

Gender Studies Note

Q2.

Introduction

Gender studies has faced scrutiny and challenges since its inception. Many scholars and academic experts feel that due to its distinctive and unique nature, gender studies should remain stand-alone or autonomous. On the other side of the debate are those that feel that gender studies would be better off as a sub-division or as integrated into a wider discipline such as sociology. This autonomous versus integrationist debate has been persistent with each side providing their own justification. Autonomous holds comparatively stronger thoughts which will be discussed in this answer.

The Autonomous versus integrationist debate tips in favour of autonomy The distinctive content of gender studies

Gender studies is autonomous because it studies gender as a stand alone concept. Gender is seen as a complex phenomenon that is socially constructed.

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and largely suppresses women anyone who is not a stereotypical male. Gender studies encompasses all genders and challenges their strictness in social settings. This means that gender studies is unique in its own and does not (for the most part) clash with other disciplines. Hence, it should remain autonomous.

Example:

Gender studies includes gender based violence (GBV) as a unique sub-section of its content. This is not studied as a major topic in any other discipline to such an extent as Gender studies.

~~Different and unique perspectives~~

^{Integrationist}
Autonomy debate holds some strong claims

^{Integrationist}
Autonomy debate claims that gender studies does not have the strength and credibility to stand as a full fledged academic discipline. linkages are seen with other academic disciplines which could mean that Gender studies could be studied along with another.

Example

Sociology and gender studies have many

aspects in common such as socialisation.

They both highlight how socialisation plays a part in gender construction such as Anne Oakley who says girls are given feminine toys to instill female traits such as dolls. This is also studied in Gender studies.

Different and unique perspectives of Gender studies

Gender studies holds unique perspectives that are studied in detail. ~~Resistance~~ These include postmodern feminism, queer theory, Androgynous study, gay and lesbian studies among others. These entail that Gender studies should remain autonomous so that the unique perspectives can be studied in detail instead of in a minor way.

Example

Gender studies includes perspectives such as post modern feminism which challenges the very concept of woman. For example: Butler says that the mistake made by feminists is to even structure the concept of woman as it is unique to each person. Hence, what is a woman is a debated concept unique to gender studies.

Perspectives similar to other disciplines - sparking integrationist debate

Some perspectives of gender studies coincide and overlap with other disciplines. This means that integrationists call for gender studies to be studied in collaboration or as part of another academic discipline.

Example

Gender studies studies highlights psychological theories of Freud in its studies. Moreover, the entire feminist debate is present in most social disciplines such as sociology, political science and international relations.

Vast and over-reaching content of the subject matter: Isolationist ideology

Isolationists claim that gender studies is too vast and lengthy to be integrated into other academic disciplines. Moreover, it is constantly expanding as time evolves with new subsections entering the field.

Example

Feminism only contained a few main branches.

previously but as time has gone by the scope has increased to include Black feminism, Post-Modern feminism and the more recent, intersectional feminism to encompass all.

Subject matter not vast enough to be studied as stand-alone subject

Integrationists claim that ~~feminist~~ gender studies include a few topics that are very less compared to other lengthy academic disciplines. This is used as a reason to integrate it with other subjects.

Example

Gender studies includes feminism as the main topic which is in most other academic disciplines. Gender Based violence is studied in sociology under social issues.

Gender studies would not be prioritised if studied with other subjects: Isolationist perspective

Gender studies needs to be studied in-depth and detail so that its essence is prioritised. ~~and this can be~~ Isolationists claim that gender studies would lose its importance and impact as it would be

studied alongside other academic disciplines. Its meanings and importance will be shadowed by other content.

Example

In sociology and International relations, gender and specifically feminism is studied as a small part of a wide debate. In international relations, realism and liberalism are the main debate topics but feminism doesn't take precedence and is not prioritised.

All sub-sections have to be studied to understand the main topic - Integrationist perspective

Integrationists claim that all subtopics are studied to completely comprehend an issue or main topic. So gender studies would not lose meaning but will bring an additional perspective or meaning to the topic at hand.

