

Gender Studies

2.3 Introduction

Gender studies is a multi-disciplinary field - It emerged as a subject as a result of contributions from the fields of sociology, anthropology, political science, literature, psychology, economics, and biology. This makes gender studies an area of study which, in spite of having its independent identity, is influenced by different areas of studies. These areas of studies could either be closely related to gender studies or could be quite distinct from it.

Gender studies as a multidisciplinary field

i) Gender Studies and Sociology

Gender studies have been shaped by sociology to a large extent. Gender relations, and particularly the treatment of women in society, are common areas of studies in sociology. Thus, gender studies and gender relations are strongly influenced by social relations.

(ii)

Gender studies and anthropology
As anthropology is about human behaviour and human relations, gender studies have been influenced by it. The gender roles and the gender relations which make up gender studies gain their insights from human behaviour, ethnic/racial background, lineage, etc.

(iii)

Gender Studies and political science
Gender studies and political science are also closely associated. The level of political participation of both the men and women, and particularly that of women, are explored and elaborated on in gender studies.

(iv)

Gender Studies and Literature
The work of feminist writers and writers in general have significantly shaped the study of gender. Writers like, Virginia Wolfe, Jane Austen, Maya Angelou, Mary Woolfe, etc have had an impact on gender studies through

their writings.

v) Gender Studies and Psychology
Psychology studies human behaviour based on what goes on inside a person's mind. Hence, psychology by digging deep into human cognition and thinking patterns helps us understand gender relations in a more effective manner.

vi) Gender Studies and economics
Gender studies and economics are closely related. In that in gender studies, the economic position of women as compared to that of men is frequently a topic of discussion. Gender Studies explores the way the economic position of women has changed overtime and how it has influenced gender relations.

vii) Gender Studies and Biology
Sex is considered a biological

construct, while gender is considered a social construct.

This comparison is the bedrock of gender studies and it has been influenced by an understanding of biology as a subject in itself.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that Gender Studies as a subject does not exist in isolation. It is a subject which, while standing on its own merits, has been influenced and shaped by various other subjects and fields of study. Gender Studies is an evolving subject and with the help of other disciplines and fields of study it will keep on evolving and improving itself.

Q3

Introduction

The sex versus gender debate revolves around sex being usually biologically determined, while gender being socially constructed. It is, however, not as simplistic as this. Sex while determined at the time of the birth of a child is influenced by social factors as well. Gender while thought to be learned and socially developed has biological factors as its determinants as well.

The sex versus gender debate

- i) Sex as biologically determined when a baby is born, based on its primary and secondary organs, it is either assigned as a male or a female. The primary organs of a female baby would include the internal organs such as the reproductive system and the secondary organs would include the external organs such as the Vagina, etc. The secondary organs of the male would include Testicles, etc, while the primary organs would include

gonads, etc. These organs basically determine whether a baby is a male or a female.

(ii), Gender as socially constructed
When a female baby is assigned the label of a female, the baby is socialized in such a manner that growing up, she exhibits female traits such as fragility, emotional expression, submissiveness, warmth, etc. This indicates that her gender as a female is socially constructed. The male baby, on the other hand, is socialized to be aggressive, assertive, and out doorsy. This, in turn, makes the male child, as he grows up, adopt masculine traits and this defines his male gender.

(iii), The nature versus nurture debate
The nature versus nurture debate is also integral to the gender versus sex debate. Based on this debate, sex is determined by nature while gender emerges as a result of

nurturing. Natural determination and maturing of both sex and gender can quite possibly take place. Nature and nurture are not as distinct from each other as they are made out to be. There are overlaps between them which help determine both a person's sex and gender.

Debating if gender is a socially constructed phenomenon

i) The evolutionary theory of gender

The evolutionary theory of Charles Darwin can help explain the way the concept of gender has evolved overtime. Expectations with regard to both males and females developed as a result of the activities they had to perform since their presence on the earth. This led to considerably gendered males and females.

ii) Bio-social construction of gender

Instead of simply stating that gender is socially constructed, it would be more fitting to state that gender is bio-socially constructed. When a child is born, he or she is considered either a male or a female or, in some cases, intersex. Based on this determination, females are trained to be homemakers, caregivers, etc., while males are trained to be breadwinners, powerful, and strong. This combination results in the construction of male and female genders.

Conclusion

To conclude, it is, to begin with, difficult to first differentiate between sex and gender and once this is done the debate about the determination of sex and gender emerges. Yes, social factors do play a crucial role in forming a person's gender, but gender is biologically determined to. The sex assigned to the baby at birth determines how she or he would be groomed in the coming years of their existence.

