

Day: Friday

Date: 12-12

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Batch 83 (41203)

Mock Exam (1*)

Gender Studies

Q NO.2

Describe Gender studies as a Discipline. Also, trace the background of Gender Studies with special reference to its evolution in Pakistan.

a Introduction:

Gender studies is an interdisciplinary field

that examines gender roles, power relations and inequalities in society. It goes beyond biological differences to explore social, cultural, political and economic dimensions of gender. Its main aim is to promote gender justice and equality.

b Interdisciplinary:

Draws from Sociology, psychology, political science and literature.

c Focus on Inequality:

Highlights systemic discrimination and power imbalances.

d Analytical Perspective:

Day: _____

Challenges patriarchy, stereotypes and gender-based norms.

e Applied Aspect: Provides insights for policy-making and social reforms.

f Background and Evolution

Global Origins:

Emerged in the 1960s-70s with 2nd wave feminism, focusing on women's rights and equality.

Later expanded to include intersectionality, queer theory and masculinity studies.

Evolution in Pakistan

1970s - 80s: Influence of global feminist ideas, NGOs worked on women's education and rights.

1990s - 2000s: Establishment of women's studies Centers in Universities (e.g. Quaid-i-Azam Uni.)

2000s - present **Psychology** and Sociology departments introduced Gender studies courses, Beaconhouse National University was a pioneer.

Current Trends: Focus on intersectionality, LGBTQ+ rights, gender based violence economic empowerment and Climate Vulnerability.

h Conclusion

Gender Studies is both academic and

activist-Oriented, providing tools to understand, challenge and reform gender inequalities. In Pakistan, it has evolved from global feminist influences to institutionalized courses, research centers, and policy initiatives contributing to awareness and social change.

Q: NO. 3

"Feminism in the 21st Century needs to address the concerns of all genders and sexual orientations". Discuss

a Introduction

Feminism today has expanded beyond the traditional focus on women's rights to a more inclusive approach, addressing the concerns of all genders and sexual Orientations.

Modern feminist movements recognize that gender inequality intersects with sexuality, Class, Race, and other social factors requiring broader perspectives.

b Intersectionality:

Coined by Kimberle' Crenshaw intersectionality emphasizes how multiple forms of oppression overlap, Example

Women of different ethnicities, classes or sexual orientations face unique collages.

Modern feminism addresses marginalized groups not just cisgender women.

c Queer and LGBTQ

+ inclusion:

Contemporary movements actively advocate for LGBTQ + rights, challenging rigid gender binaries.

Recognizes that gender identity and sexual orientation are diverse and socially constructed.

d Men and Masculinity:

21st century feminism engages men to challenge toxic masculinity and promote gender equality.

Hegemonic masculinity is questioned to create more equitable social structures.

Global and Digital

Feminism

Feminist movements leverage social media digital campaigns and global networks to address issues like gender-based violence pay inequality and reproductive rights.

Transnational feminism links global struggles, ensuring inclusivity across borders.

f Policy and Legal Advocacy

Focus on laws and **policies** that protect all genders and sexual orientations,

Example: anti-discrimination
anti-violence legislation
and marriage equality.

g Conclusion

21st Century
feminism is no longer
limited to women's
issues alone. It seeks
to include all genders
and sexual orientations,
recognizing intersectional
oppression and the
diversity of lived

experiences. Contemporary feminist movements in both global and Pakistan contexts reflects this inclusive holistic approach promoting equality justice and human rights for all.

Q.No: 4

Gender is a socially constructed phenomenon. Discuss in the light of theories of social construction of gender.

a Introduction:

Gender is not merely a biological reality but a socially

Constructed phenomenon
shaped by cultural norms
social practices and
institutional expectations.
While sex refers to
biological attributes gender
reflects the roles behaviors
and identities that
societies assign to
individuals. Several theories
explain how gender is
constructed and maintained
through social processes.

b Social Constructionism

Social constructionist
theorists argue that gender
is created through social
interaction language
and cultural meanings.
Society defines what

is masculine and feminine.

These meanings vary across cultures, and historical periods, proving that gender is not fixed but socially produced.

c Simone de Beauvoir's Theory

Simone de Beauvoir argued that

"One is not born, but becomes a woman".

Gender identity develops through socialization not biology.

Institutions such as family, religion and education teach women submissive roles while encouraging men

toward authority and independence.

d Judith Butler's Theory of performativity

Judith Butler claimed that gender is performative. Gender is created through repeated acts, behaviors, and performances expected by society.

There is no essential or natural gender instead, gender exists because people continuously "perform" it.

