

Question #07

(Obstacles in the way of women political participation. Critical analysis on the quota system)

1 Introduction

Women in Pakistan face multiple obstacles in their participation in politics. Hurdles as a candidate, as a voter and as a representative, all have basic basic notion, male-domination of the society. To counter such domination, the quota-system has been introduced in candidature and in voting. There are positive results but long-term impact require change in society's mindset.

2. Women in Politics and Its Importance

Women comprise half the world's population. Their contribution, compared to that of men, is

virtue of their productive and reproductive participation is more than men. Yet women participation politically around the world adds up to near 15%. Their enhanced participation is considered to be the key to redress gender inequalities. Delegating women to the private affairs of society is injustice to them as human beings and unfair to many generations to come.

3- Intrinsic and Instrumental Arguments about Women Participation in Politics

The global debate about women participation in the politics is surrounded by intrinsic and instrumental arguments:

a- Intrinsic:

It argues that women have equal right as human beings to participate in the politics. According to this argument, women form half the world's population so it's but natural that they should participate equally.

b- Instrumentalist:

Instrumentalists argue that men and women are different which makes it essential that women take part in the politics. Women have different vision and they understand the societal issues from a unique perspective. Hence, this argument believes that women participation will bring female values to politics.

4- Hurdles in the Way of Women Political Participation in Pakistan

A- Obstacles faced by Women as Electoral Candidates

- i- Patriarchy is used as an ideological tool to limit women in the private realm of life.
- ii- Male-dominance is manifested in ways that are essential for women to participate. For example, most of the prominent women politicians are somehow blood-relatives to a male politician.
- iii- Elite capture of women quota in politics. Poor women or otherwise passionate women find it difficult to participate without any relation with male-politicians.

b- Obstacles faced by women as voters

- i- Limitation on the mobility of Pakistani women, hinder them to vote
- ii- Most of the Pakistani women do not have their own political thought-process. They would only vote for a candidate their husbands or fathers direct them to vote for
- iii- Women in many rural sides do not feel secure to go out and vote

c- Obstacles faced by women as representatives

- i- Objectification of a female representative hinder most of the potential candidates to step forward
- ii- Character assassination is used a tool against female representative by her opposition
- iii- Paucity of trust by males around

her in taking decisions of national interests

5- Critical Analysis about the Quota System in Pakistan

a- Quota System in Politics

Quota system refers to the reserved seats for an economically and socially poor sections of a society. Pakistan has introduced quota system in its politics as well. For instance, both Federal and Provincial Commissions have reserved seats for females. Similarly, ECP has made obligatory that 10% voters need to be women for a candidate to win from an area.

b- Impacts of the Quota System

Overall impacts of the quota system are not too positive. Yes, there is seen a motivation in women to participate politically; however, not

as an independent candidate or voter. The reason is that mere formation of a rule will not uplift and change a society. It requires years to see a change that too when proper steps are taken to educate the dominate factors (males) to accommodate other sections as equal parts. Hence, it requires a significant change in the social fabric of Pakistan to actually see women in all aspects of political life of Pakistan.

6- Conclusion

Conclusively, women in politics is both essential as a human being and as a different entity than men. Pakistan's political system offers various hurdles to the women for participating. Despite some positive change via 'quota system', significant change is yet to be seen.

Question #06

(Forms of Gender-Based Violence.)
Effectiveness of existing laws and policies to counter GBV

1- Introduction

According to the definition of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as per WHO, "Any use of power or force or threat of it against any gender, class or race that results in physical injury, or emotional and psychological damage". Similarly, Istanbul Convention explains, "Use of force or power against women to harm her physically, emotionally, economically or coercive act to affect her mobility or threat of it is called Gender Based Violence".

2- Types of Gender-Based Violence

a- Direct Form of Gender Based Violence

Direct-form of gender

based violence is one in which the offender can be clearly identified

Types of direct GBV

A- Physical form of violence

B- Sexual form of violence

C- Economic form of violence

Case Study of GBV in European Union

According to a research, 1 in 3 girls, under the age of 15%, have been physically harmed by their partners; 1 in 4 have been sexually abused; 50% have been harassed or stalked and around 95% have been used in human trafficking for sexual purposes

6 - Indirect Form of GBV

Indirect form of GBV is one in which the offender cannot be identified. It is mostly called as 'Structural Violence'. Structural violence was the term coined by Johan Galtung. According to Johan, structural violence is

"avoidable defect of human right"

Case Study of Indirect form of GBV

When a 17 year old girl was harassed by a janitor, the judge exculpated the offender under the pretext that the offense was not carried out on a longer period. This decision was criticized as structural form of violence against young girls i.e., acceptance

of the violence was so ingrained in the society that such harassment was not considered an offence at all.

