

Part - II

Q.No. 4

Ans: "One is not born, but rather becomes a woman."

-Simen de Beauvoir

1. Introduction:

Gender is not a biological destiny but a socially constructed phenomenon, shaped by cultural norms, institutions, and power relations. Feminist theorists argue that gender identities and roles are produced through socialization, discourse, and structural inequalities rather than natural differences. In Gender studies, the social construction of gender is central to understanding patriarchy, inequality, and resistance.

2. Theories of Social Construction of Gender:

The theories of social construction of gender are as follows:

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

Theory	Key Idea	Gender Implication
Simon de Beauvoir Existentialist Feminism	"One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman."	Gender is learned, not innate
Judith Butler- Performativity	Gender is performed through repeated acts.	Identities are fluid, not fixed.
Social Learning Theory (Bandura)	Children learn gender roles via imitation and reinforcement.	Family, media, peers, shape gender.
Cultural Feminism	Gender differences arise from cultural values	Patriarchy privileges masculinity.
Marxist Feminism	Gender roles linked to capitalist exploitation	Women's unpaid labor sustains capitalism
Post structuralist Feminism	Language/discourse constructs gender identities.	Gender is embedded in power/knowledge

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

2. Social Construction of Gender:

3. Gender ≠ Sex:

Sex refers to biological differences, while gender is a social identity shaped by norms and expectations. Society assigns roles such as "breadwinner" for men and "homemaker" for women, which are not biologically determined. This distinction highlights that gender is a cultural construct rather than a natural fact.

4. Socialization:

From childhood, boys and girls are taught different behavior through family, school, and peer groups. Boys are encouraged to be assertive, while girls are taught to be nurturing. This process of socialization embeds gender roles into everyday life, reinforcing inequality.

5. Language:

Language plays a powerful role in constructing gender. Terms like "manly" or "girly" carry cultural meanings that shape identity. Even

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

proverbs and idioms often reinforce male dominance, showing how discourse sustains gender hierarchies.

6. Judith Butler's Performativity:

Judith Butler argues that gender is not innate but performed through repeated acts. Wearing certain clothes, adopting specific behaviors, and speaking in particular ways all constitute gender performance. This theory shows that gender is fluid and can be challenged.

7. Simone de Beauvoir's Existentialism:

Simone de Beauvoir famously stated, "One is not born, but becomes, a woman," in "The Second Sex." She emphasized that women are made subordinate through cultural conditioning. This highlights how patriarchy constructs femininity as passive and dependent.

8. Marxist Feminism:

Marxist Feminists argue that capitalism exploits women's unpaid domestic labor. By

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

Confining women to household roles, capitalism constructs gender divisions that sustain economic inequality. Thus, gender roles are tied to class exploitation.

9. Religion and Tradition:

Religious interpretations and cultural traditions often reinforce patriarchal norms. For example, women may be restricted to domestic spheres under the guise of morality. However, religion never been a hurdle in women's growth and progress but patriarchal minds turn every narrative into their favor. These practices show how gender roles are socially constructed through ideology (man made).

10. School system:

Schools reproduce gender roles by encouraging boys in science and girls in arts or care giving professionals. Textbooks often portray men as leaders and women as helpers. This institutional bias constructs gendered career paths.

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

11. Media Representation:

Media plays a central role in shaping gender identities. Advertisements portray women as beauty objects and men as strong decision-makers. Such portrayals normalize gender stereotypes and perpetuate inequality. Women as a helpseeker all the time and strength only belongs to men.

12. Workplace Division:

Workplace reflect socially constructed gender roles through phenomenon like the "glass ceiling." Women are often confined to "pink collar jobs" such as teaching or nursing, while men dominate leadership positions. Males are highly paid workers and females are appointed at low pays. This division is cultural, not natural.

13. Intersectionality:

Kimberlé Crenshaw's concept of intersectionality shows that gender intersects with race, class, and ethnicity. A poor woman of color faces

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

multiple layers of discrimination, proving that gender identity is socially constructed within broader power structures.

14. Power relations:

Michael Foucault's theory of power explains how institutional discipline bodies into gendered norms. Schools, prisons, and workplaces regulate behaviors, shaping what is considered "masculine" or "feminine". Gender thus emerges from power relations. Preferring males in leadership roles includes such type of phenomenon of constructing gender socially.

