

# Mock # 8 Gender Studies

## Ans # 5

### Outline

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Women vulnerabilities in contemporary world
- 3) How Modernization theory explains it.
  - a) Modernization stirs a will for development
  - b) Mass media as a form of imperialism
  - c) Value system and institutions hinder growth
- 4) How Dependency theory explains it.
  - a) Exploitation of free-market economy
  - b) Capitalist system exacerbates dependency
- 5) Way forward
- 6) Conclusion

### 1) Introduction

A cursory look at the inequalities and exploitations prevalent in today's world reveals that women are the most affected subject of such act. Underdeveloped and discriminated states of women makes them <sup>one of</sup> the most vulnerable groups of human population.

## 2) Women vulnerabilities in contemporary world

In the developed world that we live in where mass consumption and individualistic ideals reign supreme, we find that women are still deprived of these luxuries. Instead, the capitalistic market economy has made them more vulnerable of social, political and economic exploitation. This exploitation has increased their socio-economic woes instead of alleviating them.

## 3) How Modernization theory explains vulnerabilities

The theory of Modernization became popular in the mid-1900s, to interpret and analyze the effect of Modernization on human communication and its impact on human societies at large.

While its first phase was largely in support of modernization that favoured western Capitalist system, its 2nd and 3rd phases were large critical or analytic in approach. Overarching themes of 1st, 2nd and 3rd phases are :-

## a) Modernization creates a will for development

This explanation mostly pertains to 1 phase of his theory which tried to explain how mass media and liberal economy brings about economic development, creates a will for getting education and bringing social change. It also raises a struggle for nationalistic identity.

All of these tendencies act as an impetus for women struggle but also makes them a target of the elites who want to maintain status quo. This ultimately increases the vulnerability of women who are struggling for development and gender equality.

## b) Mass Media as a form of imperialism

This idea was presented during the 2nd phase of his theory which was mostly an extension of critical theory - It points that mass media is a new tool for the west to spread its imperialistic designs -

To explain this idea Media Dependency Theory is used - According to this theory, the peripheral countries are dependent on the mass media of core nations.

Core nations use "mass media" to propagate their culture, ideals, social customs and norms to the peripheral countries and control them in this way.

### c) Traditional value systems and institutions hinder growth

This is the basic idea of Modernization theory according to which the nations that fail to develop are the ones that fail to adopt western, modern and capitalistic value systems and institutions.

According to Modernist theorist, Bill Rostow, development is an evolutionary process - The nations that fail to evolve are the ones that are too rigid to change and resist evolution.

The same explanation can also be used to explain women exploitation. It is the traditional value system and institutions that are harbouring exploitative gender norms due to which women suffer social, political and economic exploitation and discrimination.

#### 4) How Dependency theory explains it

Dependency theory is yet another influential theoretical perspective that can be used to explain the causes of women's vulnerability. This theory tries to analyze the inequalities between modern world nations. This theory is the main opponent of free-market economy.

##### a) Exploitations of free-market economy

The theory unveils the oppressive and exploitative policies of free-market economy. It posits that being integrated in the global market actually exacerbates the dependency of third world countries. It also explains that the relationship between internal political and economic elites and peripheral (worker) population is unequal and discriminatory.

The same relations exist between male-dominated elites and poor, exploited women. Women continue to be exploited by their male, misogynistic bosses due to the exploitative nature of market economics. They never get paid their due share in the economy.

## b) Capitalist system exacerbates dependency

There is a reason why rich remain rich and poor continue to fall down the ladder. The reason is that capitalistic system exacerbates dependency. The tools used by this system are institutional sanctions, free-trade policies, loans (by WB & IMF) that ensure that the poor class lives hand to mouth and never actually develops self-dependency.

## 5) Way forward

The arguments presented by these two theories seem to carry weight and the best way to improve women condition are:-

### a) Cultural Change is necessary

Failure to develop cultural change is one of the causes of current condition of women. According to Sociologist Talcott Parson, cultural change is one of the key to the developmental problem in less developed countries. The same applies to the situation of women.

