

# Gender Studies

Q No 4

## Social Construction of Gender

### Introduction

Gender and Sex are considered different entities in gender studies.

Gender is the social performance of a specific character, while sex is the biologically determined entity.

Therefore, there is a debate on the social construction of gender.

There are various theories which define that gender is socially constructed. The theories are gender role theory, functionalist theory, cultural perspective, and gender performativity theory and psychoanalytical theory.

### 1) GENDER ROLE THEORY - JOHN MONEY

John Money has given the theory of gender role. It means that all the persons in their life play the role.

gender. The females play the male role of women and play the role of men. In this way, they attain the social categories of women and men respectively.

### FUNCTIONALIST APPROACH - TALCOT PARSONS,

Talcot Parson was of the view that the certain roles are defined to specific gender for the efficient running of the society. In this way, women take care of the house and children. Man becomes the bread-winner. According to Talcot, this is necessary for the adequate working of society.

### CULTURE DEFINES THE MASCULINITY AND FEMINITY - John Hoofstede

John Hoofstede elaborated that it is the culture which defines the masculinity and femininity characteristics. Persons

who are active, aggressive, realistic are the characteristics of masculinity. While, passive, flexible, and emotional characteristics are attached to the females and these are defined by the culture.

#### 4) GENDER PERFORMATIVITY THEORY- JUDITH BUTLER.

Judith Butler gave the theory of gender-performativity in her book, **Gender Trouble**

Judith Butler is of the view that the gender is determined by the performance of its role. Male and female perform the gender roles and become men and women respectively.

#### 5) DOING GENDER-ZIMMERMANN

Zimmerman compared the life with a stage in which a person plays the role of an artist and the gender is the role played.

by artist. Therefore, it is the gender role played by people and gradually he attains the specific gender.

## 6) Gender Schema THEORY - SANDRA-BEM:

Sandra Bem gave the Gender-schema Theory which explained that how a child learned from childhood to adolescent about different gender roles. He learns from the society and the intensity of rejection and acceptance of the roles he played. It then shapes his gender.

## 7) Psychoanalytical Theory:

- ERIKSON

Erikson explained the social construction of gender through psychoanalytical theory. A child throughout his childhood and adolescent

passes through different stages of rejection and denial. In this way, he learns the gender role played by him.

### Masculinity

- Active
- Aggressive
- Rigid
- Realistic

### Femininity

- Passive
- Soft
- flexible
- Emotional

Gender roles played

Gender Role theories

Social Construction of Gender

## 8) QUEER THEORY:

The hypothesis of 'Repressive homosexuality' was given by Michael Foucault. But the queer theory was given by Judith Butler. It was of

the view that gender identity is fluid, which means that it can be changed. There is not only men and women but there are another gender roles like gay, lesbians, two-spirited etc.

## GENDER IS SOCIALLY CONSTRUCTED:

All the theories above explained that the gender is socially constructed. It is not who is born but who has become. It was proved in John Hopkins university when 14 children have male hormones antenatally. When they born, the male sexual organ was absent. Therefore, it is proved that the gender is socially constructed.

## Conclusion:

All these theories explain that gender is determined by its social construction. It depends upon the role, culture, environment. Therefore, male and female play their specific roles and become the men and women respectively.

As explained by **Wanjika Mukabi** in her writing **Delusions: Essays on Gender role**.

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## Q No # 7

### INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence is the violence inflicted on a person due to his/her gender. 'United Nations High Commission' defined gender-based violence that the violence or forms of coercion inflicted upon the women physically, sexually, or psychologically due to her gender. There are various theories which explain the gender-based violence. They involve evolutionary theory, social learning theory, psychological theory and pathological theory. Gender-based violence is also very prevalent in Pakistan.

### Theories of Gender-based Violence



## 1) EVOLUTIONARY THEORY:

Evolutionary Theory explained that the it is the running practice that women is inferior and men is superior. Due to this superiority, it is thought that men can inflict any kind of violence upon women to satisfy his ego.

## 2) SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY:

It is in the very nature of women to be passive and she thinks that it is her duty to bear the violence of men. She learnt it from the society and men imposes restrictions and violence upon women.

