

Gender Studies

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Batch:- 343

Subjective Part

(Part - II)

Question) no. 1:- Gender Studies as a discipline:-

Gender studies was streamlined as a discipline during the Second Wave of feminism. It constitutes the in-depth study of gender as a social construct and how it influences the lives of individuals at a personal as well as the societal level.

Individually, gender studies challenges through research and intervention, the traditional concepts revolving around Gender and what it entails. It posits that "Gender" is a spectrum whose variation lies on the determination of the extent to which masculine and feminine traits are dominant or suppressed in an individual's personality.

The momentum behind the research and collaboration of this study was amplified at the end of the second wave of feminism. Since then, sexuality and gender have been disintegrated as concepts where the former deals with biology, and latter with both biology

and structure of the mind
to mental feelings.

Background of Gender Studies:

The need and vacancy
in a discipline such as Gender
Studies, had been as old as Gender
itself of academic itself. Research
discovery from the time of Greek
enlightenment has made misogynist men
mind the women of their times
in some of his most esteemed
writings in "The Republic", Plato
named women as "More indicators of
man's soul". Aristotle's idea of
the huddling children meant that
had to be trusted to the state
is making the strongest man and
strongest woman mate, the child
born as a result was the property
of state and not the parent. It
of gender based discrimination is
clearly evident in almost all
religion as well. Many practices
such as these had suppressed
women's ability to dream for
themselves and to contribute to
the society by and large
via erasing the discrimination
through records and data. In India
in particular, Gender and its research
still remains a challenge to be

overcome as patriarchy prevails and crushes the needs and voices of an entire segment of society, based solely on its thirst for domination and the establishment of authoritative regimes.

Evolution of Gender Studies in Pakistan:-

The first major organization for women was established by none other than Miss Fatima Jinnah, titled APWA (All Pakistan Women's Association) in the 1960s. Since then, under the dictatorship rule of Yahya, Zia and some pro-establishment politicians, the cause for women's issues remained more or less repressed till the advent of 21st Century and the appointment of Benazir Butt as the first female Prime Minister of Pakistan. Tremendous strides in the area of education have also been observed with more women entering the academic fields as well as the work force. This however, is far from even the bare minimum ratio that should be the country's target. Pakistan still ranks amongst one of the lowest in terms of "countries granting equal opportunities to men and women" as over 49% of the country's population continues

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Theory

hold

facing domestic violence, harassment and extreme nuances of discrimination and disrespect.

The study of Gender, encompassing Women Rights, Minority Rights and the responsibility of the society to uphold these values, needs much more commitment by the patriarchal system that is bent on sweeping these issues under the rug.

Question no. 4) Gender's Social Construction:-

Traditionally speaking, Gender used to be very deeply associated with the biological sex of a person. A male-man's features, being objectively and distinctively different from a female-woman's features in terms of reproductive parts, social responsibilities and gender-based roles.

This approach is now almost entirely obsolete in light of modern academia.

"Gender" now entails not only an individual's biology, but their sexuality, their psychology, their self-perception as well as the perception of society and their emotional, physical & psychological + psychosocial traits. Different theories validated "Gender" as a socially constructed phenomena.

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Theory of integration:-

The theory of integration holds that Gender Studies, its implementation and its development along with accommodation by the masses will be done best if the views and values projected by the feminist ideologies are catered for by the patriarchal roots that are causing it to exist.

For segments of society that often feel secluded and alienated due to a lack of belonging and identity, the wholly encompassing study of Gender would integrate these groups back into the society.

These groups include lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, Queers and other marginalized groups that are considered neurodivergent and Atypical, i.e., deviating from the norm.

Theory of autonomy

The autonomous debate in Gender Studies argues that in order for the marginalized groups to elevate themselves from the shackles of patriarchy and the societal expectation of "normalcy", an autonomous and separate system of both governance and functionality must not only be made, but must also

be snatched and stolen by the oppressive regime of power hungry individuals.