Example

Gender studies in International Relations can bring the feminist perspective in topics such as war. The plight of women and children is studied along with decision-making which enhances the topic overall.

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Gender studies wants all everyone to be comfortable with the topic: Isolationist perspective

Gender studies received backlash from other academic subjects and was approached with caution. Gender studies is not only about women and encompasses everyone. It seeks to make all genders comfortable with the topic at hand and talks about social problems that impact everyone.

Example

Violence can also impact men and gender studies wants men to be comfortable with such topics as rape, harassment and physical violence.

People would be more comfortable with gender studies as part of another academic discipline.

Gender studies has a stigma of just being for women, and gay and lesbian people. It isolates men overall.

Integrationists claim that as part of another discipline, it would encourage more men to enter the fold as other academic disciplines are considered.

more masculine such as political science or international relations

Example

Gender studies are largely studied by females whereas political science and international relations have more males.

Resources would spread out if studied in the integration

Isolationists want more resources to be expended to the study of gender. Research requires a large amount of financial resources and time and expertise. This would ensure the subject is studied in detail and the subject is given enough time and justice.

Example

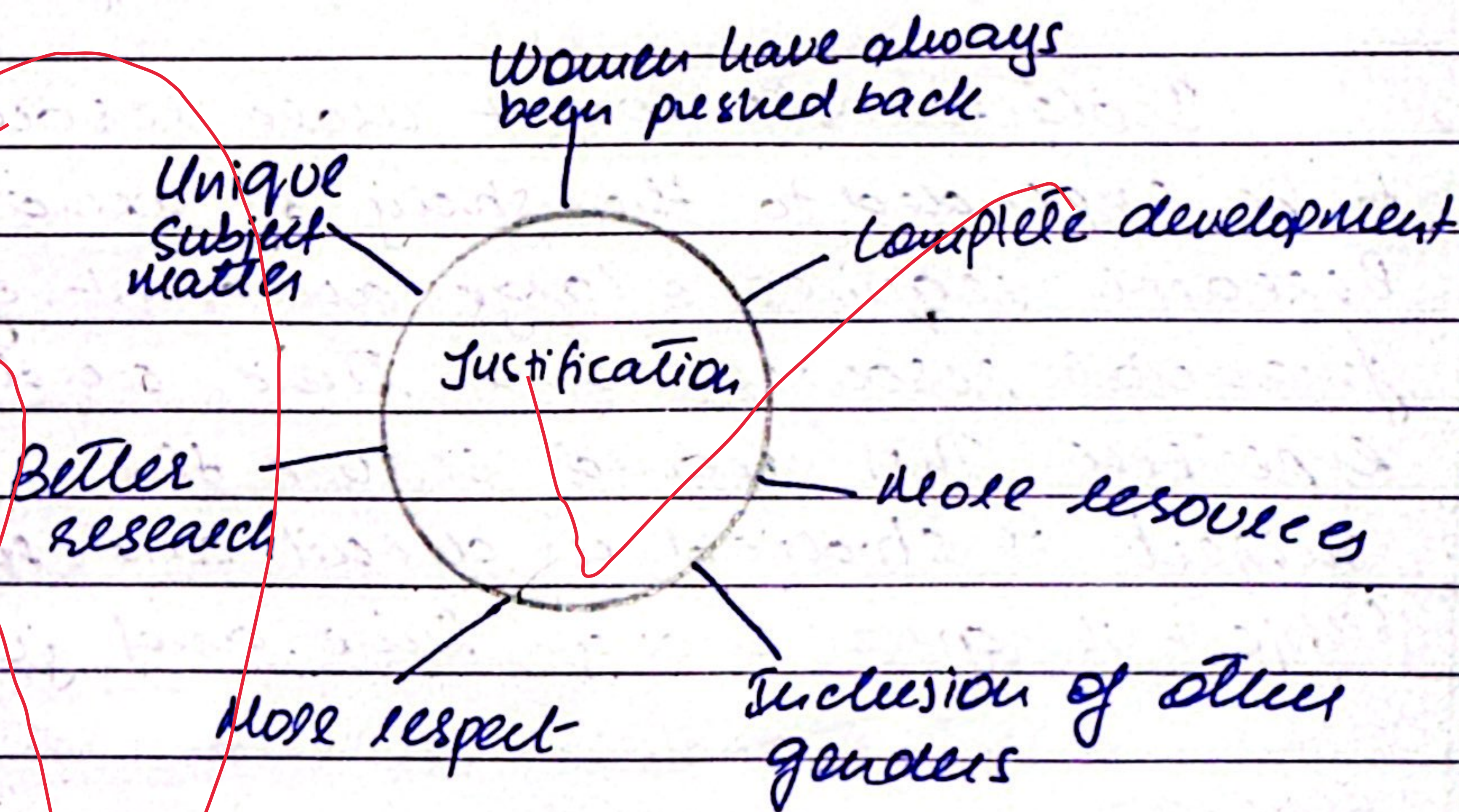
Gender issues need field research such as researching on Gender Based Violence over a long period of time across locations, resources need to be expended for this.