### b) Mainstreaming women issues

The system in which we are living successfully ignores that fact that women exploitation and discrimination

exists. - One of the way to deal with that is by mainstreaming women issues in every aspect of society especially in the political and economic realm.

### c) Bringing gender equality in institutions

Changing the very institutions that govern the society is one of the way to change women status. This can be done by increasing representation of women in those institutions - Gender equality through equal representation in important decision making bodies is one of these ways.

### d) Gender Mainstreaming via

#### Mass Media

As pointed out by the 2nd phase of Modernization theory, mass media is one of the agents that exacerbated inequality in the society. Careful coverage of women issues can reverse this trend.

However, for that to ~~work~~ <sup>work</sup> media personnel needs to be sensitized on gender-related issues.

### e) Distribution of profits equally

Although this one of the main problem of our current system and also least likely to be solved on urgent basis, yet it is something that can decrease women vulnerabilities on urgent basis. Economic empowerment of women and wage parity are some of preliminary steps in this regard.

### 6) Conclusion

The exploitative nature of western economic and cultural system has only exacerbated the woes of women while the male-dominated elite group has gained the most. Overhauling of this system can end women exploitation and bring them at par with their male counterparts.



## Ans #8

### A) Aurat Foundation

i) Formation :- The Aurat Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization in Pakistan that works for the women empowerment in both public and private spheres. It was formed by Nigar Ahmad and Shahla Zafar in 1986. Since then it has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the Pakistani women.

#### ii) Goals:

AF has a three-tiered reform agenda. This includes

- a) Raising awareness for the creation of an equitable society for men & women
- b) Facilitating civil society groups in women advocacy
- c) Influencing policy making and legislation regarding women empowerment.

#### iii) Efforts:

AF has been active at both political and civil-society level. It has been recognized internationally as a Pakistani group that is influencing the

civil society groups as well as political parties for greater gender reform - It has mobilized pressure groups within and across political parties that push for reform

#### iv) Achievements:

There is a long list of achievements under its belt. Some of most prominent ones are :-

- 1) Campaigns for putting women issues on the party election agendas of political parties
- 2) Campaign for the repeal of discriminatory laws like the Hudood law.
- 3) Campaign for reservation of 33% seats for women in legislatures
- 4) National campaign for registration of women on voter lists -
- 5) Efforts to support victims and survivors of gender-based violence -

AF is currently working on different campaigns to boost and ensure women participation in elections of 2024 both as voters and as candidates.

## B) Psychoanalytical feminism

### Introduction

This is an important feminist thought that emerged in era of Gender Resistant feminism when the women started to resist the micro-inequities that they were facing in the social and economic realm during the late 1960s.

### Major Influences

Major influence for psychoanalytical theory comes from the readings of Freud and french feminist engagements of Jacques Lacan, Foucault and Derrida. Object Relational theory also holds some influence.

### Causes of Women Oppression & Male

#### Domination

The main cause of women oppression and male domination comes from Theory of Personality Development according to which male and female gendered personalities develops based on how one solves or reconciles their Oedipus Complex.

(i) This stems from a child's relationship to ~~the~~ their mother -

A male child is detached from

his mother at an early age and forced to identify with his father. The two-sided need for women's emotionality and a fear of them as their potential castrators creates a strong ego inside men. Their fear of losing phallus and a will to develop emotional connection with women leads to development of a masculine (strong-headed) unconscious and a will to subjugate women.

(ii) On the other hand, a female child remains attached to her mother and so retains a fluid ego with emotional openness. Since they don't have a phallus, they don't develop any of the characters of men. However, their emotionality leads them to try for developing close ties with men. Men deny all kinds of emotional connections. Resultantly women want to have a child (to bond with). Their unconscious desire for a phallus and suppressed sexual desire for their father also

leads them to want a child.

### Solutions:-

Two of the most prominent solutions presented by psychoanalysts are:-

#### a) Shared Parenting

To develop emotional space and nurturing capabilities in men, feminists suggest that men should learn to nurture (parent) a child just a mother does.

#### b) Women to express their biographical experiences openly

According to the French psychoanalysts, cultural productions also represent men's unconscious that is fear of castration. These creations also depict men's plans to suppress and subjugate women. To counter these narratives, women need to express their own biographical experience about their bodies and sexuality.

