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Q: Write a detailed note on the colonial and capitalist perspectives of gender.

1. Introduction:

The colonial and capitalist eras influenced genders greatly. The colonial era marks the origination of patriarchy, where men themselves were ruled by leaders, and women were slaves to men. The capitalist era began with capitalism ~~domi~~ exploiting the people at that time. Unfortunately, women were the worst affectees of that time and these colonial and capitalist system dominated on their lives too.

2. Colonial Perspective of Gender Colonialism:

The colonialism began in 18th century with British being masters and colonizers of the entire subcontinent. The Men and Women, at that time, had to follow their masters and leaders in order to ~~five~~ save their lives and

- live peacefully.

The situation of Men:

~~Men~~ As patriarchy was prevalent at that time, so men ~~we~~ ought to follow their masters and lords. There was no role of women at any place outside their houses.

The situation of women:

Women were dominated by men.

Their only job was housekeeping, feeding children, cleaning houses and ~~making~~ preparing fire in the winter. However, the elite and middle-class women had servants to help them.

Some severe conditions faced by women of that time were:

• Pressure of Early Marriages:

Women/^{girl} were forced to marry at an early age. Young girls were married at the age of 13 or 14 years ⁱⁿ at the colonial time period.

• Widows were forced to remarry

soon:

There were also strict rules for

the remarriage of widows. They were pressurized to remarry within 7 years of the demise of their husband. Some were even remarried within an year after the end of their first marriage.

↳ Violence against women was common:

Violence against women was quite common. Women were unaware about their rights. Even if the woman was ~~beaten~~^{left} by her husband, she was declared a thief. If a man murders his wife, he was hung. If a woman murders her husband, she is burnt with him.

Such were the practices common at that time.

↳ Lack of inheritance, property and voting rights for women:

Women were also not included in inheritance. They were not granted property rights and share. If a man dies, his wife could only receive one-third of his property. Women were not well-informed about voting rights and procedures.

3- Capitalist Perspective of Gender:

Capitalism:

Capitalism is the system in which all means and sources of earning and making profit are under the control of a minority group called 'proletariat'. and Whereas, whom they sell their sources and those who work for proletariats are the working class or 'bourgeoisie'.

The situation Men:

This system was severely criticized by Karl Marx as it adversely impacted genders. It leads to exploitation due to class system, where men was also suffering due to heavy workload. They also had to work for a specific class; whereas the upper class holds the control.

The situation of Women:

Capitalism also suppressed women as they had to do more work — both household works and that in the social sphere. This situation of women

in this era were expressed by Frederick Edgle as:

"The husbands were the proletariates and the wives were bourgeoisie."

► Double Burden on Women:

Women were dually burdenized. ~~with~~ They had to ~~work~~ do hometasks as well as work in agricultural, and ~~to~~ also fulfil their economic needs. This was an ~~er~~ aspect of exploitation of women in this era.

► Lower wages of women as compared to men:

Women did more hefty tasks than man. But they were not rewarded as per their efforts. They were paid very less as compared to their male counter parts for the same sort of work.

► Paid leaves was not given to women:

Women were not given paid maternity leave. However, ~~soo~~ after some time, Italy announced 20 ~~days~~ weeks of paid

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maternity leave, but US only gave 12 weeks of unpaid leave.

► Women efforts were not considered:

Women were not mainstreamed in decision making. Their efforts were also not appreciated and considered in any field.

4. Conclusion:

Both ~~cap~~ colonialism and capitalism dominated a large ^{part} of human history. They were also exploitative towards the rights of men and women in their own ways. Although they had severe conditions for both men and women, women remain of the losing side. Colonialism applied strict laws and regulation to control women, whereas, capitalism, through its class system, caused disparity in the wage gap and social roles of men and women.

Q6. How does psychoanalytic feminism explain gender opposition and the subordination of women, particularly in terms of the psychological and unconscious mechanisms that reinforce patriarchal structures?

1. Introduction:

Psychoanalytic feminism explores how unconscious psychological processes shape gender inequality. The theories of Sigmund Freud and other psychoanalysts like Nancy Chodorow and Jessica Benjamin elucidate that this approach argues that gender roles and the subordination of women are deeply rooted in the psyche, which manifests through unconscious desires, fantasies, and identifications. By addressing these ^{psychological} mechanisms, psychoanalytic feminism explores the hidden dimensions of patriarchal structures and the ways in which they perpetuate male dominance and female subordination.

2. Gender Opposition in Psychoanalytic Feminism

1. The Role of Early Childhood Development: Object-Relations Theory by Nancy Chodorow:

Chodorow points out that mother-child relationship is ~~gender~~ central to gender identity formation. Daughters closely identify mothers, leading to an overdeveloped sense of nurturing and relational dependence. Sons, develop a sense of autonomy by differentiating themselves from their mothers, reinforcing masculine traits such as independence and dominance. This perpetuates traditional gender roles.

