

Question: 2

1.

Introduction

Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that examines the societal, cultural, economic, and political constructions of gender and the inequalities arising from these constructions. Unlike traditional women's studies, which primarily focused on women's issues, Gender studies explores the roles, experiences, and identities of all genders, emphasizing the power dynamics that shape society. Its scope includes understanding patriarchy, feminism, sexuality, intersectionality, labor, and policymaking, offering critical tools for analyzing both historical and contemporary social issues.

2.

Objectives and Scope

The primary objectives of Gender studies include identifying gender inequalities, examining how gender

intersects with race, class, and sexuality and promoting social justice and policy reforms. This discipline emphasizes research, advocacy, and education to challenge stereotypes and empower marginalized groups. Gender Studies bridges sociology, political science, psychology, anthropology and law to provide a comprehensive understanding of gendered experiences.

3. Global Evolution

Gender Studies emerged in the mid-20th century, initially as Women's studies in response to feminist movements in the West, particularly the second wave of feminism in 1960s and 1970s.

Early focus was on women's rights, employment, education, and reproductive rights. By the late 20th century, the discipline expanded to include men, LGBTQ+ communities, and non-binary identities, reflecting an understanding that gender is socially

constructed and relational. Feminist theories, queer theory, and postcolonial critiques contributed to the theoretical foundation of Gender Studies, making it a globally recognized academic discipline.

4. Evolution in Pakistan

In Pakistan, Gender Studies developed more gradually due to cultural, religious, and political constraints. Early efforts were rooted in women's rights activism during the 1970s, with organizations like **Women's Action Forum (WAF)** challenging discriminatory laws and advocating for political participation, education and health rights. The 1980s saw academic recognition through establishment of women's studies centers at universities, notably the **Centre for Women's Studies at Quaid-e-Azam University**. By the 1990s and 2000s, curricula expanded to include gender theory, feminist perspectives,

and development studies. NGOs, international organizations, the UN initiatives further supported research and policy development on gender equality. Contemporary Gender Studies in Pakistan integrates global feminist theories with local cultural and socio-political realities, addressing issues like child marriage, domestic violence, workplace discrimination, and women's political representation.

5.

Significance

Gender studies in Pakistan serves multiple purposes: it provides analytical frameworks to understand systematic inequalities, informs policies promoting gender justice, and challenges societal norms that perpetuate discrimination. Academically, it equips students, researchers, and policymakers with tools to

examine how socio-economic, cultural, and political structures impact different genders differently.

6.

Conclusion

Gender studies is more than an academic discipline; it is critical lens through which societies can examine and challenge entrenched power dynamics. In Pakistan, its evolution reflects a gradual but meaningful engagement with global feminist thought while addressing the country's unique socio-cultural challenges. This discipline remains essential for fostering equitable development, social justice, and informed policymaking.

Question: 5

Introduction

Women's vulnerabilities refer to social, economic, and political disadvantages that limit their opportunities and expose them to discrimination and exploitation. These vulnerabilities exist globally but are more pronounced in developing countries due to poverty, traditional gender norms, and limited access to resources. Two theoretical perspectives; **Modernization Theory** and **Dependency Theory** help explain these issues.

1.

Modernization Theory

Modernization Theory suggest that societies progress through stages of economic and social development, which should improve women's status.

Industrialization, urbanization,

and education are key drivers.

i. Positive impacts: Increased access to education and employment. In modern societies, women have greater access to education and employment, enabling them to participate in decision-making processes both at home and in the workplace. Urbanization has increased women's mobility and exposure to new ideas, contributing to greater awareness of rights and opportunities.

ii. Limitations: Despite benefits, modernization does not automatically guarantee gender equality. Women often face a double burden, balancing paid work with household and caregiving responsibilities. Patriarchal cultural norms may continue to restrict their agency and limit their participation in leadership or politics. Globalization, closely tied

to modernization, sometimes exposes women to exploitation in low-wage labor markets, such as garment factories or informal service sectors, highlighting that development alone cannot eliminate structural inequalities.