Q. 4)

Introduction

The three waves of feminism played a crucial role in evolving the feminist movement from a personalized one to a global one. The first wave of feminism which gain momentum in the early 1900s, started as long ago as the 18th century or at the time of the French revolution. This movement helped in gaining equal right to vote for women. The second wave of feminism started in the 1960s, this movement worked towards furthering improving women's political, legal and economic rights. This happened mainly as a result of the passing of Acts and Bills. Lastly, the third wave of feminism took the feminist movement to the global level. This enabled feminists and those pushing for the protection of women's rights all over the world to come together and help the society achieve further women empowerment.

The Three Waves of Feminism

i) The first wave of feminism

The first wave of feminism could be traced back to the 1900s. This wave focused on obtaining more political rights for women. It ultimately resulted in the attainment of the right to vote for women in 1920. This was a major breakthrough for women, as before this they did not have the right to vote and their political participation was non-existent.

ii) The second wave of feminism

The second wave of feminism began in the 1960s with Betty Friedan's book *The Feminine Mystique*. This was an important book as it elaborated on the challenges faced by the women and also on their unfair treatment they were subjected to. The book led to the formation of Commission for Women Rights by John F. Kennedy. The second wave of feminism focused on expanding women's rights further. It led to

the formation of National Association for women for increasing women's participation in the public spheres. It also dealt with issues like women's economic position, the glass ceiling and legal protection for women.

iii) The third wave of feminism

The third wave of feminism is the wave which the world is currently experiencing. This wave began in the late 1990s. The significance of this wave lies in its taking feminism to a global level. The third wave of feminism coincided with globalization. This enabled women all over the world to join hands for the cause of protecting women rights. There lies the uniqueness of this wave of feminism.

Impacts of these movements on Pakistan

iv) Impact of the first wave

The first wave of feminism did not impact Pakistan as the country

had not been created during the tenure of the first wave of feminism, which culminated around the 1920s.

(ii) Impact of the second wave

The second wave of feminism had a profound impact on Pakistan. It led to the formation of APWA - All Pakistan Women Association in 1949, convention for women protection in 1981 and the Duppata Jalao movement in 1982.

(iii) Impact of the third wave

The impact of the third wave of feminism in ^{Pakistan} ~~Islam~~ led to formation of the ministry for women affairs. In 2010, the passing of Anti-harassment bill in 2010 and the Antirape and domestic violence bill in 2016. These were monumental developments in the feminist history of Pakistan. These

developments were inspired by the developments taking place around the world with regard to women rights and empowerment.

Conclusion

To conclude, the three waves of feminism were crucial in terms of achieving nearly equal rights for women. They supported women's right for economic, political, social, and intellectual equality. ~~for two~~ The movements transformed the society in a substantial manner and helped women gain more agency and independence in the current era. Moreover, the feminist movements left their mark on countries all over the world, including Pakistan, leading to far-reaching consequences.

Detailed Notes

a) Women in development

Women in development is an approach which aims to understand the role of women in the development sector. It states that women have not been active in the development sector and that their participation in this sector is low. For this reason, women need to be integrated ^{into} and become a part of the development sector.

1) Features of the approach

- 1) Structures preventing women from participating in development.
- 2- Women's presence in the private sphere and not in the public sphere
- 3- Development as a male dominated sector.

Critical Analysis

The women in development approach which was developed in the 1970s was focused on the participation

of women in the development sector. This approach had several limitations as it did not explore causes of the limited role of women in development. This approach was not particularly a success and led to the development of another approach called WAD - women and development -

b) women and Development

Women and development is an approach developed in the late 1970s after the failure of women in development approach (WID). The women and development approach posited that it's not the participation of women which is low, but, in fact, it is the ^{recognition} development of the participation which is missing. Thus, an equitable structure is needed to recognize and compensate for women's role in development.

The Dependency Theory

The dependency theory is

used to ~~expound~~ expound on the women and development approach. The dependency theory states that the poor (weak) are exploited by and become dependent on the rich (powerful) and this is perpetuated by entrenched structural imbalances in the society.

Features of women and development

1. Called for equitable structure to recognize women's contribution in development.
2. Realized that women do contribute in the development sector.
3. Contribution of women is lower than that of men, but it is there.

Critical Analysis

The women and development approach was more effective than the women in development approach. It gave credit to women for participating in development and it called for appreciation and recognition of women's role in

development. Lastly it focused on equitable structures to end discrimination against women and also men in the development sector.

(c) Gender and Development (GAD)

The gender and development approach explores the connection between gender roles and development. Masculinity and femininity exhibited by people based on their assigned and learned genders influence their roles in and contribution to development.

Focus on the social construction of gender

The gender and development approach focuses on the social construction of gender. It elaborates on the way a person is socialized to meet her or his gender identity. Once this gender socialization is completed, it affects the way people of differing genders contribute to development.

Role of gender expectations

Certain expectations become associated with a person's gender with regard to development. The female gender is assigned the tasks of economic contributions in line with its disposition and gendered learning, while the male gender is assigned the tasks of economic contributions in line with its gendered learning and socialization.