

Mock Exams for CSS-2026

Gender Studies - Part II

Batch: 405

LMS ID: 40389

Question No. : 2

• Gender Studies as a Discipline:

1. Introduction:

Gender studies is the study of interdisciplinary fields and how the gender is affected by social, political and economic means. It analyses how gender is constructed and perceived and the inequalities and injustice faced by it. This subject stemmed out of a narrow subject that is women studies and deals with all kinds of genders that include transgender, lesbians, gays and asexuals as well.

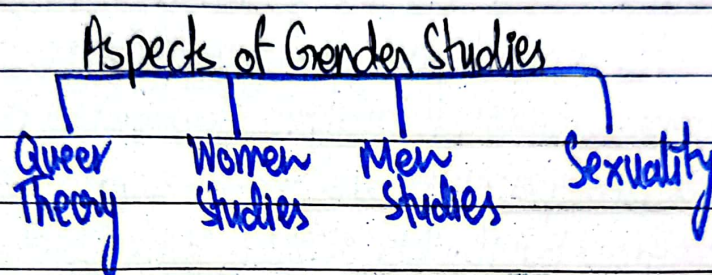
2. Evolution from Women Studies:

Gender studies evolved from women studies where focus was particularly on one gender only i.e. Female. It started after Women's Liberation Movement or the Second Wave Feminism. Later, binary gender divide was criticised by later feminists and a new subject was made that holistically covered all aspects. Queer theory and introduction of sexuality gave rise to Gender studies with 3rd wave feminism in 1990s. The major inspirations were. Second sex by Simone de Beauvoir and Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan.

3- Interdisciplinary Nature:

There is an infusion of various subjects such as sociology, psychology, law, anthropology and biology as well that aids in analysing the study of gender.

Moreover, with different research and analytical tools, the social construct of gender is assessed. Also, with modern methodologies and surveys, gender is studied.

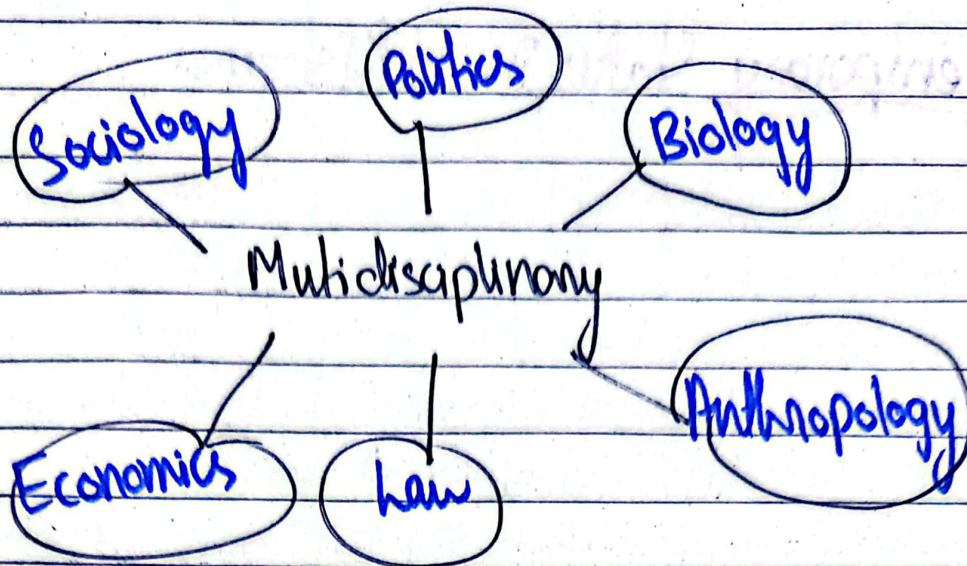


4- Historical Background of Gender Studies:

Gender Studies initiated from Women's Liberation Movement in 1960s from a narrower perspective Women Studies. With National Women's Studies Association in 1977, it gained more influence.

Then, UN Conventions and CEDAW also contributed in evolution of Gender Studies. Afterwards, the nature vs. nurture debate also questioned the status of Gender studies being a social construct or not.

Women were considered subjugated to men in a patriarchal society. Hence, after the evolution of Women studies, then women and other genders also suffered because of fixed binary gender, from there gender studies came into light.



5. Evolution in Pakistan:

① Historical Roots:

The early developments in Gender Studies emanated from women's movements like APWA and WAF.

In 1989, Ministry for Women Development was created and then in various universities, gender and women studies was properly initiated as a discipline.

