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Gender studies

Mock # 5

QNo: 4

Gender is a socially constructed phenomena.

1. Introduction:

The theorist of gender studies argue that gender is not natural rather it is a socially constructed phenomena framed and shaped by social and cultural norms. Gender roles are different in different parts of world that depicts rather than being a natural phenomena gender is shaped by societies, culture and norms. This is the social construction of gender that allows and shape the activities of any specific individual living in society. The social construction of gender is evident from the fact that gender roles are different in eastern and western parts of world.

2. Societies and culture shapes the gender:

Societies and culture play a significant role in shaping gender identities. Different social factors determine and judge the gender of an individual.

For example,

- ↳ Social norms
- ↳ Culture
- ↳ Media
- ↳ Upbringing
- ↳ Profession

2.1 Role of social norms in social construction of gender:

Social norms play a decisive role in social construction of gender. For example social norms decide pink colour for girls and blue colour for boys. Likewise social norms decides dolls as toys for girls and cars as toys for boys. This is how gender is constructed by society featuring female as a soft gender and male as a tough gender.

2.2. Role of culture in social construction of gender:

Culture of any country also act as a crucial factor in social construction of gender. This can be illustrated as culture in western parts of the world decides a white gown on wedding for female and a black suit for male. It is western culture and for years now they have been sticking to that.

2.3. Role of media in social construction of gender:

After the advent of modern scientific era, gender roles were emphasized by media as well. Different advertisements featuring beautiful female models play a significant role in social construction of gender. Like only girls will be featuring in shampoo or soap advertisements. Thus media impact the social construction of gender.

2.4. Role of upbringing in social construction of gender:

Upbringing matters a lot in social construction of gender. During the growing

age of children, parents teach girls to be soft and feminine while boys are taught to be tough, strong and brave.

2.5 Role of profession in social construction of gender:

Professional roles in societies play a significant role in social construction of gender. Societies discriminate fields and professions between male and female. For example, being a model or doctor is considered as a feminine field and being a soldier in army is considered as a masculine field.

3. Gender is socially constructed:

Hence, gender is a socially constructed phenomena where society decides and determines the gender and gender specific roles. Just like society has associated a pink frock, hair clips and pony tails with girls and by birth they are taught to dress like girls because society has determined and constructed their gender roles.

4. Conclusion:

Thus, it is concluded that gender is a socially constructed phenomenon. Society and culture has adopted some parameters to judge and shape gender without prioritising their personal choice. Media, culture, socially constructed norms, upbringing and career choices collectively influence and construct gender roles. This is the reason that gender roles vary differently in different parts of the world.

You missed the second part of theories

Q No: 5

Women vulnerabilities in contemporary society.

1. Introduction:

"I do not want women to have power over men but over themselves - Mary Wollstone Craft"

It is the irony of 21st century that women are still living a vulnerable life despite of multiple feminist activities. In many developing societies women are kept deprived of their rights making them dependent on man in society. This creates a dependency dilemma for women out there. The modernization of contemporary era has undoubtedly opened pathways for the development of women but it has also worsened the vulnerability of women by making them stuck in roles of nature and nurturer. The crisis and requirements of contemporary society has made women vulnerable. To ease out vulnerabilities of

women and maintaining balance power in genders in a society, a practical roadmap and structural reforms in society are the need of hour.

2. Dependency theory explaining vulnerabilities of women in contemporary society:

The structure of contemporary society in developing countries is built to make women dependent on man. It is the misogynist structure of society that empowers men and ascribe all the strength, bravery and masculinity to men only. Dependency theory in gender studies best explains how female gender in society is constructed weak to make them dependent on man. Dependency theory and its theorists explain that all the resources and opportunities are kept concentrated with males of the society. They are withheld all choices, opportunities leading as decision makers of the society. This concentration of resources, only in the hands of male create a dependent society making females

dependent upon men. Women enjoy few and limited opportunities while they are financially, socially and physically dependent upon men. This worsens the vulnerability of women in contemporary society as they are forced to rely on men around them even for basic facilities. So, dependency theory explains that women are dependent upon men and men can control their lives and choices as per their wishes.

3. Modernization theory explaining vulnerability of women in contemporary society:

Modernization Theory explains the dilemma that even after the revolution and independence of women, women in modernized society is still chained and hindered by glass ceilings. Though feminists have been successful in getting their right of votes, education and free will after years of struggle but women in male dominated fields are still hindered by glass ceilings and

unseen hurdles which restricts the potential of women.

4. Glass ceiling explained by modernization theory:

The theorist of modernization theory believe that women are independent and have free will in 21st century but the misogynist structure of male dominated society has still managed to restrict women's potential by giving them small quota in male dominated fields like politics and military. The women's potential of managing domestic and professional careers hurts misogynist male ego, so they create glass ceilings for women to make societies vulnerable for them in contemporary era.

