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NOA Islamabad

Name Bashir Ahmad
Batch 405
LMS ID 40092
Paper Gender Studies

PART-II

Q.2. Answer no 2:

Introduction:

Gender Studies is an academic discipline that deals with the study of oppression, marginalization and discrimination on the basis of gender - male or female. Additionally, it also posits discrimination on the basis of culture, race, language or colour. This subject was first introduced in the beginning of 20th century with the First wave of Feminism. Then, it became a specialized field in 1960s and 1970s as a distinct subject. Furthermore, it was followed by "Third wave of Feminism" during 1990s. Nowadays, it has become a prominent subject that is being taught in international as well as some universities of Pakistan. Gender Studies was first rare among the people; however, with the passage of time they develop awareness about the issues of gender in a society.

Gender Studies as a Discipline:

Gender Studies turned into a proper subject and discipline during 1960s and 1970s. It was the time when women studies was transformed into Gender Studies by focusing on issues like masculinity vs. femininity, gender discrimination, social construct of gender, oppression of women on the basis of their sex considering them as passive, nurturing and machine of reproduction rather than considering as a human being just like men.

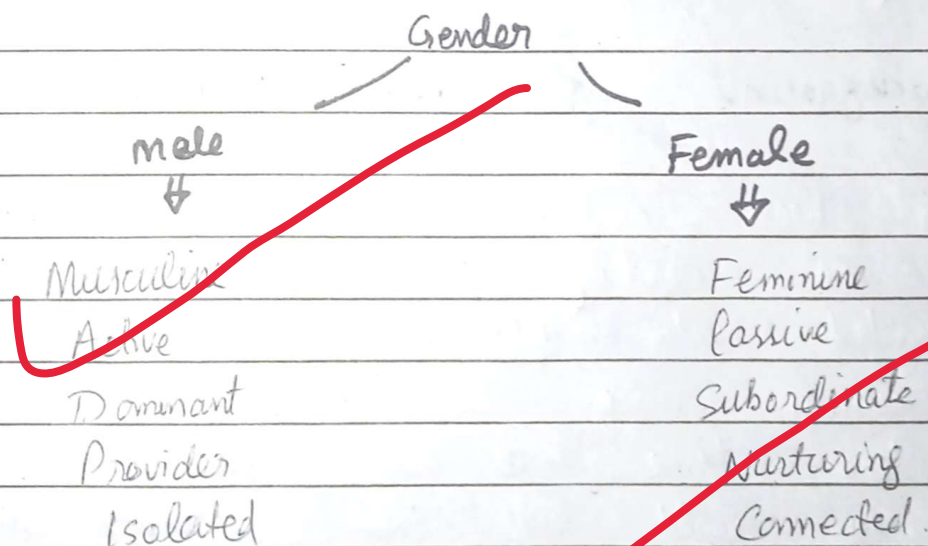
This discipline was started in international universities such as Harvard University of USA and other universities in United Kingdom etc.

Main Areas of Gender Studies

Gender Studies reject the idea of gender as a social construct. It argues that all genders are equal and deserve same respect without any discrimination. It rejects the ideas that gender would be determined on the basis of biological sex. It also opposes the idea of gender binary and posits that it is a social construct of society.

Gender as a Social Construct:

This discipline deals with the gender as a social construct. It argues that society determines the role of genders on the basis of their sex that a person with female gentelia would be weak, nurturing, passive and oppressed unlike male counterpart would be considered as strong, masculine, dominant, oppressor, isolated and active.



Gender Binary is Rejected

Gender Studies rejects gender binary of male and female. It opposes the idea of gender segregation on the basis of biological determinism. According to this discipline there is no prior gender in society.

Gender Performativity

It promotes the idea of gender performativity that gender is not who they are, but who they act. A person's gender can be determined through his action irrespective of one's biological sex. This theory was proposed by Judith Butler, which focuses on gender fluidity rather than promoting primitive ideas of gender binary.

Background of Gender studies:

Gender studies has been evolved over a period of one century which can be divided into different waves of Feminism since its inception till modern time. It was developed in foreign world but then propagated in Pakistan which can be proved in the form of Aurat March, legislation regarding gender based violence, oppression, transgender acts to cite a few.