2. Freudian Oedipus Complex:

Freud's theory of the Oedipus complex suggests that during early childhood, boys resolve their sexual attraction to their mothers by aligning with their fathers, reinforcing

male identification with power and authority. Girls, however, experience

"penis envy" leading to a sense of inferiority and psychological identification

with passivity and submission. Feminist interpretations

of this theory argue that such unconscious processes lay the groundwork for gendered power dynamics.

2. Unconscious Desires and Patriarchal Structures:

• Repression and the Female Psyche:

Psychoanalytic feminists argue that women often repress desires for independence and authority due to societal expectations. This repression contributes to the promotion of patriarchal norms.

• Male desire and Control of Women:

Male dominance in psychoanalytic perspective is seen as a response to unconscious anxieties about dependency and vulnerability. By exerting control

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over women, men alleviate their anxieties
and patriarchal norms are formed.

The Subordination of Women through Psychological Mechanisms

1. Internalized Misogyny and Self-surveillance:

Women internalize societal ideals of femininity, leading to self-regulation and adherence to ^{the} gender norms.

2. Gender and the Formation of Identity:

Psychoanalytic feminism highlights how gender identity is shaped by unconscious processes that begin in infancy and ~~are~~ become concrete ~~to~~ through familial and social interactions.

Criticques and Expansions of Psychoanalytic Feminism

1. Limitation of Freudian Theory:

Critics argue that Freud's theories are inherently patriarchal, ~~reinforcing~~ Feminist psychoanalysts like Mitchell challenge his views by ~~po~~ highlighting the potential for transforming unconscious biases.

2. Intersectionality and Psychoanalysis:

Modern psychoanalytic feminists emphasize the importance of considering race, class and sexuality alongside gender. Intersectional approaches reveal how unconscious processes intersect with broader social inequalities giving way to oppression.

4- Conclusion:

Psychoanalytic feminism reveals how unconscious desires and childhood experiences sustain gender inequality. By addressing these psychological roots, it offers a deeper understanding of patriarchy and pathways for dismantling gendered hierarchies.

Q: What are the reasons for ranking Pakistan as the second-worst country in the world for gender inequality despite Pakistan's commitment to many international Conventions and protocols and strong commitment to gender equality in 1973.

1. Introduction:

Despite Pakistan's formal commitment to gender equality through its 1973 Constitution and various international conventions, the country consistently ranks among the lowest in global gender parity. In the World Economic Forum's report, Pakistan is ranked as the second worst country in terms of gender inequality. This situation reflects a disconnect between policy frameworks and their practical implementation, which is influenced by socio-cultural norms, economic disparities and structural barriers.

2- Factors Contributing to Gender Inequality in Pakistan

1. Cultural and Social Norms:

Patriarchal structures dominate most aspects of life in Pakistan, limiting women's autonomy and reinforcing traditional roles. Gender stereotypes confine women primarily to caregiving and ~~reinforcing traditional roles~~ domestic ~~out~~ spheres, restricting their participation in education, employment, and political life.

2- Educational Disparities:

Girls' education is a critical issue in Pakistan. It is common in rural areas where dropout rates are high. Limited access to quality education, early marriages, and conservative mind sets prevent many girls from completing their studies.

According to UNDP, female

Literacy rate in Pakistan is 51.9%.
lower than male \uparrow which is 73%.
This indicates educational disparities
for females in Pakistan.

3. Limited Economic Opportunities:

Women in Pakistan face substantial economic exclusion. They are most often dependent on ~~their~~ males; their fathers, brothers or husbands. This hinders their representation at any forum equal to men.

According to World Economic Forum, Pakistan's labor force participation is 24%, significantly lower than Bangladesh (43%) and India.

4. Political Underrepresentation:

Women's representation in political and leadership roles remains minimal.

Although reserved seats exist for women in parliament, which is 33%, their influence in decision making is merely symbolic, limiting their ability to

- make gender-sensitive policies.

5. Legal and Institutional Gaps:

Although there are laws protecting women rights, such as **Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2010)**, enforcement remains weak. Gender-based violence, honor killings, and domestic abuse persist due to ineffective legal frameworks.

6. Violence and Security Concerns:

Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains widespread in Pakistan, including domestic abuse, honor killings, acid attacks and harassment. Fear of violence limit women's participation in every field promoting inequality.

The example of **Qandeel Baloch** murder case is notable. She was killed by her family in 2016, with the claim of honor killing.

6. Health and Reproductive Rights:

Women in Pakistan face significant health disparities, in maternal and reproductive health. Limited access to quality healthcare services and socio-cultural restrictions contribute to high maternal mortality rates and poor health outcomes.

4. Conclusion:

Pakistan's low ranking in gender inequality reflects systemic barriers that hinder women's progression across social, economic, and political domains. Addressing these challenges requires not only legislative reforms but also societal transformation, empowering women through education, economic participation, and stronger legal protection. Bridging the gender gap is essential not only for social justice but also for national development.