## 3) PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORY:

Psychological theory explained that the any person who inflicts violence upon another is mentally or

psychologically ill. As the mentally ill person do not think of it wrong. It is in his psychology to take women as inferior and a mere his thing.

#### 4) Psychopathological Theory:

According to the psychopathological theory, people who do gender-based violence possess some kind of pathology. It is the disease associated with psychology is a catalyst involved in gender-based violence.

#### 5) EXCHANGE THEORY:

Exchange Theory explain that the people involved in gender-based violence either do it to earn reward or to take the revenge. It is very common to inflict violence upon someone to take the revenge.

## 6) Resource Theory:

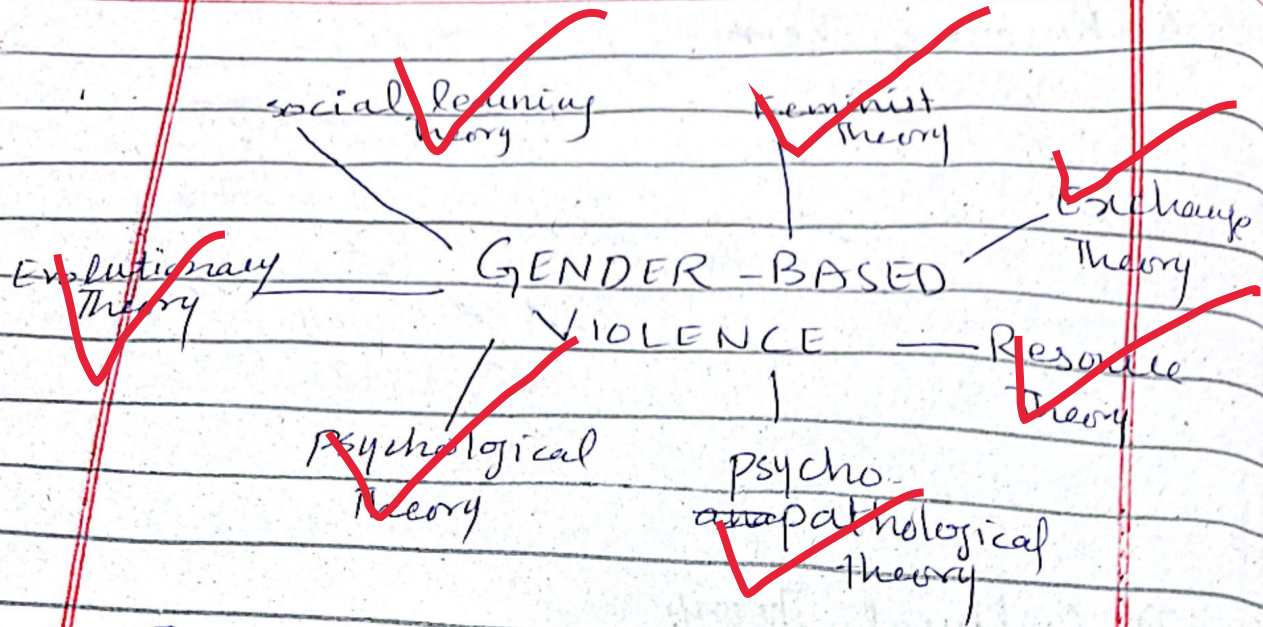
People involved in gender-based violence mostly do it to show their power and dominance in the family. They take it as a means of showing their stronger personality.

## 7) Cultural Theory:

It is in the culture that men beating their women is considered normal. So, men learn from the culture to inflict violence upon women.

## 8) Feminist theory:

Men is the dominant part of the society and women is the recessive part. Therefore, the dominant always tends to pressurize its inferior. That's why, men inflicts violence upon their women counterparts.



## FORMS OF VIOLENCE

There are various forms of gender-based violence, direct and indirect. Indirect is then classified into cultural and structural forms.