First Wave of Feminism:

First wave of feminism was started during initial years of 20th century with

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the proposition of "Suffrage Movement" which was designed to designate the rights of vote and property. It was announced to grant political and civil rights to women who were oppressed and denied their basic rights because they were considered as objects and property of men.

Second Wave of Feminism

Second wave of Feminism rejected the idea of gender binary and challenged patriarchy in society by giving identity and representation to women. In Pakistan, women also arranged awareness campaigns for their legal rights while challenging violence and oppression of men in society.

Third Wave of Feminism:

Third wave of Feminism started in 1990s era. This period saw the rise of "Queer Theory" which rejects two genders in society and promote more than two genders such as that of transgender and LGBTQ. Hence, it is talking about gender fluidity.

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In Pakistan, this period was started in 21st century with Aurat March and its slogan of "meri jism meri marzi" which advocates for autonomy and freedom of women rather than merely tools of reproduction.

Conclusion:

In conclusion Gender Studies, as a discipline talks about advocacy of gendered society of social construct characterized by individual autonomy and rejection of subjugation, suppression, patriarchy and concept of masculinity and femininity. This subject has been evolved from Women Studies to Gender studies over a century. Moreover, in Pakistan there is new awareness among women regarding their rights, oppression and marginalization which can be detected in Aurat March and other programs for freedom of women and their upliftment as a permanent pillar of any society.

Q 3. Answer no. 3:

Introduction:

Feminism is a movement that deals with the concern of all genders of society and sexual orientation. It is not limited to women

only in modern time. In the beginning, it was started as a Woman study but in the 21st century it has been evolved exclusively addressing the problems of human beings without judging them on the basis of their biological sex. Previously, it talked about oppression of women and gender base violence but now its approach has been broadened as a result of contemporary feminist movements.

Exclusive Approach:

In contemporary era, Gender Studies addresses the concerns of all genders whether they are male, female, transgender or any type of sex biologically. Through modern feminist movements, Gender studies rejects the idea of gender as a social construct. It argues that it is our society or cultural orientations that compell various genders to perform and act the way society expects. Additionally, it endorses the existence of multiple genders and rise awareness among people regarding their concerns.

LGBTQ Endorsement:

Modern feminist

movements endorse existence of different genders in society such as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender and queer. It does not restrict its approach to two genders only but talks about orientation of all genders in society.

Contemporary Feminist Movements

Contemporary Feminist movements include third and fourth wave of feminism. Third wave comprises of period between 1990 and 2010 while fourth wave starts from 2010 onward till today.

The third movement discusses gender equality, gender base violence, work rights, political rights, autonomy and reproductive rights.

Furthermore, fourth wave of feminism is more advanced which talks about gender violence, harassment, workplace equality

by exposing these issues through digital platforms like social media.

It advocates for justice of all genders especially women who are sexually harassed, tortured or marginalized through awareness programs by using social media to address them.

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Genders Base Violence:

Women are treated as property of men in patriarchal societies and they are physically and mentally tortured at homes and workplaces. To eradicate this issue, contemporary feminist movements actively work on them.

Workplace Equality:

Women are treated as inferior in work places where they are not considered like men and face discrimination in work load and daily wages where they work for low wages or free daily chores at homes without getting rewards and appreciation. [Link to factors mentioned](#) They can live a prosperous life.

Bodily Autonomy:

Bodily autonomy is mandatory for marginalised women where they have no control over their life. They are considered as properties of male and do what they are demanded from. They are used as tools by men who are object of entertainment or machines who work for men comfort.

Health Issues:

Such movements talk about the health issues of all genders whether male, female or transgender. Health is the main concern which can be addressed for smooth existence of a society.

Conclusion:

To conclude, feminist movements in 21st century specially work for modern issues through social media and create awareness among all segments of society about the existence of different genders who are considered negative by conservative societies.

You have not addressed the asked part well

Q.4. Gender is a Socially Constructed Phenomenon.