(Question no. 5) :- Women Vulnerability in contemporary societies:

Women vulnerability refers to the susceptibility of women to be subjected to different forms of gender based violence, inequities and segmentations while operating in their daily lives. In contemporary societies such as UK, USA, Canada and France, this vulnerability factor is comparatively lower compared to societies that have a long way to go in terms of equality of justice and opportunity. However, the issue is still prevailing not only at the global level but at the societal level of these contemporary societies as well.

In light of modernization:

Modernization has exponentially increased the amount of women entering the first work force after the advent of Second Wave of feminism. In the last 30 years, more and more employment of the females in work force has been encourage not because of a show of solidarity only but because of

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female competence and credibility along with a will to achieve equity. This, however, has given rise to some new challenges. As women enter the work force, they are subjected to different forms of harassments, bullying, belittling, body-shaming and generalized misogynistic remarks on a daily basis. Moreover, social responsibilities also have to be met by a lot of women who already have to be engaged in work as well. Something as simple as basic household chores is not divided after times by keeping in mind equity. Modernization has also led to other forms of bullying such as cyber bullying and online harassment where nude genetics is often shared without consent. Videos, sex tapes, nude material and non-consensual sharing of the above-mentioned is used for the character assassination of women as well. Modernization has although been a significant aid with regards to women achieving their right to voice their opinions and concerns, but at the same time, it has created

a barrier for respectful engagement via online communication.

In. Right of dependency theories:

The dependency theories cover the aspect of female dependency on their male counterpart and vice versa. It entails the inevitable reality of the physical and anatomical differences between males and females and their intricate dependency on one another.

In light of this theory, women are made vulnerable as males consider them to be the subjects or someone that's answerable to them. By highlighting this dependency, women are subjected to control, a suppression of their fundamental rights and in some extreme cases, domestic violence. A report by UNFPA showcased significant increment in the incidents of domestic violence in cases where men were the sole breadwinners of the house by their own choice and women's financial situations were unstable, to say the least.

Dependency theories fail to acknowledge female dependency and inputs for the most part, leading to a divide in terms of treatment & opportunities.

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Way forward to revamp global status of women:-

To revamp the status of women globally, it is imperative that all the relevant stakeholders unite and be on-board for a uniform agenda. An agenda that highlights the importance of breaking down hierarchy of power that perpetuates patriarchy deep into the roots of masculine power feeling on aggression and violence. Through awareness of privilege enjoyed by the oppressor, in this era of enlightenment, establishing a culture of selection of power and responsibility, based on competence only, is an achievable outcome. A middle ground between radical feminism and liberal feminism may be able to achieve this. Statistical quantifiable analysis of history shows that radical change and its demands land us somewhere in the middle. For societies that are extremely backwards, radical approach may work but a post break-down of patriarchy plan, that eliminates the roots and causes of unearned male privilege, must be made & implemented.

Question no. 6) Liberal Feminism & Radical Feminism

Liberal Feminism

Radical Feminism

↳ Goes towards female liberty and a stand for one's self

↳ Goes towards liberating those who don't know they're oppressed

↳ Has an integrational approach where male and female rights are enjoyed with equity

↳ Has an autonomous approach where female opposes eliminate dependency and collaboration with male peoples

↳ Aims for the establishment of justice and fair treatment only

↳ Aims for the establishment of justice, fair treatment and a mechanism for revenge as well

↳ Effective where radical wave has passed

↳ Effective where extreme subjugation exists.

Which feminism would elevate women's status in Pak:-

In my evaluated opinion, Radical feminism would be best suited for the elevation of women's status in Pakistan. I'll lead this argument with a simple exam. If we imagine a target item placed on a rope that needs to be reached via pulling from the other end of the rope, we would be better off if we pulled with greater force from the other end. Radical feminism is the other end of the rope and elevation of female status is the target. For a country like Pakistan, where even voicing what a woman has to say, seems to be a challenge for most men, liberal feminism would not work since it aims for integration. An autonomous perception and its achievement would only be enough for the oppressors and the perpetrators of patriarchy to start taking the issues of women seriously.