

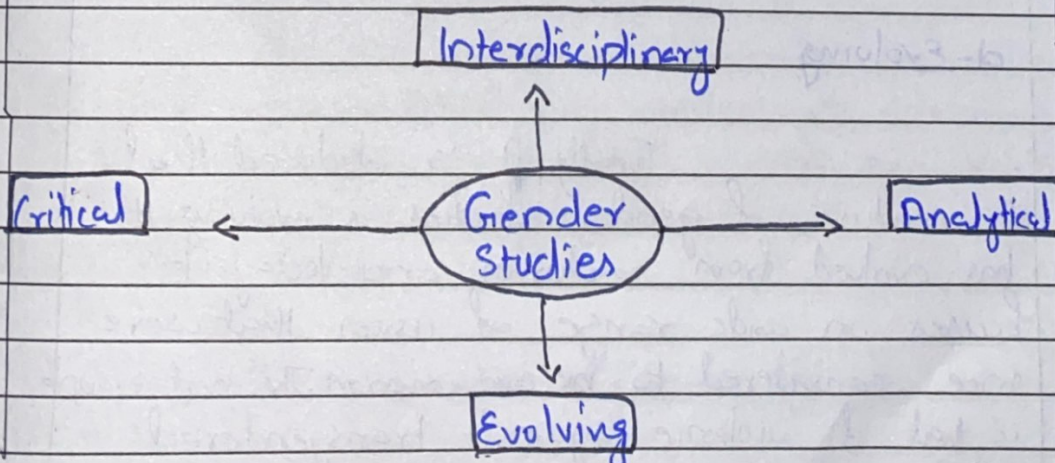
Gender StudiesQ2

(1)

Introduction

The field of women studies that emerged to cater and give voice to needs of women evolved overtime. The transition from a single gender focus to a broad gendered system came with better understanding of needs and challenges. The discipline of gender studies in nature is interdisciplinary, analytical, evolving focusing power dynamics and social construction of gender. Moreover, the field of gender studies emerged from centuries of struggles beginning from French Revolution in 18th century till the recent developments of 21st century. The struggle for uplifting of women began after independence in Pakistan with the formation of Women's Relief Committee by mother of the nation.

(II)

Understanding Gender Studies as a Discipline

a- Interdisciplinary

The nature of gender studies is interdisciplinary. It takes and combines knowledge from history, law, literature, politics, psychology and medical. This nature broadens the knowledge base of gender studies making it a vital field of study.

b- Analytical

Moreover, gender studies is analytical in nature. It analyzed real time information, merge it with with past realities and deduce a balanced solution to all the problems faced with genders.

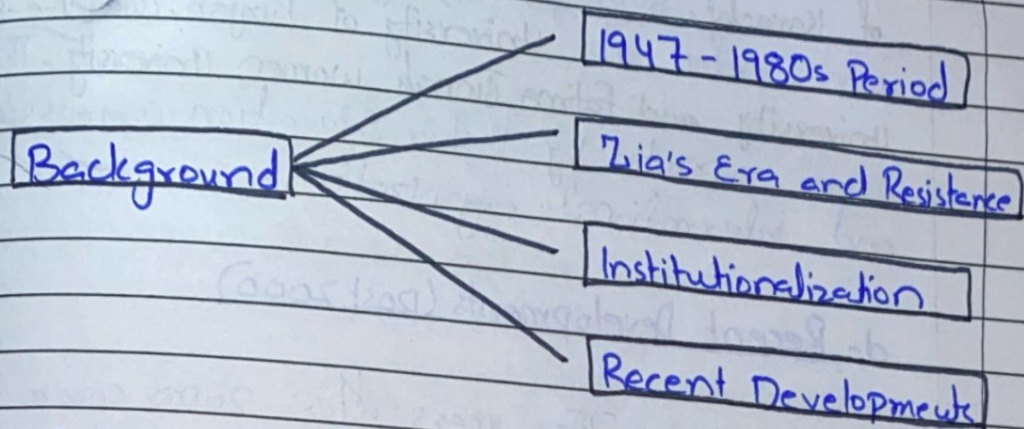
c- Critical

Furthermore, gender studies is critical in nature. It challenges all the myths and false beliefs constructed by society. It also focuses on violence against genders, their deprivation from employment and their restriction created by society.

d- Evolving

Finally, it is deduced that the nature of gender studies is evolving. It has evolved from centuries and today it focuses on wide range of issues that were once considered to be a norm. The best example is that of violence against transgendered people.