2. Dependency Theory and Women's Vulnerabilities

Dependency Theory focuses on global economic inequalities and argues that developing countries are exploited by richer nations, creating a structural context that intensifies women's vulnerabilities. According to this view, women in developing societies are doubly marginalized; by local patriarchal systems and by global economic dependencies.

(a) Impact on Women :

Women often occupy low-paying, insecure, or informal jobs that sustain global supply chains while wealth and power remain concentrated in developed countries. For instance, rural women in Pakistan's agriculture sector or home-based cottage industries contribute significantly to the economy but receive minimal recognition or compensation.

(b) Structural Factors :

Historical colonial legacies, global trade imbalances, and neoliberal economic policies ~~exacerbate~~ exacerbate women's vulnerabilities. Dependency Theory highlights that unequal access to resources, credit, and markets prevents women from achieving economic independence and perpetuates cycles of poverty and exploitation.

3.

Comparative Analysis

Modernization Theory emphasizes internal social change and potential development benefits but underestimates cultural and structural barriers, such as patriarchy and gender norms. Dependency Theory highlights the global structural inequalities that keep women in marginalized positions but may overlook the influence of social practices. Together, these theories provide a comprehensive explanation that women's vulnerabilities arise from the intersection of local patriarchy and global economic inequalities, and addressing them requires strategies that target both levels.

4. Way Forward

1. Education and Skill Development

Expand access to formal education, vocational training and literacy programs, particularly for rural and marginalized women.

2. Economic Empowerment

Promote women's entrepreneurship access to microfinance, and formal labor markets with fair wages and social protections.

3. Legal and Policy Reforms

Strengthen laws against gender-based violence, enforce inheritance rights, and ensure women's political participation.

4. Global Cooperation

International organizations should address structural inequalities, fund women-led development initiatives, and promote gender-

sensitive trade policies.

5. Cultural Change

Awareness campaigns and media advocacy can challenge patriarchal norms and promote gender equality.

Conclusion

Women's vulnerabilities in contemporary societies are shaped by both local cultural norms and global structural inequalities. Modernization alone cannot ensure gender equality, and addressing women's vulnerabilities requires holistic approach that integrates education, economic empowerment, legal protection, and cultural change. Combining insights from Modernization and Dependency theories allows a deeper understanding of the structural barriers that limit women's opportunities and provides a roadmap for global strategies to revamp women's status.

Question: 7

Introduction

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is any harmful act directed at individuals based on their gender. It includes physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse and affects people worldwide, particularly women and girls. In Pakistan, GBV is widespread and takes multiple forms, ranging from domestic violence to honor killings. Socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and gendered labor roles play a significant role in shaping both the patterns and intensity of this violence.

1. Poverty and Gender-Based Violence

Poverty is a major driver of gender-based violence in Pakistan. Families living under economic stress of experience higher

levels of domestic tension, which can escalate into verbal, physical, or sexual abuse. Poor households may also restrict girls' education, early marriages, and child labor, reinforcing their vulnerability. For example, in rural Sindh and Balochistan, economic hardship forces many girls into early marriages, making them highly susceptible to spousal abuse and health risks.

2

Unemployment and Economic Dependence

High unemployment, particularly among men, contributes indirectly to GBV. Frustration over the inability to provide financially can result in aggression toward women in the household.

Women's economic dependence further reinforces this vulnerability,

as they lack resources to leave abusive relationships or seek justice. Informal labour sectors, where women often work without contracts or social security, leave them exposed to harassment and exploitation.

3. Gender Labor Roles

Traditional gender roles in Pakistan assign women the primary responsibility for domestic work, while men dominate the public and economic spheres. This division often devalues women's unpaid labor, leaving them economically and socially dependant. In urban areas, women in informal labor, such as domestic work, garment production, or street vending, face harassment, wage theft, and exploitation. Rural women, engaged in

agriculture or home-based cottage industries, often work under harsh conditions without legal protections. These structural inequalities reinforce patterns of GBV.

