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Subjective

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Q#4 :

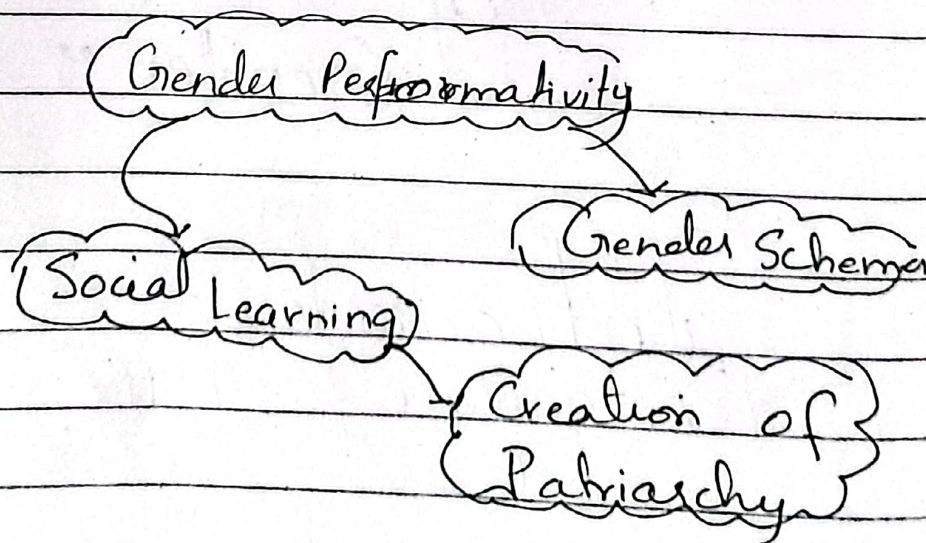
“Social Construction
of
Gender”

Introduction:

The term gender refers to the socio-cultural expectations associated with one's sex. These socio-cultural expectations define one's behaviour, attitude and way of life.

in every sphere of life including economics, education, domestic and political. Theories like Gender Performativity, Creation of Patriarchy, Gender Schema and Social Learning theory highlight the social construction of gender.

A) Theories of Social Construction of Gender:



1- Gender Performativity:

Judith Butler in her seminal work "Gender Trouble" highlights the critical role gender performativity plays in the social construction of gender. She argues that repeated performance of gendered acts such as girls playing with dolls and boys with trucks re-inforces gender norms as **natural and essential** and defines the binary identities of male and female.

This reinforcement of gender and **essentialist notions of gender** constructs the norms and behaviors associated with each gender.

2- Creation of Patriarchy:

This theory by **Gerda Lerner** highlights the role of patriarchy in the construction of gender

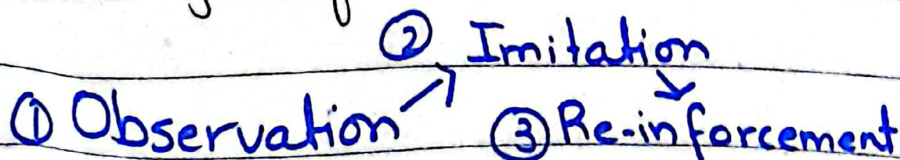
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norms. As society shifted from egalitarian to agriculture, gender roles became less fluid. Men did all the production work and women were further relegated to domestic sphere. With the advent of private ownership, and the desire of men to pass their wealth to legal heirs, women were further subjected to control and domestic work. This led to the social development of male gender as strong, dominant while female gender as more passive, submissive and nurturing.

3- Social Learning Theory:

This theory was developed by Albert Bandura. He posited that individuals learn through 3 stages of social interaction



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Children learn from parents, media, and peers by observing their behaviors (For example, girls seeing their mothers doing domestic work). Children then imitate these behaviors and get validation and appreciation from their parents or peers which re-inforces the idea that these behaviors are suitable for them.

Example:

- Boys observing other boys (peers) engaging in tough and rough games like football/cricket. If the boy joins the game he will get appreciation and vice versa. This re-inforces his perception of the male gender as rough and strong.

- Girls mimicking their mother's domestic work/chores gets validation from her parents reinforcing the

idea - that such behaviors are normal for her gender.

3- Gender Schema Theory:-

Developed by Sandra Bem, this theory argues that individuals develop cognitive frameworks called **Schemas** to process and organize information related to gender. These Schemas help individuals to understand and interpret gender roles and behaviors according to societal expectations.

Examples:

1. Children's toys:

From a young age, children are encouraged to play with gendered toys (trucks for ~~girls~~ boys) and (dolls for girls). This, according to Gender Schema theory, leads an individual to internalize these

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gendered associations and develop **Schemas** that dictate what types of plays are appropriate for their genders. Other examples include gendered options for careers, colour preferences and family roles which leads to development of schemas that guides an individual regarding gender-conformative behaviour.

Conclusion:

These theories prove how gender is socially constructed by re-inforcing essentialism, validation cognitive frameworks and patriarchal structures to maintain control.

Q#5

"Globalisation

And

Marxist

Feminism"

Introduction:

Globalisation has its own pros and cons. In the realm of gender inequality, globalisation has played a dual role in both uplifting marginalized groups and exacerbating gender inequality within these groups. It might have reduced gender inequality between men and women, but has exacerbated gender inequality between women (themselves) and other marginalized groups.

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A) Globalisation as an uplifting force for Women:

1) Online Earning Opportunities:

Women from various places in South East Asia and Eurasia are earning from home using platforms like Fiverr and Upwork.

