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Q1. Multidisciplinary nature of Gender Studies:

Introduction:

Gender studies is a multidisciplinary field of study that deals with gender issues at three levels: economic, political and social. It is an attempt to analyze the actual differences between males and females that is biological, physical or cultural. It further sheds light upon the impact of these differences upon socio-cultural patterns that how gender shapes our identities and interactions.

Background of Gender studies:

Gender studies as an academic discipline is an offshoot of women studies that first developed in California USA in 1960s. After 1970s, the subject of gender studies started highlighting the differences and inequalities between men and women.

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Multidisciplinary nature of Gender studies:

Gender studies is a multidisciplinary field that struggles for issues related to gender, their impacts and provides a way forward to tackle these issues. It is multidisciplinary in nature because it takes knowledge from a number of other fields and disciplines in order to discuss and highlight the gender associated problems. It also transfers theories and actions from one context to

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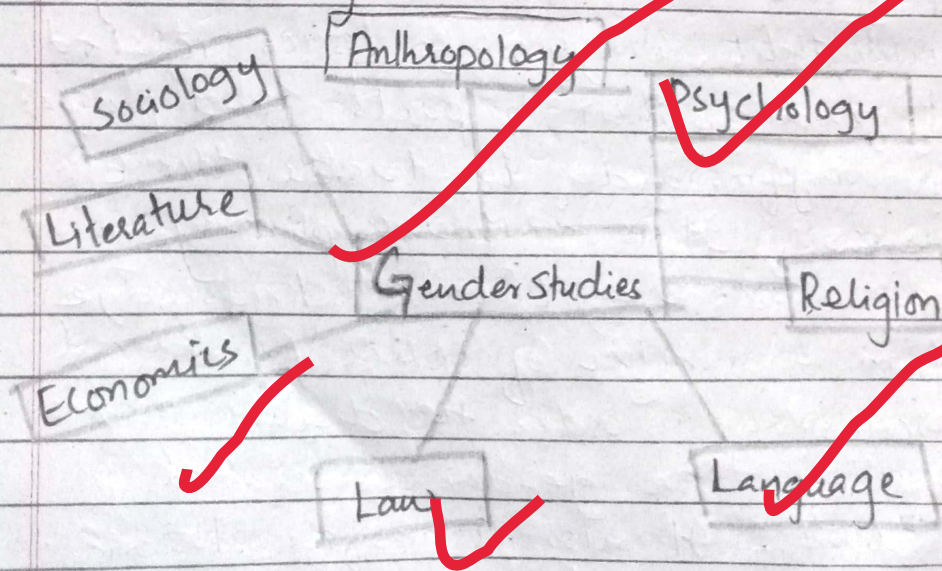
to another by drawing a comparative study of Arab content and their ~~the~~ Western monopoly their history by drawing a connection between theories, knowledge and experiences. It challenged the multiple hegemonic discourses and offers a new way of understanding gender as a socio-cultural, ethical and philosophical process.

Multiculturalizing the Curriculum:

It includes all the identities along with male and female genders such as the LGBTQ⁺⁺.

It analyzes the creation and rejection of norms related to sex and sexuality that requires re-thinking of identity designation.

As a multidisciplinary subject Gender Studies is associated with a number of other disciplines as mentioned in the diagram below:



When we relate Sociology to gender Studies we make an attempt to analyze the culture, institutions and their interrelationship in order to construct and promote socially accepted norms that labelize male and female through gender stereotyping. It clarifies that gender is a social construction.

Secondly, when we incorporate the psychological aspects related to female gender into the study, it creates a link between Gender Studies and psychology. Theories highlighted by the famous psycho-analytic theorist Sigmund Freud such as 'Penis envy theory', oedipus complex, Electra complex and their psychological and social impacts of genders are studied under the scope. It also examines the historical antecedents of gender differences.

Thirdly, literature being the reflection of life ^{also} tries to shed light upon the life of a female through a body of fictional and non-fiction works. Starting from the great "Iliad epic" by Greek poet Homer to medieval period of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" then to the 20th Century 'Burnt Shadow' of Kamila Shamsie. "Strong armed men and fragrant breasted women" (Iliad)

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"Frailty thy name is woman" Hamlet

Along with a number of other literary works that highlight the gender based issues such as violence, dominance, hegemonic masculinity etc. For instance,

"A Doll's house", "A Yellow Wall paper"

"The Bluest Eye" • "Be Nobody's Darling" etc.

Fourthly, the relationship between economics and gender is of crucial value because the economic marginalization is one of the major reasons of females dependency as mentioned in the Dependency Theory.

Due to ^{poor} economic status female have the lowest position in the hierarchy.

There upon Marxist feminism takes upon the economic related issue, starting from jobs, designation and wage-gaps etc.