Examples:

(dress, speech, mannerisms)

2 Social Learning Theory (Bandura)

According to social learning
Theory:

Children learn gender
roles through observation,
imitation, and reinforcement.
Parents, teachers and
media encourage gender-
appropriate behavior,
shaping individuals into
masculine or feminine roles.

3 Gender Schema Theory (Bem)

Sandra Bem argued that
societies that create

Day: _____

Date: _____

gender schemas - mental frameworks about what men and women should be. People internalize these schemas and judge themselves and others according to cultural expectations. These schemas reinforce stereotypes and maintain gender differences.

9 Functionalist Perspective

Functionalists argue that gender roles were socially constructed to maintain social order.

Women were assigned roles (caregiving). Though now

outdated,

this theory shows how society assigns roles for perceived stability.

Men were assigned instrumental roles (breadwinning)

h Conclusion:

The theories collectively show that gender is not biologically determined but culturally produced, socially reinforced and historically variable.

Gender roles exist because societies, create, teach, and reproduce them across generations.

Understanding gender as a social construction helps challenge stereotypes and promote equality.



Q NO. 5 Critically analyze the women vulnerability in the contemporary societies in the light of Modernization and Dependency theories.

a Introduction

Despite global progress, women in many societies continue to face structural vulnerabilities in economic, political and **social** spheres. Modernization Theory and Dependency Theory offer contrasting lenses to understand why these vulnerabilities persist in both developed

and developing contexts.

Women's Vulnerabilities Through Modernization Theory

Modernization Theory argues that societies progress from traditional to modern stages through industrialization, education, and rationalization. Yet women face vulnerabilities because this progress is uneven and selective.

C Persistence of Patriarchal Norms

Even as societies modernize,
Patriarchal structures

remain embedded in culture, limiting women's mobility, autonomy, and decision-making.

d Unequal Access to Education & Technology

Modern sectors often prioritize skilled labor, while women especially in developing states, lack equal access to education, digital literacy, and employment opportunities.

e Gendered Labour Segregation

Modernization expands the

service and industrial sectors
but women are often pushed
into low-paid, informal or
care-based work due to
modern yet gendered job
markets

! Exclusion from Political Modernity

Despite democratization
women's political representation
remains low, reflecting a gap
between modern institutions
and traditional gender
attitudes.

Women's Vulnerabilities

Through Dependency Theory

Dependency theory argues that inequalities between the Global North and South reproduce underdevelopment. These global power structures deepen women's vulnerabilities.

g Global Economic

Exploitation of Female Labour.

Multinational Corporations rely heavily on cheap female labour in textiles, agriculture and electronics, reinforcing economic dependency and exploitation.

h Feminization of Poverty

Unequal global wealth distribution coupled with structural adjustment policies (SAPs) increases poverty risks for women, reducing access to healthcare, land and social protection.

ii Cultural Dependency

Global media flows often reproduce stereotypical images of women, shaping local gender attitudes and consumer cultures that commodify women.

i Migration & Trafficking Risks

Economic dependency fuels

labour migration making women more vulnerable to trafficking, domestic servitude, and exploitation under global capitalist systems.

* Critical Analysis

Both theories reveal structural factors behind women's vulnerabilities yet both have limitations.

& Modernization Theory:

Assumes linear progress but ignores local cultural realities and persistent patriarchy.

↳ Dependency Theory:

highlights global inequalities

but underplays internal gender discrimination and agency within developing states. Thus contemporary vulnerabilities emerge from both internal patriarchal structures and global capitalist system.

Revamping Women's Status Globally

Gender Responsive Economic Policies

Introduce equal pay laws
women friendly tax policies
property rights and childcare support to bridge economic gaps.

(i)

Invest in Girls

Education

Education and technological inclusion can break inter-generational cycles of poverty and dependency.

(ii)

Strengthen Labour Protections

Ensures safe workplaces, maternity benefits and protection from exploitation in global supply chains.

(iv)

Support Political

Representations

Gender quotas, leadership training and political mainstreaming can integrate women's voices into policymaking.

(v) Reform Global Economic Structures

Fair trade frameworks, ethical sourcing and international conventions can reduce the exploitative aspects of global capitalism.

(vi) Social Norms Transformation

Media literacy, community programmes and men's engagement are essential to dismantle patriarchy at the cultural level.

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Conclusion

Women's **Vulnerabilities** today stem from the intersection of internal patriarchal systems and unequal global economic structures. Modernization and Dependency theories together provide a holistic understanding of these challenges.

Revamping women's status globally requires structural reforms socio economic empowerment. and a shift in global and local power relations to ensure equality, dignity and inclusive development