4. Forms of Gender-Based Violence in Pakistan

1. Domestic Violence

Physical, emotional, and psychological abuse within the family is the most common form. It is often normalized due to patriarchal cultural norms.

2. Honor Killing

Women who are perceived to bring "shame" to the family may be subjected to murder. Sindh and Punjab report the highest numbers of such cases.

3. Sexual Harassment

Workplace harassment, street harassment, and abuse in public spaces remain prevalent, despite laws like the **Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2010**.

4. Human Trafficking and Forced Labor

Women and girls, particularly from marginalized communities are trafficked for labor and sexual exploitation.

5. Cyber and Online Violence

Increasing internet use has led to harassment, blackmail, and exploitation online, disproportionately affecting young women.

5. Intersection with Socio-Economic Factors

The intensity and frequency of GBV increase where poverty,

unemployment, and rigid gender roles intersect. Rural women face compounded vulnerabilities due to limited access to education, healthcare, and legal support. Similarly, lower-class urban women working in informal sectors are more exposed to both domestic and workplace violence.

Conclusion

Socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, and gendered labor roles are central to understanding GBV in Pakistan. Addressing GBV requires not only legal reforms and awareness campaigns but also structural changes. Reducing GBV is not just a question of morality but of addressing the socio-economic inequalities that allow it to persist.

Question : 8

i.

Gender and Globalization

Introduction

Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness of countries through trade, technology, communication, and migration. Gender and globalization examines how these processes affect men and women differently, creating opportunities for empowerment as well as new vulnerabilities.

1.

Positive Impacts

(a) Economic opportunities

Globalization has opened employment sectors like technology, services and export oriented industries where women can participate.

(b) Mobility and Access
Urbanization, international communication, and online studies allow women to gain knowledge, connect with global networks, and pursue careers.

(c) Awareness of Rights
International conventions, campaigns, and global media raise awareness about gender equality, influencing local policies and attitudes.

2 Negative Impacts

(a) Exploitation
Many women remain in low-wage, informal, or insecure jobs.

(b) Widening Inequalities
High-skilled and decision-making roles are still largely male-dominated, leaving women in

undervalued positions ..

(c)

Digital Risks

While online education expands access, women and transpersons are vulnerable to cyber harassment and exploitation.

Conclusion

Gender and globalization is a double-edged phenomenon. It provides tools for women's empowerment, including online learning, but also exposes them to economic and digital vulnerabilities. Gender-sensitive policies are essential to maximize benefits and minimize risks.

ii-

Psychoanalytical Feminism

Introduction

Psychoanalytical feminism combines insights from psychoanalysis, especially the work of Freud and Lacan, with feminist theory. It focuses on how unconscious processes, early socialization, and family dynamics shape gender identity and women's experiences of oppression.

(1)

Key Concepts

a.

Unconscious Influence

Women's thoughts, behaviors, and decisions are often shaped by unconscious fears, desires, and societal expectations learned in childhood.

b.

Internalized Patriarchy

Women may unconsciously

adopt patriarchal norms, limiting their agency and self-confidence in personal and professional life.

c. Family Dynamics

Relationships, particularly mother-daughter interactions, influence the formation of gendered identities and expectations.

(2) Contributions to Feminist Thought

(i) Psychoanalytical feminism explains why oppressive structures persist even when legal or social barriers are reduced.

(ii) It emphasizes that liberation requires addressing not only external inequalities but also internalized beliefs and social conditioning.

(iii) This approach complements other feminist frameworks by examining sexuality, identity, and emotional experiences of women, highlighting the psychological dimensions of gendered oppression.

Conclusion

Psychoanalytical feminism reminds us that gender inequality is both social and psychological. Effective strategies for empowerment must consider internalized norms, unconscious biases, and family influence alongside legal reforms and social interventions.