Background of Gender Studies with Reference to Pakistan ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾



a- 1947-1980s Period

Post independence, women did not face such restriction as faced in the latter period. The first instance of efforts for protection of women was formation of Women's Relief Committee by Fatima Jinnah. The period further marked with creation of All Pakistan Women Association in 1949. This intensified the debate for increasing women institutions and work.

b- Zia's Era and Resistance

The period post 1979 is marked with repression against women. Zia to strengthen his rule adopted policies of Islamization. For instance, Hudood Ordinance (1979). This marked with establishment of Women's Action Forum (WAF) in 1981, this established for formation of mobilizing women and advocating gender equality.

c- Institutionalization of Gender Studies

The period of 1990s marked.

with the establishment of Centre of Excellence for Women's Studies in 1989 in University of Karachi. Subsequently, gender studies departments were setup at University of Punjab, Quaid-e-Azam University and Fatima Jinnah Women University. These were supported by Higher Education Commission and international organizations.

d- Recent Developments (past 2000)

The years after 2000 came with acceptance of legitimacy of women's issues and is marked with creation of women protection laws. This approach was after Pakistan ratified Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1996. The laws enacted were Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996, Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010, Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021. These are some developments result of longstanding efforts of women.

(IV)

Conclusion

The field of gender studies has not just been a common field but a torch bearer for rights protection for all classes. Pakistan's history with women struggles is marked with ups and downs however, with continuous struggle, the activists have been successful in achieving rights for women. Gender studies as a discipline is a vast field with its inter-disciplinary nature, evolving characteristic, and the

quality of analytical and critical approach to address the challenges.

Q4:-

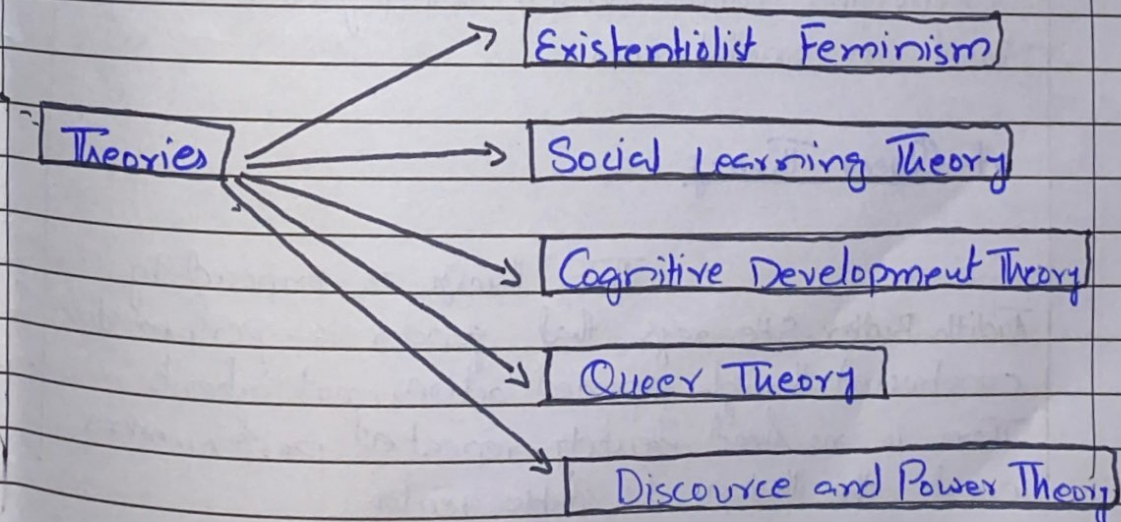
(1)