2) Skill development using Social Media:

Many women have started their businesses (food stalls, clothing) using skill development from youtube. For example a woman selling **Korean Hotdogs** in Karachi learned the recipe from youtube.

3) International Markets for products:

Women have found customers in

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in the global market using platforms like social media.

An example is the Pakistani based ^{hair} oil brand "Zojja" which is making rounds in international markets.

B) "Marxist Feminist Critique of Globalisation":

1) "Dual interplay of Capitalism and Patriarchy":

Both capitalism and Patriarchy exacerbate gender inequality. Women are underpaid in the market economy and unpaid in the domestic sphere. Women's share in the domestic sphere such as cooking, cleaning and reproduction is what enables men to serve tension-free in the global capita

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- list economy. This unpaid work creates economic dependency of women on men exacerbating economic inequality. Women are the proletariat and men are the bourgeoisie.

2) Exploitation of poor women by rich women:

Rich women of the global capitalist society exploit poor women to do their domestic work. This creates a class struggle within women.

3) Women with more resources and capital benefit more than women with less resources and capital:

Women born into rich families or countries tend to benefit more than poorer women due to lack of capital to invest in education, skills and business.

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Conclusion:

While globalisation has created tons of opportunities, these opportunities ~~back~~ are not available and accessible to all social groups creating a new class struggle.

Q#7 :-

" Theories
of
Gender Based
Violence: "

Introduction:

Either direct or indirect, gender based violence impacts all groups and genders equally. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: " Gender

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based violence is the act of physical, sexual or emotional violence projected at anyone based on their sex, or the threat to do so". Theories of gender based violence include attachment-theory, Strain theory, Social Learning theory, Psychological impact-theory, Resource theory and Drug theory.

AJ^o Theories of GBV^o:

1- Attachment Theory:

This theory posits that individuals who experience attachment issues in their childhood tend to become the victims or perpetrators of gender based violence. They execute such behaviors

due to low self esteem & fear of abandonment and loss.

For example, an individual may try to use force to compel their partners to listen to them fearing they would lose them if they don't exert control.

2. Strain Theory:

Failure to achieve societal expectations of finances etc can lead to stress/strain. This can lead to deviative behaviors such as physical violence.

3. Social Learning Theory:

Children learn/observe and mimic the behavior of their parents. For example a boy whose father executes domestic violence will internalize domestic violence as a normal behavior. The daughter of that woman will

...enforcement"

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develop a victim mindset and will normalize violence for her gender. This would eventually lead to perpetuation of gender based violence.

4- Psychological Impact

Theory:

Psychological conditions such as Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder can also lead to violent behaviors & due to impulsive episodes and hallucinations.

5- Resource Theory:

Partners (typically men) may exert force when they have less economic resources than their partner. This is done to exert control and dominance despite a lower economic position.

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6. Drug theory:

Individuals who are drug addicts may use force and violence due to the negative impacts of drugs on the brain system.

B) Prevalent Form of Violence in Pakistan: "Direct Violence"

the challenge of Pakistan faces, direct forms of gender based violence as evident in National Human Rights Report 2023. This report posited that in the past 3 years (2020-2023) Pakistan reported 63000 cases of GIBV. Many of these cases went un-reported and underreported.

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The recent **Sania Zehra case** in **Multan** depicts the stark picture of ^{direct} violence against women in Pakistan.

As for indirect form of violence, the State Constitution (Articles 25, 37, 34) provide protection to women. The **2016 Domestic Violence Bill Act** also highlights the diminishing role of indirect violence in Pakistan.

C) Ways to mitigate these challenges in Pakistan:

- 1) Severe and Speedy punishments of such heinous crimes
- 2) Resource allocation for enforcement of protection Bills
- 3) Women counseling and financial

independence to combat victim mindset and economic dependency.

4) Funding and support to Aurat March to downturn toxic patriarchal values.

5) Gender protection Units for affected women and ^{trans} groups their trauma-counseling

6) Banning tv serials and films promoting gender based violence.

Conclusion:

While women's gender based violence is not a new phenomena, learning for the causes of such behaviors by studying theories can help mitigate the challenge. Apart from that, new strategies and policies should be designed and implemented as old ways won't ~~was~~ open new doors.

Q#8 :

"Short - Note"

1) Women Quota in Politics:

According to UN women, women make up 26.5% members of parliament. Women serve as cabinet ministry is less than $\frac{1}{4}$ (22.8 percent). As for Pakistan In Pakistan, women's quota in parliament is 20%. 60 seats in National Assembly and 17 in Senate. According to Election Act 2017, each party is supposed to give 5% seat party tickets to women. The underrepresentation and women being given less important political seats undermines the effectiveness of this political quota. It also reinforces the notion

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that women need special help to excel in politics, re-inforcing gender norms. But on the other hand, it encourages participation of women political candidates as they see a real possibility of getting in politics.

2) WID, WAD And GAD:

Women in development emerged in 1970's to the growing notion that women were often excluded from the benefits of the development projects. It was criticised for ignoring underlying structural inequalities that perpetuate the exclusion of women. Women and Development (WAD) emerged in response to WID in 1980's. It aimed to address socio-economic and cultural factors that are the

root causes of women's issues.

It was, however, criticised for its lack of intersectionality.

Gender AND Development emerged in 1990's ~~with~~ⁱⁿ response to WID and WAD. Its goal was to address and transform gender relations by examining power dynamics and social structures.