15. Colonialism/Postcolonial Feminism:

Colonial powers imposed Western gender binaries on local societies, disrupting indigenous gender fluidity. Postcolonial feminists argue that colonialism constructed rigid gender roles to control populations. This shows gender as historically contingent. Western gender binaries also develop a hard life by putting racism in their society.

16. Queer Theory:

Queer theory theorists challenge heteronormativity and fixed gender categories. They argue that identities such as "male" and "female" are socially constructed and exclusionary. This perspective highlights the fluidity of gender beyond binaries.

17. Resistance Movements:

Feminist and LGBTQ+ movements demonstrate that gender norms can be deconstructed. Campaigns for equal rights, representation, and bodily autonomy show that gender is not fixed but negotiable. Social activism proves the constructed nature of gender.

18. Flowchart: Social Construction of Gender

Biological Sex → Socialization

Institutions ← Cultural norms

→ Gender Roles

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

Highly unorganized answer
You have merged factors and
theories together

14. Conclusion:

From all presented above points, it clearly shows that gender is socially constructed phenomenon, shaped by norms, institutions, and power structures rather than biology. Theories from Beauvoir, Butler, Marxist feminists, and Post structuralists demonstrated that gender is fluid, performative, and historically contingent. Recognizing this construction is essential for dismantling patriarchy and achieving gender justice.

Q No. 3

Ans: "Feminism is for everybody."

— Bell Hooks

1. Introduction:

Feminism, historically centered on women's emancipation, has evolved into a broader struggle against patriarchal structures that marginalize diverse identities. In the 21st century, the feminist project must transcend

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

binary notions of gender and heteronormativity to embrace inclusivity - recognizing the rights, dignity, and lived experiences of men, transgender persons, non-binary individuals, and LGBTQIA+ communities.

Contemporary feminist movements, from Aurat March in Pakistan to ~~#The Too~~ #MeToo globally, increasingly reflect this intersectional and inclusive orientation. 📌

2. Intersectionality:

Modern feminism recognizes that oppression is not experienced in isolation. Women, men, and gender-diverse individuals face overlapping disadvantages based on class, race, caste, disability, and sexuality. ~~Kim~~ Kimberlé Crenshaw's concept of intersectionality highlights how identities intersect to create unique forms of marginalization. Thus, 21st century feminism must address these multiple layers of inequality to remain relevant and ~~inco-inclusive~~ inclusive.

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

3. Queer Theory:

Queer theory challenges the rigid binary of male/female and heterosexual/homosexual categories. Judith Butler's work emphasizes that gender is performative, not fixed. By adopting queer perspectives, feminism expands its scope to include LGBTQIA + rights, dismantling heteronormativity and ensuring that sexual orientation is treated as a central feminist concern rather than a peripheral issue.

Your headings are not aligned with asked part

4. Trans-Inclusive Feminism:

Transgender and non-binary individuals often face systemic exclusion in health care, employment, and legal recognition. Inclusive feminism acknowledges trans women as women and advocates for gender-affirming care, safe shelters, and identity documentation reforms. This shift ensures that feminist movements do not replicate patriarchal exclusions but instead champion dignity for all gender identities.

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

5. Masculinities Studies:

Patriarchy harms men too, by enforcing toxic masculinity, suppressing emotional expression, and burdening them with rigid gender roles. Raewyn Connell's Masculinities shows how feminist critique can liberate men from these constraints. Addressing men's mental health, domestic responsibilities, and vulnerability to violence aligns with feminist goals of dismantling oppressive structures for everyone.

6. Labor Justice:

Workplace discrimination is not limited to women; queer and trans workers also face wage gaps, harassment, and exclusion. Feminism today advocates for equal pay, parental leave for all genders, and recognition of sex work as legitimate labor. By broadening labor justice, feminism ensures economic dignity across diverse identities, strengthening its social justice mandate. UN Women reports that 70% of LGBTQIA+ individuals face workplace discrimination.

