

# Mock Exam Gender Studies

Q. 2

## 1. Gender Studies as a Discipline:

Gender studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that critically examines how gender shapes social structures, identities, relationships, and power dynamics. It goes beyond biological differences and focuses on gender as a social and cultural construct.

### • Core Features of Gender Studies

#### a. Interdisciplinary Nature:

Draws from sociology, anthropology, psychology, political science, economics, history, literature, law, and development studies.

#### b. Focus on Power and Inequality:

Studies how gender hierarchies are created, maintained, and challenged in society.

c. Critical Analysis of Social Structures:

Examines institutions like family, education, media, religion, and the state and how they produce gender norms.

d. Intersectionality:

Investigates how gender intersects with class, ethnicity, religion, disability, and sexuality to produce multiple forms of inequality.

e. Focus on Masculinities and Femininities:

Includes research on men and masculinity, queer identities, trans studies, and non-binary experiences.

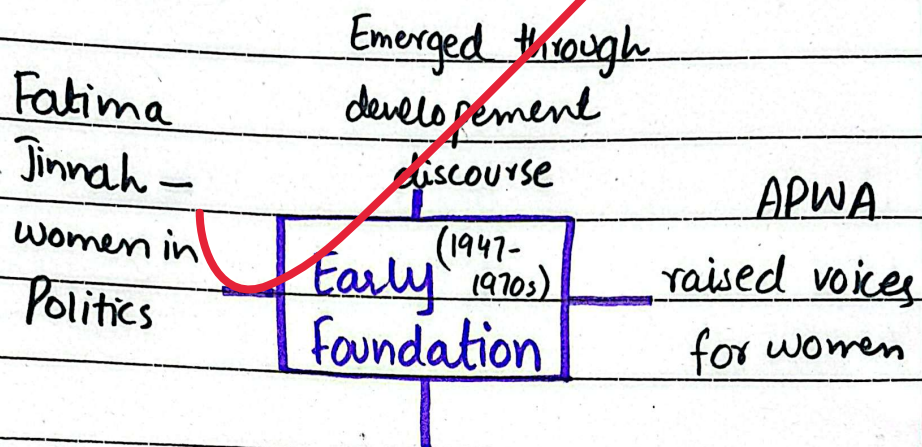
• Major Themes in Gender Studies



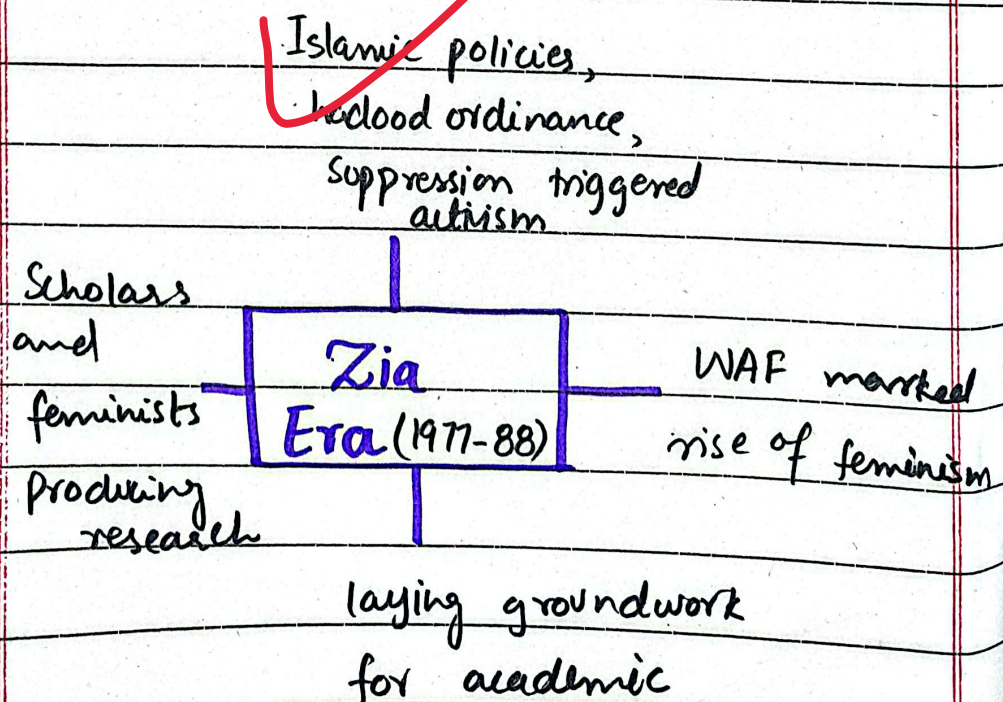
### 3. Evolution in Pakistan:

Gender

studies in Pakistan evolved under the influence of historical political, feminist, and development-sector dynamics.



No formal academic discipline existed yet.



followed by  
other

← University of Karachi - centre of women's studies

HEC  
encouraged  
curricula  
gender related

Institutionalization  
of Gender (1990s)

UNDP, UNICEF,  
USAID → funded  
Research

Shift of women's  
Studies to gender studies

Being taught in  
universities from  
BS - PHD level

Transgender  
rights  
(Act 2018)

2000s -  
Present

Research themes  
include gender  
related issues.

National Gender Policy  
Framework

#### 4. Challenges in Pakistan:

- Social resistance due to misconceptions about feminism.
- Politicisation of gender issues.
- Limited funding for research.
- Lack of trained faculty in rural universities.

## 5. Contribution in Pakistan:

- Produced research to inform laws as Women protection Acts.
- Helped highlight issues like honour killings, workplace harassment, digital misogyny.
- Supported policymaking in education, health, labour, and family laws.
- Created professional gender experts in NGOs, academia, and government.

## Conclusion:

Gender studies has evolved from a feminist and development-oriented movement into a mature academic discipline in Pakistan. Its growth reflects wider struggles for women's rights, social justice, and democratic values. Today it plays a crucial role in

Focus more on content

shaping public policy, challenging patriarchal norms, and promoting an inclusive society.

~ (Qno-3) ~

## Introduction:

Feminism in the 21st century has moved beyond its earlier focus on women's rights alone. Contemporary feminist thought argues that gender-based oppression affects not only women but also men, transgenders, and non-binary individuals. Therefore, feminism today seeks to become more inclusive, intersectional, and responsive to diverse gender identities and sexual orientation.

### 1. Traditional to Inclusive Feminism:

a) First and Second-Wave Feminism:

Earlier feminist waves mainly addressed:

- Women's suffrage
- Legal rights
- Workplace discrimination
- Reproductive rights

Focus was largely on heterosexual, middle-class women, leaving out marginalised groups.

b) Third and Fourth Waves:

Modern feminism recognizes:

- Intersectionality (race, class, gender identity, sexuality)
- LGBTQ+ rights
- Masculinity studies
- Digital activism

Thus, the scope has widened to include all genders.

2. Why Feminism Must Address All Genders and Sexual Orientation:

a) Gender Inequalities Affect Everyone:

Patriarchy harms women, but it also harms:

Men (toxic masculinity, mental health stigma)

Transgender persons (violence, exclusion)

Non-binary and queer persons (social invisibility)

b) Recognition of Diverse Gender Identities:

21st century acknowledges gender as a spectrum, not a strict male/female binary.

Feminism must evolve to reflect this reality.

c) Human Rights Framework:

Global human rights norms (UN, CEDAW) demand equality regardless of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation.

### 3- Contemporary Feminist Movements :

#### a) Intersectional Feminism

Coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, it highlights overlapping identities :

- Gender
- Race
- Class
- Sexuality
- Disability

#### b) Queer Feminism

Challenges heteronormativity and fights for:

- LGBTQ+ rights
- Same-sex marriage
- Protection from discrimination
- Representation in media

#### c) Trans-Inclusive feminism

Advocates for:

- Trans rights
- Gender recognition laws
- Healthcare access
- Protection from violence

#### d) Men and Masculinity Studies

Modern feminism also

recognizes that:

- Rigid masculinity norms harm men.
- Men must be part of feminist advocacy.

