

Gender Mock 1.

Q5(i) Women Vulnerabilities in Contemporary Societies

Introduction:

Modernization theory and dependency theory offer contrasting lens to explain why women remain vulnerable in contemporary societies. A critical comparison exposes how structural transformations and global power relations shape gendered insecurity and points to integrated policy responses.

Modernization Theory: Promises and blind spots.

Modernization theorists such as Walt Rostow and Daniel Lerner argued that economic growth, urbanization, education, and rational institutions produce social progress and gender equality. In practice, however, modernization often produces ambivalent outcomes for women. Economic growth can expand female labour force participation yet simultaneously intensify ~~and~~ unpaid care burdens, entrench precarious work, and privilege formal sector gains in contexts where social platforms

social protections are weak. Scholars have documented that political and cultural incentives, not economic change alone, determine gains in women rights, making modernization an insufficient guarantee of gender justice.

Dependency theory: Structural constraints on gender equity:

Dependency theorists including Andre Gunder Frank and Immanuel Wallerstein emphasize asymmetric core peripheral and marginalized communities face compounded vulnerabilities because global integration channels women into low paid export oriented labor, informal markets, and subsistence roles while the state lacks capacity to redistribute benefits or deliver gender responsive services. Dependency analysis thus locates gender inequality in unequal global structures rather than cultural lag alone.

Manifest vulnerabilities:

Contemporary evidence shows multiple, intersecting risks. Economic exclusion persists through pay gaps and limited access to productive assets. Violence including conflict related sexual

violence and rising digital abuse silences women in public life. Unequal care responsibilities restrict education and employment opportunities. Climate change and resource competition further push women into food insecurity and displacement. These patterns are documented in recent VN Women reports and global gender snapshots.

The way forward:

First, adopt universal gender responsive social protection and public care infrastructure to redistribute unpaid labor and stabilize incomes. Second, enact and enforce comprehensive legal protections against gender based violence including online abuse, paired with accountability for platform harms. Third, pursue gender sensitive economic policies including land rights, access to finance, and gender budgeting to correct market failures highlighted by both theories. Fourth, apply intersectional policy design drawing on Kimberlé Crenshaw and Naila Kabeer to ensure interventions reach multiply marginalized women rather than only those who are relatively advantaged. Finally, combine

domestic redistribution with international reforms that mitigate exploitative trade and investment practices so peripheral states can finance gender equality.

Conclusion:

Modernization offers useful mechanisms for change while dependency theory warns against assuming benefits will trickle down. A pragmatic synthesis centers social protections, legal enforcement, intersectional targeting, and global economic reforms to transform structural conditions that perpetuate women vulnerabilities.

Q2(ii) Gender Studies as a Discipline.

Introduction:

Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that examines how societies construct, regulate and negotiate gender roles, identities, and power relations. It analyzes gender not as a biological fact but as a socially produced system that shapes opportunities, institutions, and everyday interactions.

Origin of the Discipline :

The roots of gender studies lie in the global feminist movement of the late 20th century. The second wave of feminism of the 1960's and 1970's, led by scholars such as Simone de Beauvoir and Betty Friedan, challenged patriarchal structures within the family, workplace, and state. Academic programs first emerged in universities in North America and Western Europe initially under the name of Women Studies. The publication of Simone De Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* and Kate Millett's *Sexual Politics* provided the intellectual foundation for theorizing women experiences as political and structural rather than private matters.

Evolution into an Interdisciplinary Field:

By the 1980's the discipline began to expand beyond women issues and incorporated studies of men, masculinities, and gender identities. Influential scholars such as Judith Butler, bell hooks, and Raewyn Connell argued that gender is performative, relational and continually reproduced through

social norms. Post colonial studies theorists including Chandra Mohanty and Gayatri Spivak highlighted how gender intersects with class, race, colonial histories, and global inequalities. This broadened scope transformed women studies into what is now widely recognized as Gender Studies. This field now draws from sociology, anthropology, political science, literature, history, psychology, and law to build a holistic understanding of gender systems.

Gender Studies in Contemporary World:

Today Gender Studies is a global discipline that investigates issues such as gender based violence, economic disparities, representation in media, reproductive rights, and the impact of globalization on gender relations. It also examines emerging debates on identity, digital culture, and workplace equity.

International institutions such as the United Nations frequently rely on gender experts for policy formulation. Gender Studies thus equips scholars and practitioners with analytical tools to address the persistent inequalities that shape contemporary societies and to advocate for

inclusive and equitable social transformation

Evolution of Gender Studies in Pakistan timeline:

Women Development Division (1989)
(five year Project)
(Project Name: Women's Studies
Centres)

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National Curriculum Revision Committee
(NCRC)'s Recommendation (1989)

↓
Included in CSS/PCS exams

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Establishment of Centre of Excellence
for Women's Studies (CEWS) 1989

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First MA in Women Studies
in Pakistan → University of Karachi
(1996)

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2002 → M.Phil, Ph.D programmes
introduced

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2004 → Discipline of Women Studies
introduced in First Year (Hons) courses

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2007 → 4 Year Programme was launched

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2010 → MA (Evening Program also started) in Gender Studies.

Q8 (iii) Write note on following

(i) Gender and Globalization.

Introduction :

Gender and globalization examine how global economic, political, and cultural forces reshape gender roles, opportunities, and inequalities in contemporary societies. As markets integrate and communication expands, women and men experience new forms of mobility, employment, and cultural exposure. Yet globalization also reproduces structural hierarchies that disproportionately burden women, especially in developing regions.

Opportunities Created by Globalization:

Globalization has expanded women access to education, technology, and employment. Scholars such as Saskia Sassen and Naila Kabeer emphasize that global markets, digital platforms,

and transnational networks create new avenues for work, from export processing zone to online entrepreneurship. These shifts enable financial autonomy and greater public participation for many women.

Persistent Gendered Vulnerabilities

Despite these gains, globalisation intensifies existing inequalities. Lourdes Benaviz notes that women are overrepresented in low wage, insecure, and informal sectors within global supply chains. The feminization of labour reflects how multinational industries benefit from cheaper female workforces. Additionally, global migration patterns expose women to exploitation, trafficking, and limited legal rights.

Cultural Transformations and Backlash

Cultural globalization spreads new ideas about gender equality through media and global feminist movements. While this raises awareness, it can provoke backlash in conservative societies.

where traditional norms remain entrenched. Moreover, international economic governance remains male dominated, limiting women influence on global policy agendas.

Conclusion :

Gender and globalisation illustrate a dual reality: expanding opportunities alongside persistent vulnerabilities. Closing this gap requires gender responsive economic reforms, stronger labor protections, and inclusive global governance.