### Weakness:-

- 1) Psychoanalysis view depicts that female's sexuality is somehow parasitic upon male sexuality.
- 2) It fails to address the issues of class and race.

## Ans # 7

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Gender Based Violence
- 3) Theories of GBV
  - a) Cycle of violence theory
  - b) Feminist theory
  - c) Loss of Control theory
  - d) Power and Control wheel theory
  - e) Investment theory
- 4) Prevalent form of violence in Pakistan
- 5) Eradication
- 6) Conclusion

### 1) Introduction

One of the most prominent manifestations of the second-grade status of women is the prevalence of gender-based violence against women. GBV is more prevalent in low and middle income countries where poverty, illiteracy and gender inequality are common.

### 2) Gender Based Violence

According to the Peace & Conflict Study expert, Johan Galtung, humans are not condemned by nature to perpetrate violence, it is their biased, malicious agendas that lead them to do so -

3) Theories of GBV: UN defines GBV as the "Violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or a violence that affects her disproportionately".

Following theories explain the causes of GBV.

#### a) Cycle of Violence Theory

This theory posits that men are taught by the society not to express their emotions - And so men suppress them. But tension gradually builds within men until they 'explode' - This explosive display is followed by a honeymoon period during which men show some remorse. However, some women have reported that they have never experienced a so-called honeymoon period in their relationships.

#### b) Feminist Theory

This theory has various explanations to offer, however, M. Bogard has four main ideas to present - He says that violence occurs because men are the dominant class with all the resources, violence is common in household settings, and that women experiences are labelled as "inferior".

#### c) Loss of Control Theory

Similar to the cycle of violence theory, it also propounds that eventual loss of control (when angry or drunk) leads

to GBV. However, writers like Anne Branley question why the GBV is carefully targeted against women at home and not against other women?

#### d) Power and Control Wheel

This is the most important theory that tried to cover the reasons left out in other theories - It came out of the work/interviews done at Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) in Duluth (Minnesota). According to this theory batterer use a large, gradual pattern of behaviour to enforce control over victims actions, thoughts and feelings -

#### e) Investment theory

This theory links violence to social, economic and emotional investment. According to this idea, a person's commitment to a relationship directly depends on his/her anticipated relationship satisfaction, negative function of perceived alternatives and the amount he/she has already invested in a relationship - less investment means more chances of gender-based violence -



#### 4) Prevalent form of violence in Pakistan

Amongst all of forms of violence against women, intimate partner violence is the most prevalent form in Pakistan.

#### → Intimate Partner Violence

This form of GBV is perpetrated by current or ex partners and are often assisted by other family members. This form of violence is also prevalent because in Pakistani society, it is considered an affair of 'Private realm'.

#### i) Causes:-

- Ignorance of law enforcement agencies
- Partial implementation of laws
- Social acceptance
- Internalization of violence by women due to societal pressures, family pressure, economic constraints
- Low rate of conviction in GBV cases

#### ii) Manifestations:-

- Dowry murder
- Honour Killing
- Marital Rape
- Forced Pregnancy/abortion
- Violence during pregnancy
- Virginity tests
- Economic Violence

## 5) Eradication:-

Eradication of intimate partner violence need efforts at both private and public level. For this purpose following steps will be instrumental.

### i) Awareness Campaign

In order to change attitudes and raise awareness abouts the rights of women, awareness campaigns will be helpful.

### ii) Giving women their legal rights

Allowing women their due right in the inheritance of property, rights of divorce and rights to negotiate terms of marriage will help.

### iii) Eradication of obsolete traditions

Traditions like dowry need to be ended -

### iv) Economic empowerment of women

This is perhaps the most important step to ensure that intimate partner violence doesn't occur.

### v) Strict laws

Legislation and implements of strict laws regarding punishment for batterers is vital.

## 6) Conclusion:-

Gender based violence is an menace for not just the women but the society at large - It needs to be eliminated to ensure that

women enjoy their legal rights and  
are able to attain their full potential.