Overall assessment of the debate

Overall, the isolationist perspective holds greater value because it tramples

the justifications of the integrationist debate. Integration would lead to the subject losing its value and not being given the importance it deserves. Moreover, studying gender studies would lead to more will power and awareness of issues that need to be tackled and eliminated completely.

Isolationist justifications



Conclusion

In conclusion, the isolationists have a stronger claim to gender studies being studied and developed as a stand-alone subject. Moreover, the debates put forward by the integrationists are not strong enough to be included rather as

the correct opinion. Isolations would lead to more resources, better research, mitigation of social issues and greater development of the subject matter overall.

Q6.

Introduction

Gender studies, like most social science subjects, contains perspectives through which the same topic can be studied uniquely. Liberal and Radical feminism are two major perspectives that have to take the same phenomenon and analyse it differently. Liberal feminism takes a softer and realist stance whereas radical feminism takes a more harsh and anti-male stance. The liberal feminist debate is more adaptable in Pakistan's social fabric. These two perspectives along with their applicability in Pakistan will be analysed.

Comparison between Liberal Feminism and Radical Feminism

Both perspectives seek to bring women's issues to the forefront

liberal feminism and radical



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feminists seek to highlight the problems and hindrances that are faced by women in general. They both want to ensure that women's issues are not ignored and taken seriously.

Both perspectives want to improve the lives of women.

Both perspectives highlight solutions to which they feel would improve the lives of the women in society. The solutions are different but the end goal remains the same which is to ensure the welfare and progress of women in general.

Both perspectives agree that the system subjugates and oppresses women.

While radical feminists blame men for the system both agree that the system is such that women are oppressed. Women are ~~never~~ subjugated by the system which does not want to promote their progress and instead stay below men socially and economically.

Contrasting views of Radical Feminism and Liberal Feminism

Liberal Feminism demands equality

Liberal feminism calls for equality between both genders. Women and ~~we~~ men should be granted similar opportunities in employment and social standing. For instance, ^{Betty} Friedan in 'The Feminine Mystique' highlighted that women did not find fulfilment in domestic chores and should find employment on the same footing as men so they are equal.

Radical Feminism calls for women to be above men

Radical feminism claims that women are above men and should aim to reach that potential. They don't demand equality but instead to reach ~~at~~ a stage above men because women are deemed much superior. Their femininity is considered to male traits.

The system of should be corrected - Liberal Feminism

~~liberal~~ Liberal Feminism

calls for an improvement of the system.

They find that if more women are allowed to be part of mainstream society then their situation could improve. Thus, the system should be changed to encourage and include more women.

