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## Question-01

Describe Gender Studies as a discipline..... evolution in Pakistan.

### Introduction

With the rise of feminist movements, the need of a separate discipline dealing with the study of gender was felt. Almost started with the second wave of feminism, the discipline was felt necessary and it is being developed ever since. Started in the west, the discipline is also getting the due support in Pakistan. The further discussion discuss the gender studies as a discipline.

## 2. Gender Studies as a Discipline

### 2.1 What is Gender Studies as a discipline

The study of gender, its history, theories and upcoming prospects to reform the condition of how the gender and sex are perceived in a society is called gender studies and its teaching in institutes is defined as a discipline.

### 2.2 Need of Gender Studies as a discipline

Gender studies was needed as a separate discipline because

(i) It needed special attention with respect to cruciality of the matter.

(ii) It may not be able to

function properly if merged with other problem.

## 2.3 Functions Gender Studies

is imparting as a discipline while being a crucial turning point with regard to women rights, it is imparting valuable research knowledge and new avenues for the phenomenon of gender.

## 3. Evolution of Gender Studies in Pakistan

Before discussing, the evolution of gender studies in Pakistan, a look at where it actually originated.

### 3.1 Early evolution in Europe

In 1960s, the US only 12 courses in the discipline of psychology; and <sup>no</sup> a new separate

Course was there for gender studies.

- 1980s → First discipline of gender studies in San Diego university after the 2nd wave of feminism.

- 1985 → Gender Studies being adopted as a separate discipline in Bradford.

- Current Situation → 700 universities and institutes worldwide teaching gender studies as a separate discipline.

As the concept of gender studies saw rise globally, it started developing in Pakistan as well.

### 3.2 Evolution of GS in

#### Pakistan

As the third wave wave reached <sup>the</sup> country, a major shift towards gender studies was

among people. Mainly started since 2012, a number of universities are adopting gender studies as a separate discipline.

### 3.3 Universities in Pakistan adopting GS as a discipline

A number of universities have started teaching gender studies as a separate discipline in Pakistan. These include:-

- University of Karachi
- Quaid-e-Azam University
- LUMS
- Beacon House University
- Bahauddin Zakariya University
- Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University
- University of Sindh

All of these universities are offering bachelor and master level programmes while only

two universities are offering PhD programmes.

### 3.4 More Attention Needed

Pakistan needs more attention towards gender studies ~~as~~ a discipline in institutes primarily because:

- Lack of people's attention towards this discipline
- Creation of jobs for gender studies graduates — could be coupled with the jobs of sociology graduates.
- Most of the people not opting gender studies bear due to lack of jobs in this sector.
- Pakistan abysmally low position, i.e., 142/146 on gender parity Index.

## Conclusion

In this era, gender studies as a discipline has a vast potential. While being introduced around 3 decades ago in the West and around a decade ago in Pakistan, it needs more attention. Some of the Pakistani universities have adopted gender studies as a discipline while a lot many are still left. Also attention must be given towards job creation in this sector.

## Question-04

### Gender as a socially constructed phenomenon —

#### Introduction

Gender is a socially constructed phenomenon. The word 'gender' itself is confused with a very different word 'sex'. Both of these words are different and often confused with each other. Moreover, in practical terms, gender came into being in the aftermath of social construction. This view of the social construction of gender is elaborated in the light of theories ahead in this discussion.

### Gender is a Socially Constructed Phenomenon



Gender is socially constructed as explained by different theorists.

## 2.1 Theory of Historicism

Theory of historicism finds the roots of gender in ancient history. It goes as far back in history as the rise of human societies in hunter-gatherer era.

