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## Colonial perspective of Gender:

Colonial perspective of gender refers to the ways colonial systems, ideologies, and practices constructed and influenced gender roles, relations, and identities in colonized societies. These perspectives were shaped by European colonial power and often intertwined with race, class, and cultural hierarchies to reinforce domination and control.

### Colonialism and the imposition of western Gender Norms.

Colonial powers, particularly European countries imposed their gender norms on the indigenous populations. These norms typically adhered to binary understanding of gender, emphasizing patriarchal control and rigid distinctions between men and women. In many colonized regions, gender was more fluid or allowed for a diversity of identities, including roles that accommodated third genders or non-binary classifications. However European colonizers often saw these practices



as 'uncivilized' and sought to suppress them.

For example, in many African societies, there were traditions of gender fluidity and roles for people who didn't conform to male/female binary. Colonial powers criminalized such practices, replacing indigenous gender fluidity with more rigid roles.

### Colonial Gender Hierarchies.

Colonial regimes imposed hierarchical structures that positioned European men at the top and indigenous women at the bottom of social ladder. European women were often placed in a subordinate position to men but still above indigenous women. This created a gendered hierarchy in which indigenous women faced dual hierarchy.

### Gendered Colonial Violence.

Colonization often involved gendered violence as a form of domination. This included sexual



violation against women and the use of women bodies as a means of asserting control over colonized populations. Sexual exploitation was common in colonies like the Belgian Congo.

#### 4 Resistance and Gender Reclamation.

Despite the harsh imposition of colonial gender norms, there were numerous acts of resistance. In some cases, indigenous women fought to retain their traditional roles, while others adopted to the new colonial structures to ensure the survival of their communities.

### Capitalist Perspective of Gender

Capitalist perspective of gender explores how capitalist system shape, reinforce and exploit gender roles and relations for economic purposes. This perspective critically examines the intersections of capitalism and patriarchy, highlighting how gender inequality is maintained and leveraged.



to sustain the economic structures of capitalism.

## Gender as a tool to Economic organization.

Capitalism institutionalized the division of labour in public and private spheres. Men were associated with public spheres as breadwinners and women were confined to private spheres as unpaid labourers.

## Commodification of Gender..

Gender roles and identities have been commodified under capitalism.

The beauty industry profits from idealized notions of femininity and masculinity is commodified through industries like sports.

## Women are exploited through gender roles.

Women's unpaid labour in home is crucial for reproduction of workers but is not recognized in capitalist economies. In the formal workplace women are often paid less than men for same and equivalent work.

## Int. connection of Capitalism and Patriarchy.

Capitalism and patriarchy often work hand-in-hand to sustain gender hierarchies. Patriarchal norms justify women's exclusion from higher paying jobs, and leadership positions. Male dominated industries and corporate leadership structures perpetuate gender inequality.

## Capitalism and Consumerism.

Capitalism capitalizes on gendered marketing to sell products: women are targeted with products that reinforce beauty and domestic roles.

Capitalism promotes specific notions of masculinity to sell products associated with power, strength and success.

Eg.: Advertising campaigns for cars, luxury watches.



feminist movement is a broad and multifaceted social, political and cultural movement that has sought to challenge and dismantle systems of gender-based oppression, advocating for equality and women's rights. It has evolved in different ways depending on time, place and cultural context.

## Outline and Explanation

### of 3 major waves of feminism.

The three major waves of feminism are.

First wave feminism (Late 19th century - Early 20th century)

Second wave feminism (1960s - 1980s)

Third wave feminism (1990s to Early 2000s)

#### First wave feminism:

The first organized wave of feminism emerged in the western world in the 19th century, with its roots deeply tied to abolitionist movements and the



Fights for women's right to vote, property, and access to education.

The rise of industrial revolution contributed to the expanding role of woman in workforce. Furthermore enlightenment ideas about human rights, liberty, and equality also influenced feminist thoughts. Philosophers like Mary Wollstonecraft argued for women's education and autonomy.

## The 2nd wave feminism:

The second wave of feminism emerged in the 1960s, sparked by social and political movements like civil rights movements, anti vietnam war, protests and the growing consciousness of issues like racial equality and sexual liberation.

After WWII, many women were pushed out of the workforce as men returned home from the war. This backlash against women's newfound independence led to increasing discontent, especially among white middle class women.

As African women fought for



their rights and spoke about their unique struggles, resulting in the rise of intersectional gender roles.

The advent of birth control pill in 1960 gave women greater control over their reproductive choices, facilitating their participation in the workforce and expanding their opportunities for education and independence.

The key issues in this wave of feminism was reproductive rights, workplace equality and sexual liberation.

## The Third Wave Feminism:

The third wave of feminism began in the 1990s and emphasized a more inclusive, diverse, and intersectional approach to feminism. It responded to the criticism that the 2nd wave feminism was primarily focused on the experience and needs of white middle class women.

This wave expanded the feminist agenda to include the issues of



race, class, sexuality and gender identity. They sought to address the experiences of women from diverse backgrounds, including women of colour, working class women and LGBTIQ individuals.

This wave was influenced by postmodern and queer theory, which challenged traditional understandings of gender, identity, and sexuality, emphasizing fluidity and rejecting fluid binaries.

The key issues of this feminism are intersectionality, sexual freedom and identity and transgender rights.