Later it faced a backlash in Zia-era and its Islamisation where laws like Hudood Ordinance did great damage to Gender Studies as a whole. Moreover, with 2006 Protection of Women Rights Acts and subsequent developments helped it gain the lost influence.

PAWS, 1991 has also been actively working since its inception and encouraged various universities in Pakistan to offer gender studies as a subject. Moreover, it laid an impact on National Gender Policy (2002).

→ Contemporary Status in Pakistan:

With recent developments in Gender Studies, it has also ignited feminist Movements in Pakistan.

It has largely increased the feminist digital activism and various movements have started.

Moreover, to study Gender-Based violence and eradicate its deep-rooted impacts, laws and acts like 'Women Protection from Workplace harassment and Aid-Victim of Women Act' have been

passed. It has also helped to increase women political representation and enhanced reserved quota seats and representative in Parliament — as well as in bureaucracy and other administrative units as well.

→ Recent Challenges:

Patriarchal resistance is still present and it affects the overall decision-making and law-making powers.

Pakistan still faces the plight of women and its solutions are yet to be found. Furthermore,

political and economic backlash has further prevented the status of gender studies to be

uplifted and it has caused a great chaos to the country as well. Gender studies should be made more

common and accessible and its status should be revived as well. Gender studies is a multidisciplinary

field and it links each aspect of Pakistan's development as well.

Question No. 4

I. Introduction: Gender: Socially Constructed Phenomenon

Gender is a socially constructed role and is different from biological sex assigned at the time of birth. It develops gradually within the society due to frequent socialization and environmental factors that reflect upon the personality of humans. Various social norms and institutes are responsible for the construction of gender and assigning distinct roles to each sex. It is a fluid and dynamic concepts which is not static and rigid since birth like sex.

II. Social Construction of Gender:

The gender itself and its roles emanates from the influence and pressure of society. It is the society that dictates the distinctness between masculinity and femininity. Even, the language is gendered by the society for each sex. So, the biological genitalia is called as sex and gender is an abstract socially engineered that is irrelevant of biological constraints.

"One is not born but becomes a woman"

~ Simon De Beauvoir

Generally, it is the power relations and hierarchical setup of a society that shapes gender roles and it varies from society to society.

III Theoretical Perspectives of Gender as Socially Constructed:

A) Gender Performativity:

This theory was laid out by Judith Butler and it reflected upon the idea that gender is based on actions and repeated behaviour.

"Gender is not something one is, it is something one does - an act" ~ Judith Butler

It is socially made as when a particular performs according a certain way, the society associates gender roles to it. Hence, it is a concept that is regarded as fluid and dynamic by Butler. She emphasises that there is no fixed essence of gender and no such thing as gender binary exists.

B) Social Learning theory:

It is given by Albert Bandura that reflects on the idea that gender roles are taught to and learned by children through observation and imitation. For instance:

Boys → Assertive

Girls → Soft-spoken & Gentle

Hence, gender is not a biological process but it is more of a sociological process that is learned by people gradually.

Society shapes the overall perceptions of genders and are rigid in regard of assigning rigidity to it.

c) Psychoanalytic Theory:

It was given by Freud and Chodorow that gender is a result of childhood experiences and affiliation with parents. For instance, baby boys are naturally inclined towards mothers but gradually, they are separated from them and expected to imitate their fathers. It helps in shaping their personality like them. It is firstly learned by the family structure and then society further contributes in reshaping and making it prominent and rigid.

"There is no differentiation between sexes at birth. Psychosexual personality is therefore postnatal and learned"

d) Postmodern and Queer Theories:

It also debated about the socially-constructed gender and rejected the gender-binary stereotype concepts. Moreover, language is also constructed for instance: "Man is mortal" or "Mankind is", there associated roles to men and women distinctively. It critiques hegemonic masculinity and heterosexuality as it is considered the normal. In this view, gender to be rejected as binary and heterosexual is wrong and they emphasis on homosexuality as becoming the normative fact as well.

IV Mechanisms of Gender-Construction:

① Family and Education:

It plays a crucial role in assigning gender roles and relating them to male and female through their social norms.

② Media and Culture

It also influences with more emphasis of Public-Private Dichotomy and reflects on distinctness among gender roles.

③ Economic and Political Structures:

It is patriarchal too as after capitalism, the males were assigned with paid works and women were just confined within houses. Wage gaps and women confined with lower classes are also an evidence of it.

Conclusion:

Gender role varies from society to society and is influenced by social construction. It is not something that is fixed from birth but it continuously changes and keeps on evolving with new changes. It is constructed through pressure groups like media and civil society. Moreover, psychological and politicoeconomic factors also influence them and they are more and more dynamic as with changing world order. Many theorists have presented their viewpoints and illustrated how society plays a pivotal role in construction of binary gender and its roles specified to them.