- Hunter-gatherer → Men as hunter and women as gatherer of food

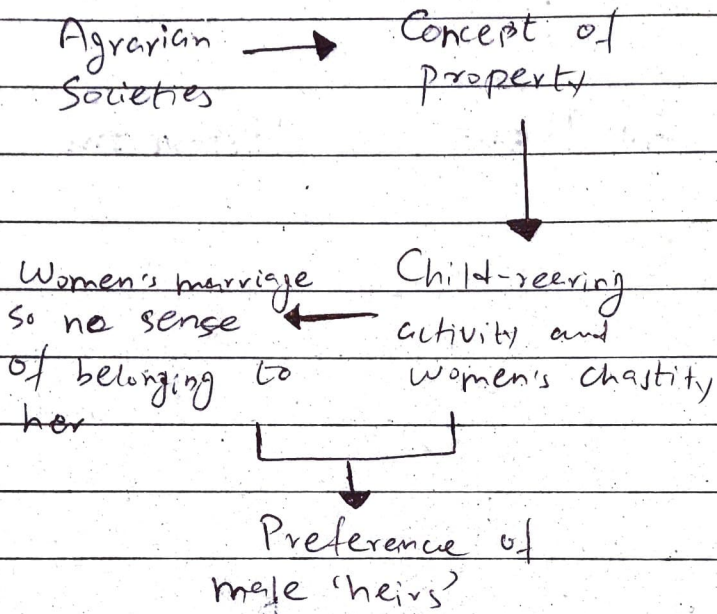
The idea of more children for more food

↳ Concept of women's chastity rose to protect child rearing

↳ Led to the idea of men's superiority

and women's subordination.

Moreover, in agrarian societies, concept was almost similar.



Hence, history and human actions throughout have impacted the status of sex and gender. The similar concept was extolled by Gerda Lerner.

## 2.2 Psychoanalytical and Social Dynamism

This theory holds responsible the previous and the current

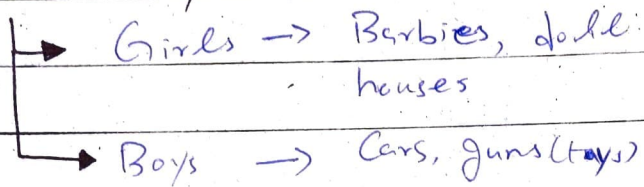
Society of humans, everyday life, actions, responses and discriminations in them based on sexes.

"Gender is nothing in existence. It is our actions, responses that are made to be consolidated in response to certain actions in society."

~ Judith Butler, Gender Trouble

The differential and discriminatory treatment is introduced by the society through various means since the childhood. Since, the childhood, males and female children are expected to act in a certain way which is consolidated over a period of time.

- Different male and female children toys



- Language is gendered

Different <sup>language</sup> gender and use of pronouns for both sexes

"Gender and sex are verbs, and not nouns."

~ Judith Butler

- Inducing Different Emotional Reactions

Men are told not to cry because they are males.

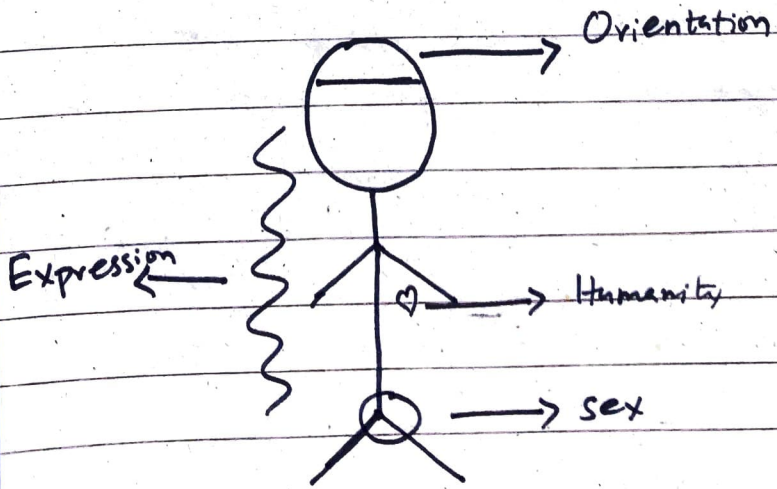
- Clothing is gendered

Clothing of male and female children are expected to be different

↳ Humans <sup>(sexes)</sup> are dimorphic creatures. They are hard to distinguish unless they are wearing different outfits. Unlike other creatures like parakeets.

↳ Ray Birdwhistell

Humans are expected to wear different clothes to be distinguishable. For instance, parakeets have a colour code i.e., female parakeets have a blue spot under their beak, and male have yellow.



↳ Judith Butters' Queer Theory

### 3.3 Queer Theory

Queer was mainly a derogatory word in 1980s, before the presentation of queer theory.

Judith Butler extolled the social construction of gender as earlier stated. She seconded Simon de Beauvoire idea that:-

"One does not born  
but rather becomes  
a woman."

~ Simon de Beauvoire

### 3. Symbols are Gendered too


The symbols used to represent the two sexes have

a gendered meaning:-

Females:-



- Venus
- Mirror
- A symbol of beauty

Males →  → • Mars

- Shield
- Symbol of strength

#### 4. Conclusion

In a nutshell, gender is a socially constructed phenomenon that has risen through history, and human interactions and their expectations of certain responses from sexes in different circumstances. Phenomenon of social construction of gender has been supported by later theorists as well.

