized. In 2014, she became the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the youngest ever for her "struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education". The Malala Fund co-founded by her father continues to work today towards ensuring that every girl receives twelve years of free and safe education.