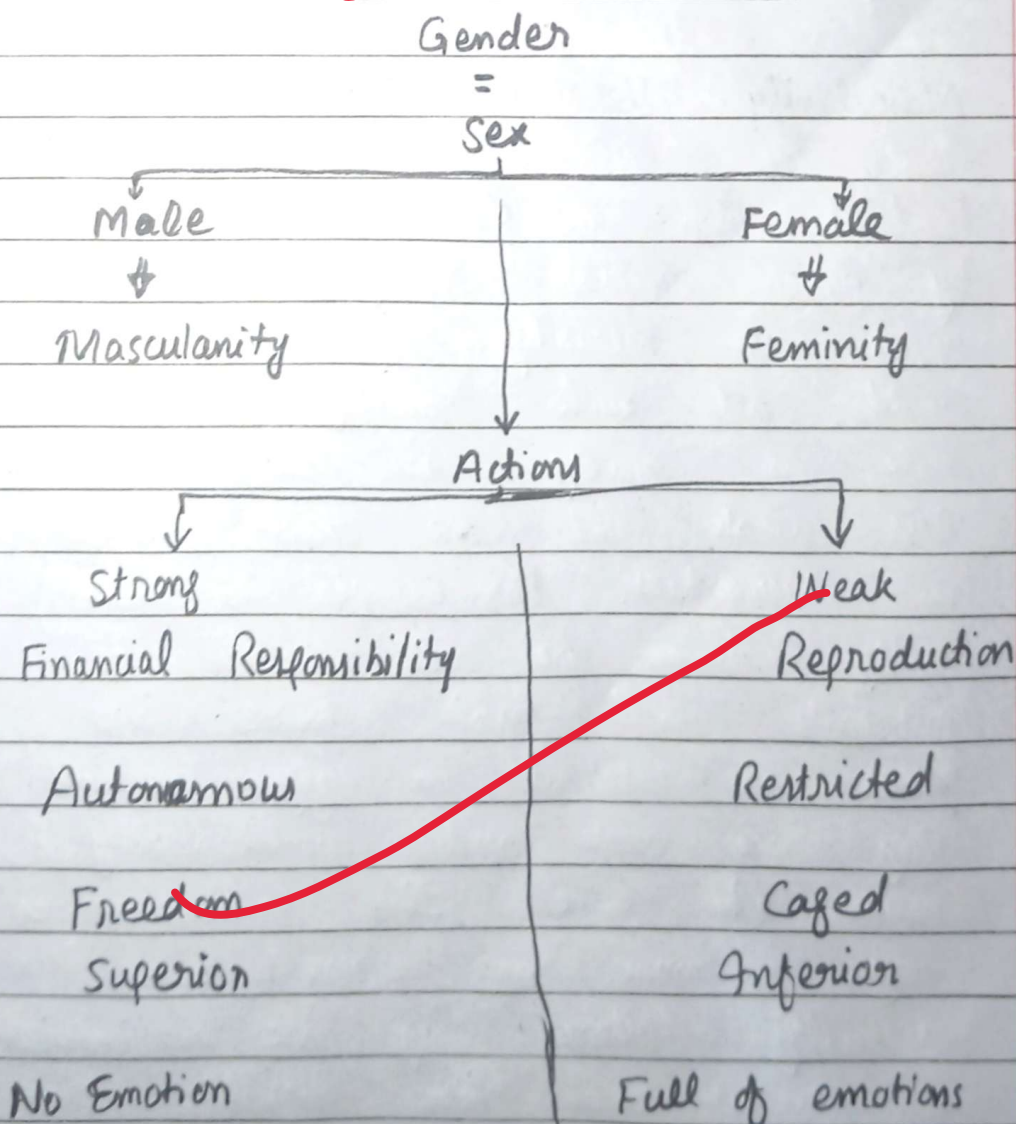
Introduction:

Gender is a socially constructed phenomenon. Theories of social construction of gender deal with this approach.