Men should be removed from the system who are the culprits. Radical Feminism

Radical feminists see men as the main problem. Men should be completely removed as they make the system. Radical feminists see men as the enemy and the main culprit behind female oppression so the solution would be to remove all men and make space for women to progress.

Work in collaboration with men-liberal feminism

liberal feminism finds that collaboration with men is the way to bring progress to women. Women would be in a much better position if men and women worked together to eliminate the challenges faced by women.

Complete isolation from men - Radical Feminist perspective

Radical feminism calls for a matriarchal society centred around women. Women should be responsible for their ~~own~~ well-being and progress and should avoid engaging with men. Men are seen as the enemy, and women should avoid all contact. Moreover, family set ups should include female-only families which includes lesbian couples, single parenthood or entire communities of just women.

Liberal Feminists focus on economic wellbeing and political equality

Liberal feminism seeks to include women into employment spaces so that they are not reliant on men. Economic empowerment is prioritised over other sectors. This would ensure that women are not only confined to their homes and are not just home-makers or child-rearers but active participants of society and the economy. There is also a focus on equal voting rights so women have more say in government policies.

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Radical feminism focus on political and social issues.

Radical feminism focuses on isolation and social settings that encompass the political realm and society. Women are encouraged to form their own society through isolating men and carry out political activities without men who are the enemy.

Liberal Feminism emerged during the ^{first} ~~second~~ wave of feminism

Liberal feminism began during the first wave of feminism when equal rights were demanded by women. This began the women suffragist movement and culminated into the fight for women to vote in the 19th Amendment of the US constitution in 1920.

Radical feminism during the second wave

Realisation of women's oppression came slowly. The call for isolation of women from men can be traced back to

The ~~second~~ second wave of feminism.

call for equal voting rights by liberal feminists

liberal feminists such as Elizabeth Stanton and ~~Walter~~ Mary Wollstonecraft began demanding women's right to vote. This was to make men and women stand on an equal political footing so that women could join of society and have a say in the running of their government.

Radical feminism called for men to be completely eliminated from political structures.

Radical feminism believed in the superiority of women. They believed that men should have no say in the government in which women were empowered. They claimed that war ~~ex~~ existed because of the oppressive and aggressive character of men. So, if women were in power peace would ensue. Thus, men should be kept out of politics and women in political positions of power.

~~Feminism best app~~

Contrasting views of Radical and Liberal Feminism

Liberal Feminism

- Equality of men and women
- Voting for both
- Inclusion in workplace
- System should be changed
- First wave of feminism
- Collaborate with men

Radical Feminism

- Women are superior
- Women should be in power
- Complete isolation of women in economy for progress
- Men make the system so they are the enemy
- Second wave of feminism
- Isolate men

Feminism best applicable to Pakistan for elevation of women's status: liberal
liberal feminism: practical and rational

Liberal feminism takes a more rational and practical approach by taking in the realities of the world. This type of feminism would take account of the Pakistani culture and try to devise practical ways to include more women into mainstream society to elevate their status overall.

Patriarchal society failed to include women

Pakistan is a patriarchal society and hence liberal feminism would try to change the system rather than adopt a hard stance against men to isolate them completely. This would ensure women are included in the changing society moving away from patriarchy and elevate their status.

Softer approach in a rigid and staunch society more effective

Societies resist change, particularly rigid societies like Pakistan. So liberal feminism would adopt a softer stance and slowly change the system instead of coming in aggressively which would be opposed by Pakistani society and lead to oppression of women.

Focus on equal political and economic opportunities to improve overall women's status

By demanding equal political and socio-economic rights, women can try to

improve their status on their own. They could increase their income for general economic progress. Moreover, they could elect leaders that align with their goals and values to ensure policies that benefit them are implemented.

Why would Radical Feminism not work in Pakistan?