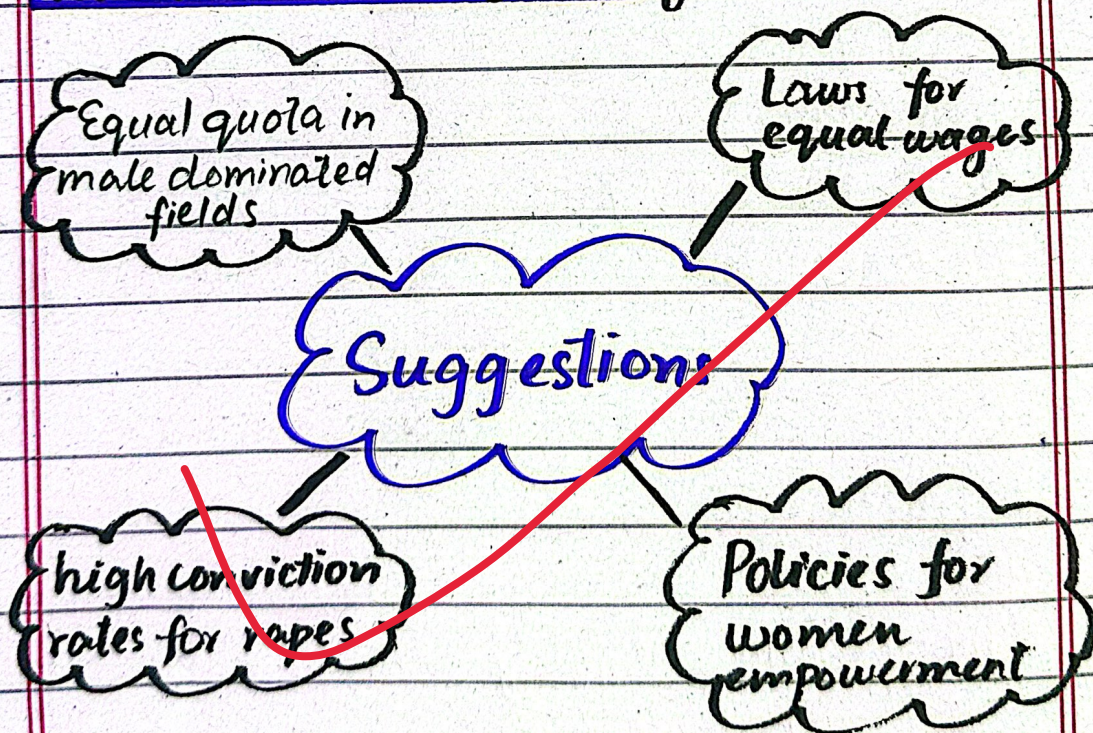
5. Vulnerabilities and crisis of women in modern world:

↳ Women in modern world are still struggling with equality and equity to that of men. These chains and glass ceilings vary in different

forms around the world. For example,

- ↳ In African countries, women struggle with abortion and maternal rights.
- ↳ In developing & Asian countries, women are struggling with their financial and economical rights.
- ↳ In Scandinavian countries, women are struggling with their inheritance rights.
- ↳ In a nutshell, glass ceilings for women around the world still persist irrespective of their professions and choices.

6. Women: Way forward to reshape women's status globally:



7. Equal quota in male dominated fields:

To empower women and rewrap their status globally it is important to provide women equal quota in male dominated fields like military, politics and public service sector. It is the need of hour to shatter these glass ceilings.

8. Strict laws for equal wages:

Unequal wage gaps are consistent around the world. To empower and rewrap women's status, it is important to maintain equal and uniform wages for men and women in same field.

9. High conviction rates for rapes and honour killings:

Developing countries have high rates of rapes and honour killings with poor conviction rates. So to rewrap their equal status and empower them it is significant to consider strict laws and high conviction rates for rapist and killers.

Important Note to get Good marks in Gender Studies:

Marks would be given on the following parameters

a- Content 60% References 15% Subject specific language 15%. Graphs and charts 10%

Add 12-13 headings in each question

the questions carry 3-4 parts... each part has equal weightage so discuss all equally

use subject specific jargons e.g.

Patriarchy, entrenched traditional values etc. Also, do not add blunt statements

use types, waves and theories of feminism as references

attempt all parts in the question do not neglect one

add facts and figures to support your argument

add pictorial description as well

Add names of many Wollstonecraft, Judith Butler, Stuart Mill, Simone de Beauvoir, Rana Zakia, Rubina Seghal, Farzani Bari etc. in relevant arguments to make your paper attractive.

good luck

10. Policies for women empowerment:

To empower women and maintain their equal status it is crucial to make significant universal reforms like free education for girls till teenage, vocational training centers for women in rural areas and economic independence - a fundamental right for women across the world.

11. Conclusion:

The vicious cycle of dependency has hindered the potential of women around the men world. Women are an important part of the world. Their vulnerability is a crisis for world order and it must be tackled by significant measures providing them equal opportunities along equal wages and educational rights. In a retrospect,

the potential of women requires elaborate reasons of vulnerabilities with headings equal opportunities to outshine as man.