## FORMS OF VIOLENCE

### Direct violence

- Harassment
- Honor killing
- Rape
- Acid Throwing
- Forced marriage
- Stove Burning

### Indirect violence

- Cultural
- Structural

## FORM OF VIOLENCE PREVALENT IN PAKISTAN:

The form of violence more prevalent in Pakistan is the direct form of violence. There are hundreds of cases of honor killing, harassment, rape, acid

throwing across the Pakistan. According to Pakistan Demographic and health survey, almost

39% of women population in Pakistan faces abuse and 80% of married women

domestic violence

→ According to HRCP, 324 cases of honor killing occurred in Pakistan in 2022.

The above figures showed that direct form of violence is quite common in Pakistan.

## Ways to eradicate GBV

1) Strengthening and implementing Gender-based violence laws:

The strengthening of laws is very important and their implementation is even more important. The legislature of Pakistan has passed laws related to Harassment and rape. Their actual strength lies in their implementation.

2) Swift justice must be ensured:

Justice must be

ensured to the victims. It must be rapid justice. It is said that justice delayed is justice denied, only the swift justice can reduce the violence rate.

### 3) Women empowerment and Education:

Empowered and educated women know about their rights. They do not let their men to instruct them. ~~Thus~~ So, it is imperative that women should be empowered and their education must be the foremost duty of state, as written in article 25(a) of constitution of Pakistan.

### 4) Shelters and counselling services for the victims:

It must be ensured to give adequate counselling

to the victims to get them out of the trauma.

5) International collaboration to learn from global best practices.

Pakistan lacks the resources and expertise to deal with such issues. Therefore, it is imperative to collaborate with the international corporations to learn from their best practices and implement them.

## Conclusion:

There are various theories which explain the gender-based violence. It is in the instinct of a person which persuades him to do the violence. Pakistan faces the direct form of violence and is at stake.

Strict implementation of laws and women empowerment must be necessary to eradicate gender-based violence.



Q No#6

## 9 INTRODUCTION:

Feminist theories are the basis of feminist movements. They were the foundation for raising the slogan of women's rights in the society. Liberal feminism started in early ~~19~~ nineteenth century and raised the slogan for the individual identity of women and equal rights as that of men. While, radical feminism started after 1960s and they raised the issue of patriarchy. They wanted the completely new system in the society. It is viewed that the liberal feminism is considered the ~~the~~ most applied in Pakistan according to its structure of society.

## Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism took its root from the writing of **Mary Wollstonecraft** in her book **A vindication of women's rights** in which she raised the issues of women in-equality in the society.

### Prominent writings:

- Mary Wollstonecraft "A vindication of women's rights"
- John Stuart Mill "On subjection of women"
- Mary Ritterbeard "changing political economy as it affects women"

### Objectives:

#### 1. Individualism was demanded:

The objective of liberal feminism was the status of an individual citizen.

It means that women must be considered separate individual.

#### Equal Rights:

women demanded the equal rights as that of men in all the perspectives of life i.e. social, political, economical.

### 3. Right to vote:

women demanded that they constitute almost half of world population, so they must be granted the right to vote.

### Achievement:

The achievement of liberal feminists that they won the right to vote in 1893 in New Zealand, 1918 in UK and in 1920 in USA.

### Criticism on Liberal Feminism

Patriarchy was not challenged;

liberal feminists were criticised that they did not challenge the patriarchy which

is the main cause of women suppression.

2. Liberal feminism was not inclusive of all.

The definition of women by Betty Friedson involved just the white-middle class women which was not inclusive to all women.

## Radical Feminism

Started in 1960-70.

Prominent writings:

Simon De Beauvoir "The Second Sex"

Shulamith Firestone "Dialectic of Sex"

Objectives:

1. Demand to abolish the patriarchy.  
New system:

Radical feminist challenged the new patriarchy and demanded the new society, as women cannot gain their rights in male-dominant society.

## 2. Demand for reproductive rights:

Radical feminists demanded the reproductive rights. The most important among them is the right to abortion.

## 3. Challenged sex industry and Miss America event:

They challenged everything used for the ornamentation of women.

## Criticism:

### 1. Promoted separatism:

Radical feminist promoted separatism by demanding the end of male-dominant society.