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

7. Health Equity:

Traditional feminist health agendas focused on reproductive rights, but inclusivity demands expansion. Gender-affirming healthcare, HIV ~~prevention~~ prevention, and mental health services for LGBTQIA+ communities are now central. Feminism in the 21st century thus fights for comprehensive healthcare policies that respect bodily autonomy and address the unique needs of marginalized genders and sexual orientations.

8. Violence Prevention:

Violence is a universal feminist concern, but queer and trans individuals face disproportionate risks of hate crimes, police harassment, and online abuse. Feminist anti-violence strategies now include digital safety campaigns, legal reforms against hate crimes, and inclusive shelters. This broadening ensures that feminist activism protects all vulnerable groups, not just cisgender women.

9. Legal Recognition:

Legal frameworks often exclude LGBTQIA+ persons from rights such as marriage, inheritance, and housing. Feminism advocates for anti-discrimination laws, equal marriage rights, and recognition of diverse family structures. By linking gender justice to legal recognition, feminism ensures that marginalized identities gain equal citizenship and protection under the law.

10. Representation in Media:

Media shapes perceptions of gender and sexuality. Feminism critiques the underrepresentation and stereotyping of queer and trans identities in films, advertisements, and literature. Authentic representation challenges stigma and normalizes diversity. Thus, feminist movements demand inclusive media policies and creative industries that reflect the realities of all genders and orientations.

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

11. Digital Feminism:

Fourth-wave feminism thrives online, with movements like #MeToo and #TimesUp amplifying marginalized voices. However, digital spaces also expose queer and trans individuals to harassment. Feminism now advocates for safer online platforms, inclusive moderation policies, and digital literacy. This ensures that technology becomes a tool of empowerment rather than exclusion.

12. Global-Local Movements:

Contemporary feminism is transnational yet rooted in local realities. Movements like Aurat March in Pakistan integrate queer and trans concerns alongside women's rights, while Latin American feminists link gender justice to indigenous struggles. This hybridity shows that inclusive feminism adapts to cultural contexts while maintaining solidarity across borders.

13. Decolonial Feminism:

Western feminism often universalized

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

women's experiences, ignoring indigenous and non-Western gender systems. Decolonial feminism challenges this by foregrounding local epistemes, faith-based approaches, and indigenous gender diversity. By respecting cultural contexts, feminism becomes more inclusive and avoids replicating colonial hierarchies in its pursuit of justice.

14. Education Reform:

Education is a powerful tool for social change. Feminism advocates for curricula that teach consent, diversity, and gender pluralism. Inclusive education reduces bullying, challenges stereotypes, and fosters respect for all identities. By embedding gender diversity in schools and universities, feminism ensures long-term cultural transformation.

15. Movement Accountability:

Feminism must remain accountable to marginalized voices within its own ranks. Tokenism and elite capture risk sidelining queer, trans, and working-class perspectives.

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

Inclusive feminism prioritizes leadership pathways for these groups, ensuring that movements practice the equality they preach. Accountability strengthens credibility and prevents internal replication of patriarchy.

16. Policy Pragmatism:

Inclusive feminism balances ideals with achievable reforms. Coalition-building with labor unions, NGOs, and community groups helps secure anti-discrimination laws, healthcare coverage, and workplace equity. Pragmatic strategies ensure that feminist movements deliver tangible benefits for diverse genders and sexual orientations, making inclusivity a lived reality rather than rhetoric.

17. Priority Areas in Inclusive Feminism

Anti-violence: High

Labor and social protection: Medium High

Health and gender-affirming care: Medium

Legal recognition: High

Education reform: Medium

Digital safety: Medium

Illustrative
Chart.

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,
Rafiah Zakria, Rubina Seghal,
Farzani Bari etc. in relevant
arguments to make your paper
attractive.

good luck

DAY: _____

Conclusion:

Feminism in the 21st century must
evolve into an inclusive project that addresses
the concern of all genders and sexual
orientations. Intersectionality, queer theory, and
trans inclusion are not optional add-ons but
essential components of feminist justice.
Contemporary movements - from Aurat March
in Pakistan to global fourth wave campaigns -
demonstrate this shift. By embracing inclusivity
in law, labor, health, education, and representation,
feminism strengthens its legitimacy and effectiveness,
ensuring that the struggle against patriarchy
benefits everyone.