Fifthly, Anthropology analyzes the human behavior and cultural association. Therefore, Anthropology, especially cultural anthropology is very important in order to understand the historical Constructivism approach related to gender development. Similarly, the patrilineal, matrilineal, patrilineal and matrilineal types of living style and relationship highlight the role and status of gender.

Sixthly, Law being a legal framework is one of the important aspect of human society and it can be related to women as well because it ensures women rights under the declaration of UNDR. It also secures the basic rights and responsibilities related to female such as provision of education, healthcare facilities etc.

Lastly, Religion being the significant aspect of human society has a great impact upon gender. Due to the misunderstood concepts and misinterpretation of religion certain gender related typical notions are constructed. However, the relationship between "Religion" and "Gender studies" cannot be undermined because different religions give different perceptions about gender. For instance, According to Hinduism, Language has come from a female "Saraswati" and "Sati" practice of hinduism highlights female marginalization. While, "Mosaic law" of Judaism promotes the "10 Commandments" that advocate gender equality. Similarly "Henry Manik" law is also related to females in Christianity and according to Surah Nisa of Islamic teachings females are to be given their proper basic rights.

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Conclusion:

Therefore, keeping the broad horizon of gender studies and its association with a number of other fields of study we can conclude that gender studies is a multidisciplinary field of study that highlights the various aspect related to both genders at a social, economical and political level.

Q.3 a) Gender VS sex Debate

Introduction:

Gender is the state of being male or female in relation to the social and cultural roles that are considered appropriate for men and women. While sex is the biological category of being male or female.

Differences:

Gender differences can be Intra differences or Inter differences when categorized.

- * Intra differences are based upon the class, ethnicity, race, religion, age ability or disability to power etc.
- * Inter differences are the cultural, biological, chromosomal and hormonal differences.

Male	Female
XY	XX
Testosterone	Estrogen

- * According to Robert Stoller's book "Sex and Gender": The Development of Masculinity and Femininity, sex and gender are two different things.
 - sex being the biological identification, based upon physical differences and reproductive roles. While gender is the socially constructed phenomena, a learned behavior based upon roles performed within the society.

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Sex

Biological category

Two categories:
Male and Females

Based on physical differences

Specific to reproductive role

Universal

Born with

Fixed; cannot be changed normally

Natural Identity

Gender

Cultural construction

Includes:
Females, males and LGBT

It is associated with behavior and cultural practices.

It is not specific to reproductive role
Not Universal

Learned behavior

Can be changed with time and culture

Man-made Role

Moreover, sexual differences cannot be undermined. Such as males being 40% more muscular than females, their chest is 30% more wider than females, their reproductive organs are different from each other, but social differences are more long lasting than biological difference. Therefore, gender differences result in subjugation of female gender.

Conclusion:

Thereupon, we can conclude that sex being biological category is different from gender which is a social construction. Sex is universally fixed identity and gender is not universally fixed rather it is fluid and flexible. Sex is natural and gender is a cultural construct. Therefore sex and gender are different terms.

Q3 (b) Gender is a Socially Constructed Phenomena:

Introduction:

- Literal Meaning of the term 'Gender':
It is the state of being male or female in relation to the social and cultural roles that are considered appropriate for men and women.

- Academic meaning of the term 'Gender'
It is a socially constructed relationship between males and females.

World Health Organization (WHO) defines "Gender" as; Gender refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men such as norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men. It varies from society to society and it can be changed.

- Gender as Social Construction:

As it is clear from the definition of the term gender that it has no biological basis rather it is a socio-cultural construction that is based upon gender stereotyping.

Beliefs associated with male and female genders are set and genders are created since by birth;

Beginning from the names given to the child, the gift brought and the language used for them

determines their gender. For Instance
 A pink blanket for a baby girl
 A blue blanket for a baby boy
 A Barbie doll for the baby girl
 and car for the baby boy
 And the language used such as
 ' my little fairy → Girl
 My loin → Boy.

Traditional Gender Stereotyping

Feminine	Masculine
Not Aggressive	Aggressive
Submissive	Dominant
Indecisive	Decisive
Dependent	Independent
Introvert	Extrovert
Emotional	Rational

Conclusion According to social-constructionism, gender is the product of socio-cultural phenomena that is shaped by our discourses, institution and language. Gender roles are enforced and reinforced by historicizing constructivism also focuses the idea of reinforcement through proper appreciation or punishment certain roles are enforced. Therefore, gender is a social phenomena being the product of our actions, norms, values, and customs prevailing in the society.

Q.7a) Forms and sites of ^{Gender based} violence:

Introduction:

Gender based violence is the violence directed against a person because of his/her gender. Both males and females experience gender based violence but majority victims are women and girls. The term can also be defined as "violence that targets individuals or groups on the basis of their gender".

- UN definition of violence against women is "any act of gender-based violence that results in or likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including the threat of such acts, coercion, arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life".