2. Economic suppression of women was not addressed:

Women were doing the job of housewife free and were not paid equally in workforce. This point was not highlighted either.

Which is best applicable in Pakistan?

The situation of gender equality and status of women is very perilous. According to World Economic Forum's global Gender Index, Pakistan is ranked 142 number.

Liberal Feminism applies better to elevate women status in Pakistan:

After seeing the perilous situation of women status in Pakistan, it is important that feminist movements must be started. Liberal

feminism can be best applied due to following reasons,

### 1. Unequal rights to women:

In the 21st century, women are still not given equal rights in Pakistan. By advocating liberal feminism, it can help in advocacy of equal rights of women as men.

### 2. Vote of the women depend on the male member of family:

Women in Pakistan got their voting rights since independence. Still their vote is dependent upon the male member of the family.

### 3. Critical Analysis:

Liberal feminists are the moderate who wants to the ~~the~~ equal rights for women as to men. While, radical feminist raised the slogan of

'personal is political.' They want to change the entire society. Liberal feminism can be best applied to Pakistan due to the religious basis of country. when more radical approach cannot work.

### Conclusion:

Feminism struggles for the rights of women. Liberal feminism demand for the equality of women equal to men. While, radical feminism challenged the patriarchy. The status of women in Pakistan is in strenuous situation so liberal feminism can be applied to achieve gender equality in Pakistan.



## Q No #2

### INTRODUCTION:

The Autonomous and Integration debate is common in gender studies. Autonomous debate in gender studies means that the subject of gender studies is studied separately as an individual subject. While, integration approach is the amalgamation of the subject to another disciplines. The views of that autonomous approach helps in better focus on the individual discipline, helps in the development of professional identity of the subject, and research on the various (subject) issues related to the gender can be done.

1) Better focus on the problems of all genders:

Autonomous approach explains everything in detail and the issues of all genders i.e. men, women, gay, lesbians, transgender, got the representation. Therefore, the problems of all the gender can be solved appropriately.

2) The way towards radical tendencies:

To adapt the autonomy approach towards radical tendencies, it let the all issues to be approached radically. If integrated with another disciplines, many issues of gender may be obscured.

3) Development of professional identity:

Autonomous approach helps to develop the professional

identity of the discipline. In this way, the separate department in colleges and universities of gender studies has founded. For example, the then women studies and now gender studies has heightened from 1970s when it was a given the status of separate subject in San Diego State University in USA.

#### 4) Increase in the research culture on subjects

Due to the autonomous approach, the research on various issues studied in the disciplines of gender studies is done. It helps in further elaboration of the subject. For example, in Pakistan various women research organizations have formed after gender studies.

got the status individual discipline ✓

### 5) Furthering of feminist goals:

Furthering of feminist goals are achieved with the autonomous approach of gender studies. Various feminist goals are achieved after the separate status of gender studies. For example, the equal pay act passed, reproductive rights are given, maternity leaves are given with pay. ✓

### 6) Way to progress:

By & By integration of gender studies with other subjects can take the essence of the gender studies. So, the only way to progress is to separate the discipline from other disciplines. For example, the discipline has progressed a lot after its individual ✓

status. Many universities are offering the degrees of BS, MS, Mphil and PhD in gender studies.

### 7) Strong lobbying for the enactment of gender-related laws

Autonomous approach is helpful for providing the strong lobby in legislature for the enactment of gender-related laws. By the courtesy of this, many laws related gender and women status are passed in Pakistan. For example, the transgender Act, Maternity leaves for women etc.

### 8) Highlight the issues of women and demand for their rights:

The autonomous approach is helpful for highlighting the issues of women and the hurdles faced by them in the society. The students

of gender studies organize the committees and present them globally. For example, the case of Mukhtaran Mai was highlighted by the members of gender studies disciplines in their thesis and the issue got the global recognition. Therefore, it helps in better justice delivery.

## Conclusion:

It is concluded that autonomous approach is more fruitful for the discipline of gender studies. It helps in better focus on the discipline, the issues related to gender are highlighted better and swift justice is delivered to victims.