Radical feminism is a hard and rigid approach to society. It would be impractical to isolate women because it would lead to their problems elevating and not their welfare enhancing. Moreover, Pakistan is a rigid society with ~~strict~~ rigid values and culture steeped in patriarchy. Two rigid stances would clash and radical feminism would aggravate women's oppression as they would be seen as a threat to Pakistan culture.

Conclusion

In conclusion, liberal and radical feminism are ~~completely~~ have some similarities but are overall very different. Liberal feminism adopts a softer stance compared to radical feminism. Liberal

feminism is more likely to improve the status of women because it includes rational and practical stances. Whereas, radical feminism would clash with the rigid Pakistani culture and values.

Q7.

Introduction

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a subsection of gender studies that focuses on violence suffered by an individual or social group based on her/his/their gender. It includes many theories such as labelling theory, psychological theory, socialisation theory among others. Pakistan is steeped in gender based violence with physical violence being the most prevalent. In this answer the theories of gender based violence will be studied along the prevalence of gender violence in Pakistan and its solutions.

Theories of Gender Based Violence

Psychological theory: inherent Nature Debate

Psychological theory claims that gender-based violence (GBV) can be attributed to psychology. Men are by nature deemed aggressive and oppressive so they try to subjugate women naturally. Psychological theory forms part of the nature debate and cannot be changed as aggression is linked to testosterone which is the male hormone and hence men have a psychological need to be aggressive which leads to GBV.

Sociological theory: Nurtured into humans

Sociological theory claims that people are conditioned to be aggressive or passive. For instance, boys are taught to be 'macho' and that fighting and violence are masculine traits. Women are taught to be submissive and not retaliate. This culminates into increased GBV.

Labelling Theory promotes GBV

Labelling Theory leads to a self-fulfilling prophecy. Men who are labelled as aggressive

develop aggressive tendencies. Moreover, if one is associated with relatives such as an aggressive father or brother may be compared to an individual. Thus, labelling them as just like their father who was violent may lead to them adopting violent traits as well.

Genetic Theory: aggression is inherited

Traits may be passed down from one generation to the next. With genetic theory, a father may pass on his aggression to his son which would result in a chain of violent behaviour and lead to GBV.

Economic Theory of GBV

Individuals that are economically oppressed may tend to adopt GBV to cope. For instance, a man who cannot afford to provide all the basic resources to sustain himself may become frustrated and oppress his wife through GBV.

Ecological Theory

Individuals who are in turbulent ecologies may increase gender based violence (GBV). This is because they are constantly faced with uncertainty and turbulence which leads to unhealthy coping mechanisms and results in increased GBV.

Forms of violence more prevalent in Pakistan

Physical violence takes on many forms in Pakistan and is most prevalent

In Pakistan, physical violence is the most prevalent in Pakistan. This takes the form of beating, killing, burning, acid attacks along with others to cause physical harm to the victim.

Honour killing

This form constitutes as physical punishment. Women and men are killed for usually for not adhering to their families wishes and sloping. Women are mostly mostly targeted which is depicted in Sharmeen Obaid Chinoy's film "A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness"

Acid attacks

Acid is thrown on victims faces and bodies as a form of physical punishment. This form of violence is prevalent in Pakistan. See acid is also depicted in Sharmin Obaid Chiny's film 'Saving Face'.

Stove burning

Women are usually burned for not adhering to their in-laws wishes. This is a form of violence to punish the women into adhering to the demands of her family and is a physical punishment prevalent in Pakistan.

Domestic violence: beating, clapping and punching

In Pakistan, domestic violence of a physical nature is prevalent. Wives are beaten by their husbands, mostly for petty reasons such as answering back, not cooking properly, not cleaning properly or not taking care of the kids.

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How to remedy the situation in Pakistan?

Strict laws and policies against violence

More laws and policies should be introduced to counter violence. This would entail that culprits are charged according to the law and abstain from GBV.

Increased intensity of punishment

While laws for domestic violence and honour killing do exist. The punishment should be intensified to ensure compellence and deterrence. Such as increasing years in prison or adopting death penalty for honour killing.