Introduction

The society is believed to be evolved from equality to patriarchy. The role of women with passage of time has changed. With emergence of industrial revolution, women have been pushed into shadows as only male were preferred for roles in factories. This was result of belief that women are weak, emotional and can not handle difficult tasks. These ideas inspired great thinkers like Judith Butler, Mary Wollstonecraft and Simon de Beauvoir to challenge these claims. It was then clarified by their struggle that, 'Gender is a social construction'

(1)

Theories of Social Construction of Gender



a- Existentialist Feminism

The proponent of this theory is Simon de Beauvoir, she is of the view that, "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman." It means that gender is a product of socialization and cultural expectations. One is forced by society to adopt roles of a man or woman.

b- Social Learning Theory

This theory proposed that gender roles are learned through reinforcement, punishment and ~~imitation~~ imitation. It is role of family, peers, school and media that reinforce the roles. The proponents of this are Albert Bandura and Walter Mischel. As stated, "Most human behavior is learned observationally through modeling." the words Bandura speaks for theory itself.

c- Cognitive Development Theory

"The child actively organizes his world: as stated by Lawrence Kohlberg, this theory suggests that children actively develop gender identity based on societal cues.

d- Queer Theory

This theory is proposed by Judith Butler. She says that gender is performative, constructed through repeated actions, not inherit. There is no fixed identity, repeated performances create the illusion of stable gender.

e- Discourse and Power Theory

This theory proposes that gender norms are created through discourses of power, institutions and suppress women. The proponent of this theory is Michel Foucault. His famous words are, 'Power produces knowledge and shapes bodies'.

(iii)

Critical Analysis

Theories of different thinkers proved to be essential in disclosing the way society is entrenched in delegating genders and specifying norms. However, it ignores biological essentialism, failed to discuss intersectionality and none of it critiqued colonialism.

(iv)

Conclusion

Gender as a social construction is a debate which took a lot of efforts. Different thinkers played their role in building these ideas, they include, Michel Foucault, Lawrence Kohlberg, Simon de Beauvoir and Judith Butler. Their theories like power and discourse, Queer Theory, existentialist feminism and cognitive development theory helped to shape the true idea of gender being a social construction.

x

x

Q8.

1- Gender and Globalization

Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness of economies, cultures, societies worldwide. It affects gender relations by influencing labor, culture, migration and social norms. Gender and globalization explore how global processes impact men and women differently, often reinforcing existing inequalities while also creating new opportunities. This has several impacts ranging from economic, cultural and political.

a- Economic Impact

Global labor markets exploit women as cheap labor in export oriented industries.

b- Cultural Impact

Global media spreads ideas of gender equality, modernity, and feminist thought. However, it may also impose western ideas of gender eroding local cultures.

c- Political Impact

Globalization encourages transnational feminist movements and networks, promoting rights, education and advocacy.

Globalization is a double edged sword for gender; it can create opportunities for employment and empowerment and on other hand can deepen inequalities and exploit gendered labor division.

II- Psychoanalytical Feminism

It applies psychoanalytical theories to understand gender identity, sexuality and social roles. It examines how unconscious desires, family dynamics, and early childhood experiences shape gendered behavior and societal expectations. The key concepts of this are

a- Freudian Influence

Sigmund Freud's ideas of Oedipus complex influence the formation of gender identity.

b- Nancy Chodorow

She examined mothering and early childhood attachment. She argued that gendered personalities arise from family structures, women internalize nurturing roles, men develop separation and autonomy.

Psychoanalytical feminism bridges psychology and social critique, showing that gender is not only socially constructed but also rooted in unconscious processes and family dynamics.

✕ ————— ✕
(THE END)