

Gender Studies Topic

Part - II

Q No 2 :-

Differences between Gender
and women studies.

Introduction

Gender studies and women studies are evolving fields. Both of the areas are the product of waves of feminism started in West in 1850's. However, Pakistan has also observed significant developments in the field of women and gender studies since the formation of Women Action Forum in response to draconian Hudood ordinances of Zia ul Haque in 1979. Moreover, the current status of women studies in Pakistan needs improvement in terms of enrollment and gender sensitivity among the society.

Gender studies

Women's studies

Definition:-

Gender studies deals with the study of all genders including LGBTQ, men and women.

Women's studies deals with the study of particularly females.

Nature of study:-

Gender studies encompasses traditional gender roles and experiences of gender on interaction with society and other members of society.

Women's study includes the issues faced by women in different spheres of life either private or public and also includes measures to minimize the issues faced by women.

Core objective:-

The core objective of gender studies are to sensitize the society about the presence of various genders other than males or females in society.

The objective is to smash the patriarchy and highlight the issues of gender based violence and problems faced by women at workplaces and other public spheres.

Intersectionality

Gender studies is ~~is~~ more oriented towards highlighting and acknowledging various genders that have not received acceptance in society.

Women's studies also include the integration of race, ethnicity and gender. It broadly deal with the issues surrounding women and to suggest effective measures to deal with these issues.

Gender and Development

Gender studies focuses more on Gender and development (GAD). It is developed after post-modernism and queer theory.

Women studies focuses on Women in development (WID). The contribution of women in development sectors.

Current status of women studies in Pakistan :-

① Initiatives of National Curriculum Committee :-

The government of Pakistan launched national curriculum committee to improve the status of women's studies in Pakistan.

It took several landmark steps like:

- * Advised FPSC to inculcate gender studies in competitive exams.
- * Fostered collaboration between government and civil society to increase awareness on women's studies.
- * Introduced women's studies as a compulsory subject in universities.
- * Increased awareness on highlighting the issues of women at public forums.

② Center of excellence for women's studies under ministry of education :-

The government of Pakistan has launched center of excellence for women's studies that mandated the study of a subject at university level. Various programmes of PhD and M.Phil were introduced in different universities. Also, BS programme were launched after 2006 in universities to maximize the sensitization of women-related

③ Promoted research and development in the field of women's studies - Robina Seghol contribution

One of the significant personality in the research and publication sector was Robina Seghol, who was an educationist and a research scholar. Thus, the articles of Robina Seghol captured the attention of Pakistan. Her outstanding contribution in the development of women's studies are of significant nature. Thus, the research and development in women's studies paints a hopeful picture of status of women's studies in Pakistan.

④ Research Journal Al-m e Niswan :-

The other landmark status of women's studies is the research journal Al-m e Niswan that is published twice a year. This is a cornerstone journal in highlighting the issues of women in Pakistan.

Conclusion:-

In a nutshell, the status of women's studies is satisfactory and the continual progress is witnessed since the government initiated programmes for the development of women's studies in universities. Moreover, there is a need to inculcate the subject at school levels, so that gender-sensitization are improved at a grass-root level.

Ques:-

Autonomous debate

Introduction

There are two major debates in gender studies of autonomous and integration. Several feminists believe that in order to highlight and focus solely on women's issue, the gender studies must be studied separately. Otherwise, it will

dilute the problems of women's faced on the hands of male ^{members} and society. Therefore, the debate of autonomy school of thought hold comparatively stronger views than integrationists school of thought.

Why Autonomous school of thought is comparatively stronger:-

① Focus solely on women's issue:-

The autonomous school of thought is comparatively stronger than integrationist because it focus solely on women's issue.

The issues faced by women in society are highlighted by women autonomous school.

Also, it addresses women related issues by stressing on the need to reform the structures of male-dominated society.

② Works on developing theories involving women's perspectives:-

Autonomous school of thought believes that

the issues faced by women ~~are~~ ~~cannot~~ can only be highlighted by women's. As, they are the first ones who counter these issues in society. Therefore, the theories must be developed by women's themselves. No one is more suitable to devise a theory involving women's perspectives. Therefore, they must be empowered by autonomy to develop theories involving gender-based violence, discrimination and harassment.

③ Prevention^{of} dilution of women's problem which otherwise expected in integrated perspective:-

Autonomous perspective on gender studies prevents dilution of women's problem.

The main goals of autonomous feminists are to focus solely on women's problems that can be of child marriage, forced labour and denial access to education. These problems are sensitive and requires sole attention of the world. Thus, the prevention

of dilution is the main goal of autonomous debate in gender studies.

④ Focus on flourishing research and publication for the women, by the women, through the women:-

Autonomous feminists are of the view that research and publications must be flourished through women.

They are the most suppressed member of society and their empowerment is quintessential for the development of gender studies. Mary Wollstonecraft also promoted this idea in her book, vindication of women's rights.

✳️ conclusively, research and publication on women's rights will expose world with greater focus on women's issues and its correction

⑤ ~~Development of theories~~

To trample down patriarchy by highlighting its menace :-

Autonomous scholars stresses on trampling of patriarchy, as it is the root cause of women's suppression in society. The menace of patriarchy cannot be studied in integration with other fields. It is the sole women issue which and must require the sole focus of society.

