

## Gender Studies

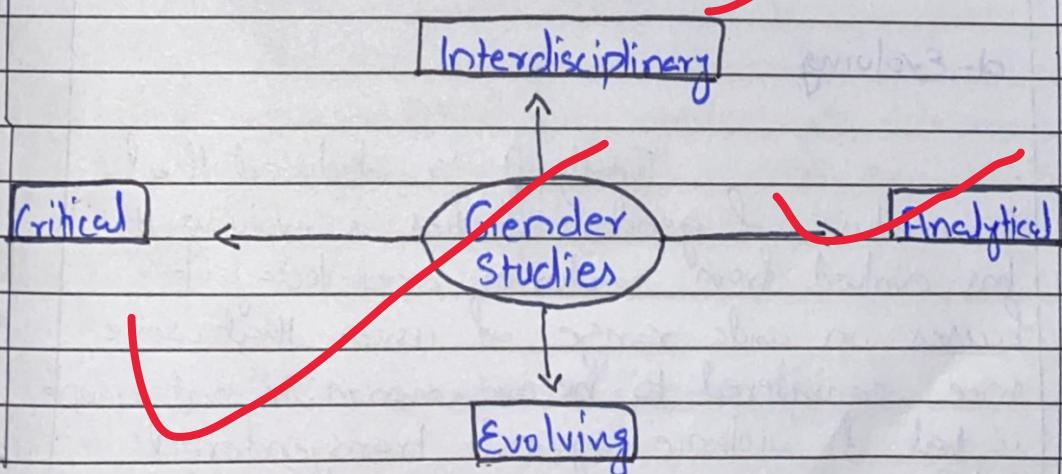
Q2

### (I) Introduction

The field of women studies that emerged to cater and give voice to needs of women evolved overtime. The transition from a single gender focus to a broad gendered system came with better understanding of needs and challenges. The discipline of gender studies in nature is interdisciplinary, analytical, evolving focusing power dynamics and social construction of gender. Moreover the field of gender studies emerged from centuries of struggles beginning from French Revolution in 18th century till the recent developments of 21st century. The struggle for uplifting of women began after independence in Pakistan with the formation of Women's Relief Committee by mother of the nation.

(II)

### Understanding Gender Studies as a Discipline



### a- Interdisciplinary

The nature of gender studies is interdisciplinary. It takes and combines knowledge from history, law, literature, politics, psychology and medical. This nature broadens the knowledge base of gender studies making it a vital field of study.

### b- Analytical

Moreover, gender studies is analytical in nature. It analyzes real time information, merge it with past realities and deduce a balanced solution to all the problems faced with genders.

### c- Critical

Furthermore, gender studies is critical in nature. It challenges all the myths and false beliefs constructed by society. It also focuses on violence against genders, their deprivations from employment and their restriction created by society.

### d- Evolving

**Make elaborative headings**

Finally, it is deduced that the nature of gender studies is evolving. It has evolved from centuries and today it deals on wide range of issues that were once considered to be a norm. The best example is that of violence against transgendered people.

## (III) Background of Gender Studies with Reference to Pakistan

### Background

1947 - 1980s Period

Zia's Era and Resistance

Institutionalization

Recent Developments

Begin with second wave

Post independence, women did not face such restriction as faced in the latter period. The first instance of efforts for protection of women was formation of Women's Relief Committee by Fatima Jinnah. The period further marked with creation of All Pakistan Women Association in 1949. This intensified the debate for increasing women institutions and work.

### b- Zia's Era and Resistance

The period post 1979 is marked with repression against women. Zia to strengthen his rule adopted policies of Islamization. For instance, Hudood Ordinance (1979). This marked with establishment of Women's Action Forum (WAF) in 1981, this established for formation of mobilizing women and advocating gender equality.

### c- Institutionalization of Gender Studies

The Period of 1990s marked.

with the establishment of Centre of Excellence for Women's Studies in 1989 in University of Karachi. subsequently, gender studies departments were setup at University of Punjab, Quaid-e-Azam University and Fatima Jinnah Women University. These were supported by Higher Education commission and international organizations.

#### d- Recent Developments (Post 2000)

The years after 2000 came with acceptance of legitimacy of women's issues and is marked with creation of women protection laws. This approach was after Pakistan ratified Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1996. The laws enacted were Women in Distress and Detention Fund Act, 1996, Protection Against Harassment of Women At Workplace Act 2010, Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Act, 2021. These are some developments result of longstanding efforts of women.

