

Gender Studies

Q 1

Gender Studies as a discipline:

Gender studies as a discipline developed with contributions from different areas of study. Gender studies pertain to understanding and analyzing the different genders which exist within our society. Moreover gender studies as a discipline evolved through inputs from sociology, anthropology, human behaviour, psychology, etc. It is an important discipline with regard to understanding how gender behavior and struggles to obtain gender equality evolve overtime.

The background of Gender Studies with special reference to its evolution in Pakistan:

The background of Gender Studies encompasses the role of Women Studies, Feminism, and sociology in developing Gender Studies as an area of study. Gender Studies mostly developed during the late 18th century to the late 20th century, which is known as the modernist era.

Gender Studies evolved as a subject in Pakistan mainly through the feminist movements and sociological

changes taking place in the Western world - The first, second, and third waves of feminism which were first experienced in the Western countries had their influences in Pakistan.

During the first wave of feminism, Pakistan had not been created - While during the second wave, Pakistan was on the map of the world, gender studies and gender issues were not widely talked about in the country. Lastly, during the third wave of feminism, which is still going on, gender studies as an area of study developed substantially.

Recently, interest in Gender Studies has increased in Pakistan. Issues such as gender-based violence are widely talked about in the country in the present times. Gender Studies has also become a course of study at the Beaconhouse University in Pakistan. It is for the first time that Gender Studies would be ^{taught} talked about as a subject in a Pakistani university.

Hence, the above-mentioned analysis shows that Gender Studies is emerging as a serious area of study in Pakistan. The Pakistanis are keen to talk about gender-related issues.

Q.2

Autonomous debate in gender studies

The autonomous debate in gender studies holds that gender studies as an area of study exists on its own and does not necessarily requires input from other areas of study. The autonomous debate also posits that gender studies as a subject could grow and evolve on its own without any external help. Lastly it claims that gender studies has a worth and merit of its own and has its own distinct place in the field of academics.

Integrationist's School of thought

The integrationist's school of thought holds that Gender Studies as an area of study has evolved through the integration of different subjects within it. Be it psychology, sociology, anthropology, or any other humanities, all have contributed to the creation of Gender Studies as a subject. Thus this school of thought posits that gender studies cannot evolve

a grow on its own, but rather requires inputs and contributions from different areas of studies to do so.

How the Autonomist debate in gender studies holds comparatively stronger views than the integrationist's school of thought.

The autonomist debate in gender studies holds comparatively stronger views than the integrationist's school of thought through its argument that gender studies as a subject has evolved on its own merits, through the gender-based and sociological changes taking place around us.

The autonomist debate assertively states that Gender Studies can exist as a subject on its own and that it should be taken as a serious area of study.

The integrationist's views pale in comparison to the autonomist view. This is so due to the unjustified assertions of the integrationist's view that without the existence of several other areas of study first, Gender Studies cannot exist. The autonomist view triumphs, as Gender Studies very well can exist on its own.

Q 5

Women Vulnerabilities in the Contemporary Societies in the light of Modernisation theory

women vulnerabilities in the contemporary societies in the light of modernization theory depict that women suffer in the modern set up they find themselves in. As more and more women are heading out to work and become more financially independent, their vulnerabilities are increasing. There is the vulnerability of not being taken seriously, of not being assigned important work, and of being mistreated.

In the modern society, women also face the vulnerabilities of 'double shifts' that is working a job and also looking after the house. This places double burden on the women who choose to work.

Women vulnerabilities in the Light of Dependency theory

In the light of Dependency theory, women vulnerabilities are exposed in the manner in which uneducated and economically compromised women have

to seek help from others, usually their fathers, brothers, or husbands. This creates a dependency of women on their benefactors. Women who do not have an agency or any sort of power or authority are exceedingly dependent on others, especially a male. This takes away women's freedom to do as they wish based on their knowledge and education.

The way forward to revamp women status globally

Women status globally can be revamped through creating awareness about the issues which women face with regards to making space for themselves in a male dominated society.

Women status would also improve by providing them with an education, and giving them economic opportunities and more space to participate in the work force. Women should also be made part of the mainstream and their concerns and problems must be effectively addressed. This will help revamp women status globally.

Q.7

Different theories of Gender Based Violence:

The patriarchal theory of gender based violence posits that gender based violence exists as a result of the patriarchal structure of our society. Within this structure, males tend to dominate females and impose their will on them. This at times, gets out of control and leads to gender-based violence.

The religious theory of gender based violence is a result of extreme and rigid interpretation of religious text based on which suppression of women takes place. Conservative religions be it Islam or Christianity bestow equal rights on men and women. However, somehow, due to misinterpretation of religious text, gender based violence takes place and harms the society.

Forms of violence prevalent in Pakistan

Honour killing: Honour killing is a common occurrence in Pakistan. Women are

frequently killed in the name of honour in the country.

Rape: marital or extra-marital rape both are common occurrences in Pakistan. There have been many incidents in the country where gang rape had been carried out.

Acid attacks: acid attacks are a frequent occurrence in Pakistan. Women are forced to become acid victims.

Domestic violence: domestic violence is also a commonly experienced problem in Pakistan where husbands beat and torture their wives.

How it can be eradicated?

- ⇒ The violence could be eradicated through effective policy making.
- ⇒ It could be eradicated through creating awareness about this kind of violence.
- ⇒ A proper redressal mechanism could also help eradicate the problem.
- ⇒ Education can also help eradicate the issue of violence.
- ⇒ Gender mainstreaming can put an end to violence.