According to these theories, it is society that assigns roles to genders in the light of their biological sex. If someone is born as male biologically, then

he would act like a man with masculinity and ^{being} emotionless. In contrast, biologically female individuals are advised by society to act in a way demanded by society. Her roles include an individual full of emotion, nurturing, inferior, weak and object of entertainment for male counterpart without her true self identity.

Social Constructionism



Society is the main driver of social mobility according to social construction theories. It is the very fabric society who determines the actions of individual and those who act against their assigned role they are considered as non-conformist and rebellious. According to these theories individuals are required to strictly follow the tradition of society without challenging them.

Masculinity Vs Femininity:

Men are required to act with masculinity characterized by power, superior, strong and being upper in hierarchy. In contrast women would act with femininity because their role in society is inferior, powerless, weak and are counted lower in hierarchies. For example, in our society women are not allowed to participate in physical activities like games or workout in gym because they are weak and would only work at home. This phenomenon is very common in rural areas especially where they are not educated and do not know their rights.

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Emotions of Male and Female:

~~required to be emotionless~~ ^{male are} for they are strong and powerful while would act emotionally because they are weak and emotions are associated with them. Strong people - ^{male} have minds full of knowledge and intellect while weaker people - female have hearts and act with emotions and being sensitive without having intellectual ^{ability} like men. This segregation of male and female on the basis of emotion is because of social construct which needs to be avoided in current era.

Tools of Reproduction:

~~women do not~~ have authority over their body and are required to produce offspring for society without considering their consent and care of their health or mental problems. They are treated as reproductive machine having no other work to do like education, doing business or job of their interests. Only male have the authority to decide their actions and future in a patriarchal society.

Conclusion:

To cut long story short, social construction of gender is a threat for society because according to social construction theories, women are not free to exercise their due rights and get freedom. On the other hand, men are free to do what they want without restriction because society restricts women for being inferior, weak and passive and considers men as superior, strong and active.

Where are theories???

Q.5. Introduction:

Women - being vulnerable individuals of society is an alarming situation. In contemporary world^{era}, where world has become a global village and modernism prevails, women in many parts of the world face problems. Especially in third world countries and rural areas, women are not allowed to express their issues, exercise their political, social or economic rights or get medical assistance even during reproduction. Such problems of women can be mitigated by proper education, political, economic and social independence, freedom of

speed, bodily autonomy, reproductive rights, providing marriage consent, independent decision making, constitutional changes for upliftment of women, solving their health issues on priority bases, ban on gender base violence and protection against sexual harassment.

Women as Vulnerable:

Gender Base Violence:

Gender base violence is a common phenomenon where women are tortured physically and mentally and they don't express themselves because they are vulnerable and weak.

Around the globe, women are not treated with kindness.

A. Lack of Political Right

Women even in modern world do not have proper political rights such as that of voting, ruling a constituency or run a country in conservative society. For example, in Pakistan, women turnout in voting is quite less as compared to men.

Socially Marginalised:

Around the globe

women's participation in social activities is rare. They are restricted at homes and not allowed to move from one place to another independently.

Economic Exploitation:

Women in some areas work for free and somewhere with low wages because they do not need financial stability according to patriarchal society.

Lack of Medical Assistance:

Various mental and physical health issues but their right to proper health is not treated by men or society. They are considered as reproductive machines without proper caring of their health which causes problems for them.

Way forward to Rewrite Women Status Globally:

Proper Education:

Women, like men need proper education to become strong and equal individual of society for progress and development.

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Political, Economic and Social Independence:

Women need political rights with voting and representation; workplace equality and full wages and freedom of business on jobs; and participation in social activities with having proper civil rights.

Freedom of speech:

Women need freedom of speech to talk about their vulnerabilities through media and other discourses.

Bodily Autonomy:

Women should be provided with their autonomy on body and would not be forced for conformity and passive role in society.

Reproductive Rights:

Reproductive rights for women is very necessary. They need to produce offspring with their consent unlike oppression by society to do so.

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 Mary Wollstonecraft, Judith Butler, Stuart Mill, Simone de Beauvoir, Rafia Zakria, Rubina Seghal, Farzani Bari etc. in relevant arguments to make your paper attractive.

good luck