According to the recent WHO's Global estimate about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide face physical or sexual violence.

The lifetime physical and sexual intimate partner violence has increased from 24.5% — 35% and 38% of murders globally are committed by male intimate partners.

Violence can be divided into two broader categories:

- I) Direct violence against females.
- II) Indirect violence against females.

Direct violence refers to all the acts of gender based violence that result in or likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering.

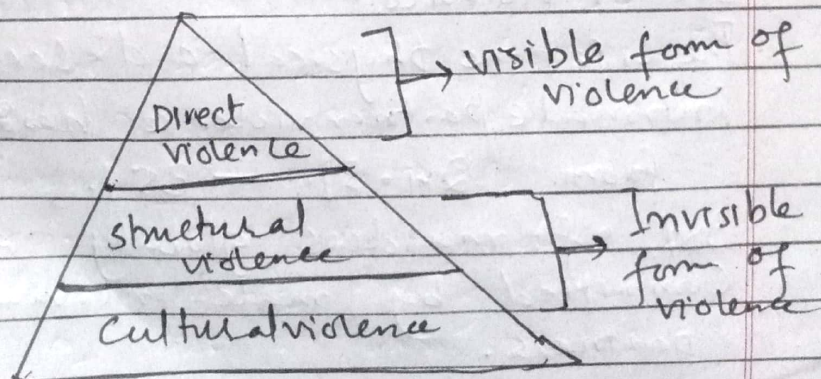
Indirect violence refers to the attitudes, stereotypes and cultural norms that underpin gendered practices and may cause gender based violence of direct form.

Triangle of violence → Norwegian Sociologist Johan Galtung identifies three types of violence:

a) Structural: Injustice and exploitation by society.

b) Cultural: Attitudes, beliefs, perceptions that strengthen structural violence.

c) Direct: Physical kind of violence which is perceived; murder, rape etc.



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According to Feminists there are four kinds of violence:

- I) Physical violence
- II) Sexual violence
- III) Psychological violence
- IV) Economic violence

Physical violence includes bodily interaction such as beating, killing, stabbing, burning, and arm twisting etc. It also includes female genital mutilation. (FGM) is a ritual of cutting or removal of some or all of external female genitalia. This practice is very common in Africa and Middle East.

Psychological violence: In this form of violence mental stability of female is jeopardized. It does not necessarily include bodily interaction. It aims at attacking the mental stability and peace of women. For instance: Torturing, Abusing, threatening with weapons and objects, extreme humiliation in public etc.

Sexual violence is an attempt to acquire a sexual pleasure or act by force of violence or coercion which does not involve the consent of the partner.

e.g. Forced Sex (partner's is unknown)
Mental Rape (private/domestic violence)
Harassment (via, eye, words, bodily interaction)

Economic violence includes creating obstacles to refrain women to reach out her economic or financial goals, directly stopping or creating obstacles e.g. through denial of funds, financial contributions, depriving of property rights, discrimination in daily wages (MNCs, film industry, promotion, and allowances etc.).

* Strategies to Eliminate Violence from Pakistani Society:

Pakistan is considered to be one of the most dangerous countries where almost 80% women experience some form of violence where daily violence shows six women abducted, another six murdered and four molested and three drive to suicide. In 2021, it ranked 164 out of 167 countries only above Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen.

Types of violence in Pakistan:

- i) Domestic violence
- ii) Sexual Harassment
- iii) Acid Throwing
- iv) Rape and Sexual assault
- v) Honor killing
- vi) Women Trafficking
- vii) Forced Marriages
- viii) Girls as Compensation

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Rafia Zakina quoted the data as mentioned in the graph below:

40% yelling 76%

slapping 52%
Threatening 47%

pushing 47%

punching 40%

40% kidnapping

TYPE of violence

Strategies:

Various International organization like UN, UNICEF, WHO and WB have outlined certain strategies to eliminate violence against women.

These strategies can be divided into preventive and rehabilitative measures. UN adopted "RESPECT" adopted by WHO.

Relationship skill strengthened.

Empowerment of women

Service ensured

Poverty reduced

Environment made safe

Child and adolescent abuse prevented

Transformed attitude, beliefs and norms.

Add theories as references

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Some strategies includes:

- 1) Investing more on Gender Equality Initiatives
- 2) Women Empowerment (through involvement in project like CPEC)
- 3) Ensuring women liberty and freedom
- 3) Access to Education
- 4) Awareness of Women participation in development
- 5) Changing conservative socio-cultural values.
- 6) Ensuring political participation
- 7) Provision of economic opportunities
- 8) Counter narrative against conservatism
- 9) Positive role of media
- 10) Strict measurements against rape.
- 11) Enhanced awareness of the dangerous tradition
- 12) Reachout to marginalized groups.

By following these measures Pakistan can play a vital role in elimination of violence against women.