## Question - 07

Discuss different theories. —  
and how it can be eradicated.

### Introduction

Despite significant developments, gender based violence is still a rampant practice. Different theories are associated with the origin and existence of gender-based violence. Where nothing can justify the gender based violence it is still a practice widely used in Pakistan. Most of the times women are exposed to household violence and honour-killings in Pakistan. However, it can be prevented through proper law enforcement and educating the masses about this illicit practice.



## 2. Gender Based Violence and its Theories

### 2.1 What is Gender Based Violence

Gender based violence is the illicit practice of directing violence towards one gender, Due to gender's socially constructed nature most of the violence is directed towards women by men.

### 2.2 Theories of Gender Based Violence

Different theories are associated with the origin and existence of gender based violence.

#### 2.2.1 Psychosocial Theory

Psychosocial theory of gender based violence holds responsible the interaction of

Psychology and social order for the violence. Social structure harbors the psychology to perform illicit acts of violence.

### 2.2.2 Theory of Evolution

Theory of evolution holds responsible the evolution of mankind for the gender-based violence. This involves further two tenets.

(i) Patriarchy

(ii) Biological Nature

Biological Nature → Females - XX Chromosome  
Males - XY Chromosome

Biological theory says that violence and aggression is due to difference of chromosome structure in human DNA.

Patriarchy → Foster violence in male children

### 3. Gender Based Violence in Pakistan

Gender based violence is rampant in Pakistan.

#### 3.1 Types of Violence in Pakistan

Mainly two types of violences are prevalent in Pakistan.

- (i) Household Violence
- (ii) Honour killings

Household violence is an illicit practice though widely prevalent, especially in rural areas of Pakistan.

- ↳ Women thought as commodity
- ↳ Man feels powerful because he is the breadwinner
- ↳ Generational acceptability of this practice.

↳ Human Development Watch ranks high violence in Pakistan.

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Honour killings are still being seen in Pakistani society, especially in the rural areas.

↳ Validation by Jirgas — a girl was murdered because he danced with some tourists in Swat in December 2023. Jirgas had validated this killing.

↳ Kara-kari practice in Sindh.

### 3.2 Doing Away With the GBV in Pakistan

Gender based violence can be controlled in Pakistan by taking necessary measures with respect to law enforcement and education.

#### 3.2.1 — Law Enforcement

(i) Fast FIRs for gender based violence cases

(ii) Establishment of facility centres to women

(iii) Separate women police stations

(iv) Regulating Jirgas and Karg-Kani Practices.

### 3.2.2 Educating the masses

- (i) Inclusion in curriculum
- (ii) Campaigns in homes and mohallas to wish away violence and educate women.
- (iii) Instilling responsibilities in men

## Conclusion

Gender based violence is a deplorable practice which, as per theorists, finds its origin in evolutionary and psycho-social theory. Moreover, household killings and honour killings are prevalent practices in Pakistan which can be ruled out by proper law enforcement and honour killings.

## Question-02

### Autonomous debate in Gender Studies.....

#### Introduction

Gender studies after getting established as a discipline got into conflict with other school of social sciences in the autonomy and integration debate. Both types of people give their reason for the separate or integrated discipline. However, the autonomous debate has a stronger views and prospects for the future. This discussion sheds light on the autonomy vs integration debate.

2. What is Autonomous and Integrationist Approach.

## 2.1 Autonomous Approach

Autonomous approach believes that there should be a separate discipline for gender studies. Such discipline should exist in each institute with separate building, working space and compliance with the standard.

## 2.2 Integrationist Approach

Integrationist approach believes that there should be inclusion of gender studies in one or <sup>more</sup> already existing discipline. This approach holds little ground because of the strong arguments posed by autonomous approach advocates.

## 3. Autonomous Debate Holds Stronger Views

3.1 GS: too important to be merged in some other discipline

Gender studies is too important a discipline to be included in some other discipline. It can establish a strong discipline and it is the need of the hour as well.

3.2 GS will lose its importance if merged

If merged in some other disciplines, gender studies will be unable to be distinguished and it will eventually lose away its importance in the main theme of the parent discipline.

3.3 Women will not be able to perform in male-dominated environment



The already male-dominated environment of the other discipline will not let the women and other advocates of gender studies to work in autonomous environment.

3.4 GS will not reduce the importance of other disciplines

Gender studies will not reduce the importance of other disciplines. For instance, when political science was separated from sociology, it did not reduce the importance of sociology.

## Conclusion

In autonomous vs. integration debate, autonomous approach has more strong evidence