Question No.: 6

I. Introduction: Gender Roles and Climate-Induced Vulnerabilities:

Climate change has immense impacts on gender roles as well. It affects men and women differently and women are more vulnerable than men due to various reasons which include double burden, low access to resources, home displacement and lack of empowerment being remain exclusive from decision-making processes too.

II. Vulnerabilities during disasters:

A) High mortality Rates for Women:

Women being confined within private spheres are more prone to be damaged in disasters as in earthquakes and floods, they have little capacity of mobility over men. Various women get stuck up in houses and it leads to their silent death.

B) Food Security burden and Crisis:

They have to bear the burden of starvation and food scarcity along with their feeding infants. This overburdens them and they are left prone to long-term health crisis.

C) Gender-Based Violence and Rape Victims:

In various climate-induced disasters, many victims of rape are also one of women's major problem. It also causes violence upon them as they are already

in a deprived state.

D) Unemployment from Informal Works:

Their informal roles also lose its importance when agricultural fields are wiped off by floods or when small-scale home industries are damaged by climate change.

E) Early Marriages in Rural areas due to poverty:

Due to natural disasters, poverty and crisis hit the rural areas more than their urban counterparts.

Especially in slum areas, women face displacement issues and their normal lives are disturbed. As a result, young girls are often put to early marriages.

→ Case Studies: Pakistan Flood 2022

In 2022 flood, around 1700 people were killed and millions were displaced making it one of the biggest disasters in decades. Around 70% women and children were affected. Many women faced maternal health crisis and they suffered a lot.

Also in South Asian regions, the modesty norms restrict women to interact with rescue team leaving them suffering to death. Moreover, there is lack of resources and transport directly for women which causes a lot of harm.

→ Intersection with Rural Urban Class Divide:

① Rural vs. Urban Women:

The rural lowerclass women are the most marginalised group that suffers the most. The lower-middle class

urban women are although subjugated or marginalised than upper-class elite urban women but the lower rural class are below all of them. They lack the basic necessities of life and resources and suffer a lot. Moreover, there is more crime and gender-based violence in law-deprived areas with less security checks. They also lack early warning systems and evacuation plans resulting in higher mortality rates.

→ Way Forward:

A) Gender-Responsive Climate Governance:

There should be women-inclusive policies and decisions that should favour both and they should be subtly-responsive.

B) Early Warning and Infrastructure:

Women-centered evacuation plans must be made keeping in view the rural areas women as well.

C) Better Resource Access and Management:

Post-disaster measures should also be ensured with proper health-care focus on women in underprivileged areas.

D) Reducing Class-Based Inequalities:

Social protection such as BISP must be given to eradicate inequalities and the climate-vulnerable should be given better incentives.

Question - 8

i) Gender and Globalization:

Globalization is a double-edged sword for gender and its impacts are both positive as well as negative. Following are the impacts but before, the term globalization must be decoded:

Globalisation refers to increased interconnectivity of politics, economics and cultural and social aspects in the world.

It has affected genders differently and has expanded opportunities for women particularly as well as intensified the vulnerabilities too.

→ Positive Impacts:

- 1) Increased economic opportunities
With multinational companies and global IT networks, the door of new opportunities have increased owing benefits to both the genders and others.
- 2) Higher access to Education
With international scholarships, education has widened its scope. Moreover, Gender Studies is now a well-known subject.
- 3) Rise of Global Feminist Networks:
The globalisation has helped to give rise to female movements owing to increased feminism over the entire globe.

- 4) Legal and Workplace Global Reforms :
The world is now aware of Pay-wage gaps, workplace harassment and various laws in favour have passed.
- 5) Emergence of Female Leaderships :
A sense of sisterhood has evolved over the globe where each female activists is honoured.
- 6) Visibility of Gendered-Issues :
Honour-killings and domestic violence now has global voice. With social media, the gendered issues are now not regional but global.

→ Negative Impacts:

- 1) Commodification of Women :
The beauty standards and sexual imagery has exploited women with increasing globalisation. Women have been seen merely as a commodity instead of rational being.
- 2) Effects of Dependency Theory :
Peripheral and core women have distinct status in the world and the latter one is responsible for exploitation.
- 3) Femisation of Labour Exploitation
Women are given low-wage jobs within garments or match industries or either in cosmetic factories.
- 4) Cyber Harassment uprise :
With increased globalisation, the cyber-harassment cases have also increased.
- 5) Intensified Double Burden :
With work and home balance, women suffer all due to increased and over-occupation of tasks.