3- Laws to Counter Gender Based Violence in Pakistan

- a- Anti-Rape Law 2010
- b- Workplace harassment laws 2011
- c- Child Marriage Restriction Laws in Sindh 2010
- d- Anti-acid attack Law 2010

4- Effectiveness of the Laws to Counter GBV

Formation of laws, signing international treaties are only first steps towards the effectiveness. In Pakistan, in general, ladies still face violence despite

all the laws in place. Major issue in the manifestation of the laws is education. Many men and women are not aware of the laws that protect them. Secondly, patriarchy in society and government's institutions compel women from complaining about any offense. Public shaming is third step then woman would go if she musters courage to file a complaint.

5- Ways to Make Gender Based Violence Laws More Effective

A- Incorporate More Women in Government Institutions

Increased women's participation in the government institutions will result in women-centric policies. Women of society will feel comfortable filing complaints.

For Example

When a young girl was physically abused and beaten by a religious group on the roads of Punjab, it took a female police-officer to protect her and take her away from the mob.

↳ Use Media and Entertainment Channels to Spread Awareness

Media and entertainment play crucial role in reforming a society. These platforms can be effectively used to educate audience of their rights and bring reforms in the spirit of both society and government institutions.

For Example

India is frequently using entertainment media to empower her women. From

movies like Do Patti, Lapata Ladies Darlings etc., it is educating her audience of what laws exist and how to access them to get better safeguard.

Question # 01

(Difference between Gender Studies and Women Studies)
Sex and Gender Debate

1. Introduction

When women started to raise their voices for their active status in the society, it resulted into the academic discipline of Women Studies. As time advanced, more ideas emerged, Gender Studies came into being to study other genders too. With Gender Studies, the idea and separation of sex and gender surfaced. The debate of sex and gender is an ongoing debate.

2. Difference between Gender Studies and Women Studies

Women Studies

Gender Studies

1	It is an interdisciplinary subject	It is a multidisciplinary subject
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Women Studies

that focuses on women their experiences and achievements

2- It emerged as a subject in 1960s and 1970s as a result of second wave of feminism

3- Its contents were gathered majorly from the 'consciousness raising' meetings

4- Reason deter: to counter the male dominance in the society

Gender Studies

that focuses on gender representation

It build to the women studies subject

Its contents were gathered from women studies, biology, psychology, sociology etc. hence multidisciplinary in nature

Reason deter: to counter the binaries in the society

Women Studies

Gender Studies

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 6. | Objective: According to United States National Women Association Women Studies focuses on the ways to uplift the status of women in societies | Objective: To analyze the gender inequality, gender as a social construct, class-based inequality, race-based inequality etc. |
| 7- | Women-centered approach | It includes men, women and queer |
| 8- | The academic discipline was built on the political activism | The academic discipline was not based on any political activism |
| 9- | Failed to address the reasons why women were left behind in the developmental process | Focuses on reasons, ways and implications of developments on women: It's a holistic approach. |

3- Sex Vs. Gender Debate

Sex

Gender

1. It is defined as biological and psychological differences between men and women. It is considered to be socially and culturally constructed that results in masculinity and femininity.
2. Indicators of sex are biological chromosomes, internal reproductive system and external genitalia. Gender is a social construct that allows one to behave in a specific role that is deemed fit by the society.
- 3- It is non-fluid in nature. It is categorized as male, female and intersex. It is fluid in nature and is variable in terms of time, socio-cultural setting, geographical setting etc.

Sex

5- It is fixed and natural

6- Main Proponents
a- Germain Greer emphasizes biological sex and argues that gender identity should be grounded in female biological realities

b- Christina Hoff Sommers in *The Role of Feminism* supports gender realism perspective. She argues, biological sex influences behaviour and social role.

Gender

It allows one to identify with anything a person wants to

Main Proponents
a- Judith Butler in her work "Gender Trouble" argues that gender is not an innate quality but a repeated performance based on social expectations

b- Simon de Beauvoir in *The Second Sex* states that "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman".

4- Conclusion

Women Studies and Gender Studies are different in various ways. One is the basis of the later. Whereas, gender and sex debate is a longer one. Both have specific proponents and this debate falls under the Gender Studies.