Campaigns:

- HeForShe (UN Women)
- MenEngage Global Alliance.

#### e) Digital Feminist Movements

- #MeToo (sexual harassment across globe)
- #TimesUp
- #NiUnaMenos
- #SayHerName
- #LGBTQIA+ activism

### 4. Importance

#### a) Builds stronger coalitions

Shared struggles unite women, men, and queer communities against patriarchal power.

#### b) Reflects Social Reality

Today's societies are diverse; feminism must match that diversity.

c) Human rights and Justice

Inclusive feminism aligns with global equality standards.

d) Ensure Relevance

without inclusivity, feminism risks becoming outdated or exclusive.

Conclusion:

Feminism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is no longer a movement solely for women; it is a struggle for equality, dignity, and justice for all individuals regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

~ (Dro. 8) ~

(i) Gender and Globalization

Introduction:

Gender and globalization examine how

global economic, cultural, and political processes impact men and women differently. Globalization is not gender-neutral; it redistributes opportunities and inequalities across genders.

### Key Points:

#### 1. Feminism of Labour:

- Rise in women's employment in export industries, call centers, textile factories, and overseas domestic work.
- Often low wages, job security, and exploitation.

#### 2. Global Care Chain

- Women from developing countries migrate to work as caregivers, nannies, and nurses in wealthier nations.
- Creates emotional and social gaps in their home families.

#### 3. Gendered Impact of Neoliberal Policies

- Privatization and austerity measures reduce social services.
- Women bear the burden of unpaid or unpaid care work.

#### 4) Technology and Digital Divide

- Globalization increases access to information and jobs, but many women in the Global South face limited digital access.

#### 5) Cultural Globalization

- Spread of feminist ideas, human rights norms, and women's empowerment campaigns worldwide.
- Simultaneously, global media can reinforce beauty standards and stereotypes.

#### 6) Migration and Trafficking

Increased cross-border movement affects women differently

both opportunities and vulnerabilities.  
(trafficking, unsafe labour)

## 7) Women Movements and Global Governance.

- UN conferences (Beijing 1995), CEDAW, and global NGOs promote gender equality.
- Feminist activism now transnational.

## Conclusion:

Globalization creates mixed outcomes: empowerment and opportunities on one hand, exploitation and gendered inequalities on the other. Understanding gender dimensions is crucial for equitable global development.

## ii) Psychoanalytical Feminism Introduction:

Psychoanalytical feminism draws from Freud, Lacan and other psychoanalytic

theorists to understand how gender identity, desires, and power relations are shaped by the unconscious processes of the mind.

### Key Ideas:

#### 1. Gender Formation in Childhood

- Early childhood experiences shape gender identity.
- Social norms get internalized through family, especially parent-child relationship.

#### 2. Freudian Influence

- Feminists critique Freud, but use his ideas to explain how patriarchy becomes internalized psychologically.

#### 3. Nancy Chodorow

- A major psychoanalytic feminist.
- Argues that because women are primary caregivers, girls develop identity

through separation.

#### 4. Lacanian Perspective

- The "Symbolic Order," language, and cultural structures shape gender and sexuality.
- Women are positioned as "the other" in patriarchal symbolic systems.

#### 5. Internalized Patriarchy

- Psychoanalytical feminists study how women may unconsciously accept subordinate roles due to internalized norms.

#### 6. Gender, Emotion, and Desire

- Examines how emotions, fantasies, sexuality, and desires are shaped by patriarchal culture.
- Important for understanding gender-based violence, body image, and self-esteem.

#### Conclusion :

Psychoanalytical feminism helps uncover the deep emotional and unconscious roots of gender inequality. It

Important Note to get Good marks in Gender Studies: **MTWTFSS** Add lacnaian approach

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