Gylia Wellby in her book 'Theorizing patriarchy' mentions that how the world is dominated by patriarchy and it is necessary to fight with such disease that threatens the wellbeing of women. Therefore, autonomous feminists holds stronger perspective on trampling down patriarchy.

Conclusions:-

To conclude, it is clear that the autonomous debate in gender studies are quite stronger because it tries to work on the sole issues of women without diluting with other sectors. Many social critics argue that the

issues of women cannot be studied in vacuum and must be integrated with other fields to ~~to~~ gain a broader concept and perspectives on women's issue.

Q No 5:-

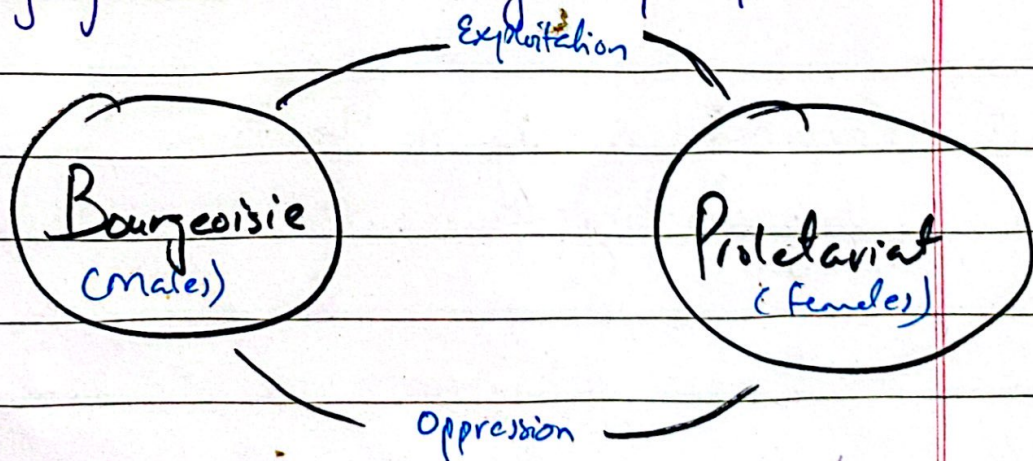
Globalization and Marxists feminism

Introduction

Globalization has brought various advantages and disadvantages for the women. The weightage of disadvantages are, of course, more than advantages for particularly women's in workforce. The unprecedented socio-economic problems have emerged, which includes exploitation of females on basis of unequal pay for equal amount of work, no concept of periods relaxation and exacerbating workplace harassment. Thus, Marxists feminism presents a reasonable evidence of this exploitation.

Concept of Proletariat and Bourgeoisie in Marxist feminism:

The Marxist feminism advocates that the male members of society are Bourgeoisies, that is the most privileged and elite group. Whereas, proletariat are women's ^{who} ~~which~~ are most exploited and under-privileged members of society. History has always witnessed exploitation of ~~the~~ Proletariat on the hands of Bourgeoisie. Thus, Marxist feminism highlights this vicious cycle of exploitation.



How development of women socio-economically is uneven after globalization-
(In light of Marxist Feminism)

① Unequal pay for the equal amount of work:-

In corporate sectors, women have persistently faced economic disparities in the form of low incomes.

This ~~and~~ income gap between ~~or~~ male and female in same position, are often a result of stigmas associated with the female members of incompetency and unskilled. Thus, this unequal pay is one of the reason of perpetuating socio-economic disparities.

② Corporate Slavery in the form of long working hours:-

Women are often forced to work long hours ^{but} for the wages remain low.

This is the widely observed practices of MNCs, that exploits the female both mentally and physically. Women

are considered docile and submissive.

Therefore, these MNCs or corporate sector fully exploit female workers and tries to suppress them with low wages.

③ No relaxation for women on maternity leave and childcare:

This is the most exploitative phenomenon for female workers when she faces the absence of incentives^{provision by corporate sector} in maternity and childcare.

This exploitation puts a heavy toll on the financial aspects as she is not paid for the leave she requires for pregnancy and postpartum periods, making her dependent on the male members. Despite being financially independent, she depends on the males

for ~~making up~~ her finances during the maternity leave. Thus, this exploitation of female by corporate sector are the reason of uneven development in the era of globalization.

④ Harassment of women at workplace :-

This is one of the reasons most females are prevented from participating in the economic sector. This perceived notion of women harassment at workplace became the reason of inhibition of women. There are quite cases registered every year, the which highlights the dilemma of workplace harassment. Despite framing of the laws related to women harassment at workplace, this menace persistently lies in corporate sector.

⑤ Non-registration of the work of women :-

There are some departments where the work of women go unregistered. This unregistration equates to non-acknowledgement of ~~work~~ women in workforce. For instance agricultural sector, where women perform the work side by side the male members. But her efforts goes unnoticed and

undocumented. This, in turn, causes the uneven development of women even after globalization.

Conclusion:-

In a nutshell, globalization has exposed women to different kinds of ~~extra~~ vulnerabilities and exploitation. This exploitation has depressed the already ~~de~~ suppressed segment of society, that is, females. Thus, in order to ensure even development of women's in economy, government must ensure protective policies that promises fair and equitable outcomes for women.