#### (IV) Conclusion

The field of gender studies has not just been a common field but a torch bearer for rights protection for all classes. Pakistan's history with women struggles is marked with up and downs however, with continuous struggle, the activists have been successful in achieving rights for women. Gender studies as a discipline is a vast field with its interdisciplinary nature, evolving characteristic and the

Write 8-9 sides

quality of analytical and critical approach to address the challenges.

Q4:-

(1)

### Introduction

~~Q4~~

The society is believed to be evolved from equality to patriarchy. The role of women with passage of time has changed. With emergence of industrial revolution, women have been pushed into shadows as only males were preferred for roles in factories. This was result of belief that women are weak, emotional and can not handle difficult tasks. These ideas inspired great thinkers like Judith Butler, Mary Wollstonecraft and Simone de Beauvoir to challenge these claims. It was then clarified by their struggle that, 'Gender is a social construction'.

(1)

### Theories of Social Construction of Gender

Theories

→ Existential Feminism

→ Social Learning Theory

→ Cognitive Development Theory

→ Queer Theory

→ Discourse and Power Theory

### a- Existentialist Feminism

The proponent of this theory is Simon de Beauvoir, she is of the view that, "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman." It means that gender is a product of socialization and cultural expectations. One is forced by society to adopt roles of a man or woman.

### b- Social Learning Theory

This theory proposed that gender roles are learned through reinforcement, punishment and imitation. It is role of family, peers, school and media that reinforce the roles. The proponents of this are Albert Bandura and Walter Mischel. As stated, "Most human behavior is learned observationally through modeling: the words Bandura speaks for theory itself.

### c- Cognitive Development Theory

"The child actively organizes his world: as stated by Lawrence Kohlberg, this theory suggests that children actively develop gender identity based on societal cues.

### d- Queer Theory

This theory is proposed by Judith Butler. She says that gender is performative, constructed through repeated actions, not inheritance. There is no fixed identity, repeated performances create the illusion of stable gender.

## e- Discourse and Power Theory

This theory proposes that gender norms are created through discourses of power. Institutions are made in a way that they ensure patriarchy and suppress women. The proponent of this theory is Michel Foucault. His famous words are, 'Power produces knowledge and shapes bodies.'

(iii)

### Critical Analysis

Theories of different thinkers proved to be essential in disclosing the way society is entrenched in delegating genders and specifying norms. However, it ignores biological essentialism, failed to discuss intersexuality and none of it critiqued colonialism.

(iv)

### Conclusion

Gender as a social construction is a debate which took a lot of efforts. Different thinkers played their role in building these ideas, they include, Michel Foucault, Lawrence Kohlberg, Simone de Beauvoir and Judith Butler.

Their theories like power and discourse, Queer Theory, existentialist feminism and cognitive development theory helped to shape the true idea of gender being a social construction.

**Imbalance**

**Elaborate first part as well**

Q8-

## 1- Gender and Globalization

Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness of economies, cultures, societies worldwide. It affects gender relations by influencing labor, culture, migration and social norms. Gender and globalization explore how global processes impact men and women differently, often reinforcing existing inequalities while also creating new opportunities. This has several impacts ranging from economic, cultural and political.

### a- Economic Impact

Global labor markets exploit women as cheap labor in export oriented industries.

### b- Cultural Impact

Global media spreads ideas of gender equality, modernity, and feminist thought. However, it may also impose western ideas of gender eroding local cultures.

### c- Political Impact

Globalization encourages transnational feminist movements and networks, promoting rights, education and advocacy.

# 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

## II- Psychoanalytical feminism

the questions carry 3\_4 parts... each part has equal weightage so discuss all equally

understand psychoanalytical theories

roles. It examines how unconscious desires, family

use subject specific jargons e.g. Patriarchy, entrenched traditional values etc. Also, do not add

blunt statements

### a- Freudian influence

use types, waves and theories of feminism as references

Sigmund Freud's idea of oedipus complex influence the formation of gender identity.

attempt all parts in the question. do not neglect one

add facts and figures to support your argument

She examined mothering and child attachment. She argued that gendered personalities arise from family structures. Men internalizing nurturing makes men develop separation and autonomy.

Add names of Mary Wollstonecraft, Judith

Butler, Stuart Mill, Simone de Beauvoir, Rafia

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

good luck

(THE END)