Increase and expand definition of violence

The definition of violence in legislation should be all-encompassing so that no shadow area remains. Moreover, threat to use violence should also be included as a unique category of offence so that the men the pre-

condition to violence is avoided.

Including religious clerics and scholars to instill awareness

Religious clerics and scholars should be encouraged to highlight to issues of GBV so that people are aware. Pakistan is a Muslim country that value the teachings of Islam so during Friday prayers and otherwise the character of the prophet (SAW) and his treatment of women and other men should be taught. This would ensure GBV is reduced through religious teachings.

Presence of women-only prisons

women go through traumatic experiences reporting violence in prison. Hence, women-only prisons would ensure a safe environment for women to report crimes and gain justice for GBV. More reporting and punishment would lead to reduction in GBV overall.

Conclusion

In conclusion, GBV includes many theories such as psychological, sociological, ecological and labelling theory. Moreover, physical violence is prevalent in Pakistan and takes the forms of acid attacks, honour killings and general physical domestic violence. To remedy this, measures include adequate and all-encompassing legislation along with collaboration with religious leaders and clerics.

Q3.

Introduction

The suffragist movement abroad was a means to achieve voting rights for women. After a long journey of nearly a century, the women of the US were able to attain their political right to vote. It was a hallmark of success of feminist movement in the West. This will be discussed in this answer.

Suffragist Movement as a Hallmark of success

Self-realisation and general consciousness of women's worth

The Suffragist movement created a deep and profound psychological impact in the minds of women. They were able to realise their worth as being equal to men and the power they could wield if they could vote. This eliminated their worth as below men and as being property of men, ~~as~~ but as full persons and complete citizens.

Ability to determine government policies

The liberal Feminist Movement has called for equality of women to men in economy and politics. Through the suffrage suffragist movement, women were able to choose their leaders who formulated policies to ensure women were not left behind and could progress just as men could.

Elevation of women to power positions as leaders

The Suffragist movement saw the elevation of some strong female leader personalities to leadership positions for example Elizabeth Stanton. This led to more women entering leadership positions and not shying away from power and authority.

Suffragist movement - a precursor to future women's movements and Feminist waves.

The Suffragist movement was a pre-cursor to the second and third wave of feminism. which increased the rights of the women to a greater capacity. The first wave of feminism focused on attaining equal political rights which led to economic rights in the second wave.

Gathering of mass women for attaining undue rights

The Suffragist movement was a major success to the Feminist movement

because women created a collective force to attain their rights. This mass momentum and strength in numbers was a success because ~~not~~ a small group of women could not attain their rights and there is strength in numbers.

Realisation that women would attain their rights if they rally together and demand them

The suffragist movement was a success because women realised that they would need to ~~frankly~~ ^{frankly} demand their rights if they were to achieve something. They could no longer sit passively and adopt a ~~victim~~ ^{victim} mentality but had to voice their concerns and demand their rights.

Creation of awareness among men

Through the suffragist movement men could see how ~~ignored~~ ^{ignored} or oppressed women were. Hence many joined the suffragist movement which enhanced the scope of feminism to not just include women but everyone.

Politicians realised women's issues could no longer be ignored

Government representatives and politicians realised that women's issues should form part of their agenda which was a success for feminism. Hence, women's issues became part of the political agenda.

4 Attainment of Constitutional change

Through the suffragist movement, the 19th Amendment was achieved in 1920. Thus, ~~was~~ feminism women in the west was successful through the legitimate attainment of voting rights.

Feminism became part of academia

The suffragist movement led to success as feminism began to be studied as an ~~area~~ academic discipline later. This led to further progress of the movement and an increase in its importance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, The suffragist movement was a major success in Europe and the ~~at~~ West due to the attainment of voting rights, enhancement of women's issues and its elevation as an academic discipline. Overall, it can be deemed to be successful in attainment of women's rights that had a ripple effect in future rights.