

Q4: The social construction of gender is a complex process through which societies create, maintain and transmit meanings associated with masculinity and femininity.

1. SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONISM:

Social constructionism treats gender as a product of social interactions, institutions, and cultural practices rather than a biological given.

Key aspects include:

- **Institutionalization:** Societies embed gender norms in institutions such as family, education, religion and law. For example, legal systems may modify gender roles in marriage.

- **SOCIALIZATION:** From childhood, individuals learn gendered expectations through agents like parents, peers and media. Toys, clothing and language reinforce these norms.

• REPRODUCTION AND RESISTANCE:

Everyday actions reproduce gender norms, but individuals can also challenge them leading to social change.

An example is the shift in acceptance of men engaging in traditionally feminine professions like nursing.

2 SYMBOLIC INTERACTIONISM.

This perspective focuses on micro-level interactions where gendered is "performed" and negotiated:

- **Doing Gender:** West and Zimmerman's concept of "doing gender" suggests that people manage their behavior to conform to gender expectations in specific situations, such as men displaying dominance in meetings.

- **Symbolic meanings:** Symbols like dress codes or gestures convey gendered messages. For example, wearing a suit is often associated with male authority.

- **Contextual fluidity:** Gender performance can vary across contexts; a person may act differently at work versus at home, reflecting situational expectations.

FEMINIST THEORIES:

Feminist theories & scholarship examines how gender constructions sustain power hierarchies.

- **Liberal feminism:** focuses on equal access to opportunities, arguing that social constructs limit women's participation in public spheres.

- **Postmodern feminism:** emphasizes deconstructing fixed gender identities and narratives, promoting fluid self-definitions.

Post modern & Queer Theories

- **Fluidity of identity:** Gender is seen as performative and mutable, allowing individuals to adopt non-binary or hybrid identities.

o Discursive Construction

Language and discourse shape how gender is understood e.g. evolving terminology like "they/them" pronouns.

Intersectionality

Intersectional analysis examines how gender interacts with other social categories:-

Overlapping Systems

Gender intersects with race, class, ethnicity and creating unique experiences of oppression.

Contextual Exp

social constructions of gender vary across cultures and socioeconomic groups, influencing life opportunities and identity formation.

Q5:- CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF WOMEN'S VULNERABILITIES:-

1. **Modernization theory perspective.**
Modernization theory posits that societies progress through stages of economic development, leading to social and cultural changes that promote equality and individual rights.

Positive aspects:-

Industrialization and education can empower women by increasing access to jobs, healthcare and legal rights, reducing traditional gender constraints.

2. **DEPENDENCY THEORIES PERSPECTIVE**

Dependency theories argue that global economic structures create unequal relationships between core and peripheral nations, perpetuating underdevelopment and exploitation. From this angle:

• Structural Exploitation:

Women in peripheral societies often bear the brunt of economic dependency through limited access to resources, reinforcing patriarchal systems that keep them in subordinate positions.

• Intersectional Vulnerabilities

Both theories highlight structural issues, but intersectionality reveals compounded vulnerabilities when gender intersect with class, ethnicity or location.

For example:-

◦ Rural women in dependent economies may lack access to modernizing benefits like education and technology.

WAY FORWARD TO REVAMP WOMEN'S STATUS GLOBALLY:

1. Equitable modernization Policies:-

Design development programs that prioritize inclusive growth, ensuring women gain access to quality education, technology. Focus on rural and marginalized groups to prevent uneven benefits.

2. Education And Awareness:

Enhance female literacy and awareness of rights to empower women to challenge traditional norms and participate in decision-making processes.

Global cooperation:-

Encourage international partnerships that prioritize fair-trade practices and support women's economies and dependency issues.

Q8:-

1. Gender And Globalization:

Gender and globalization examine how global economic, political and cultural processes shape and are shaped by gender relations. Globalization accelerates the flow of ideas, labor and capital across borders, influencing gender identities, roles and inequalities in several ways:-

• Economic Impact:

Globalization has opened new employment opportunities for women in export-oriented industries often leading to increased female labor force participation. However, these jobs may also perpetuate low wages and poor working conditions, reinforcing gendered economic disparities.

• Cultural Exchange:

The spread of global media and communication technologies influenced local gender norms, sometimes challenging traditional roles and other times reinforcing stereotypes through homogenized representations of masculinity and femininity.

• Social movements:-

Globalization facilitates transnational feminist networks that share strategies and advocate for gender equality, enabling localized gender issues to gain international attention and impact.

5. Policy Implications:-

- States and international bodies respond to gender-globalization interactions by designing policy that address labor rights, migration and social protection to mitigate negative gendered effects of global economic shifts.

ii Psychoanalytical Feminism:-

Psychoanalytical feminism applies psychoanalytic theories to analyze gender identity, oppression and liberation, focusing on the unconscious processes that shape gendered experiences.

key aspects include-

o Freudian Foundations:-

Early psychoanalytic feminists reinterpreted Freud's concepts like the Oedipus complex, arguing that gender identity is constructed through psychic processes influenced by societal structures of patriarchy.

o Subjective and Gender:-

The approach examines how unconscious desires and internalized norms shape masculine and feminine subjectivities, suggesting that gender is not merely biological but psychically constructed.

• Critique of Patriarchy:-

Psychoanalytical feminists argue that patriarchal societies embed oppressive gender roles in the psyche, affecting self-perception and interpersonal relations, thereby sustaining male dominance.

• Therapeutic Approach:-

Some proponents use psychoanalytic therapy to help individuals deconstruct internalized gender norms, promoting self-awareness and empowerment.

Q6:-

Gendered roles in developing countries shape women's vulnerability to climate-induced disasters through a multifaceted process that intertwines social expectations, economic conditions and geographic context.

1. Gendered division of labor:-

In many developing societies, traditional roles assign women primary responsibility for household sustenance including water and fuel collection, food preparation and agricultural work.

2. Limited access to resources and decision-making:-

Gender norms often restrict women's control over financial assets, land ownership, and information. This limitation hampers their capacity to invest in protective measures or to influence community disaster policies. In crisis situations, women may also have less say in evacuation decisions, affecting their safety.

3. Social and health implications:-

The increased burden on women during disasters can lead to heightened physical and psychological stress, higher morbidity,

rates and reduced educational opportunities for girls, perpetuating a cycle of vulnerability.

4. Class-based amplification:-

Socioeconomic status intersects with gender to deepen vulnerability. Poor women typically lack savings, credit or social safety nets, making recovery from disaster losses more challenging. They may be ~~force~~ forced into hazardous informal work post-disaster to sustain families, exacerbating health risks. Wealthier women, while having more financial buffers, still confront gendered expectations that limit their autonomy in disaster management, though their economic resources can mitigate some physical risks.