

Q.3.Introduction

In Pakistan, Gender discrimination is visible through digital divide. It can be explained from gender curtain in access to mobile phones, rest gender restrictions on social media apps and patriarchal dictation of new technology. Therefore, there is an urgent need to increase role of civil societies, legislate laws to criminalise digital restrictions, empower local governments with proportionate women representation, launching digital awareness programmes and investing in public sector development programmes.

How gender discrimination has morphed into digital divide in Pakistan??

Gender curtain.

Restrictions on social media apps.

Patriarchal dictation of Technology.

### (i) Gender curtain and access to mobile phones

In Pakistan, women do not have adequate access to mobile phones. Men have more agency to govern mobile phones markets. Moreover, women are dependent upon man to buy mobile phones. According to report of GSMA in 2023, only 33% of women have access to mobile cards, which indicates that women have been vielded in gender curtain to access mobile phones.

### (ii) Women have <sup>social media</sup> restrictions to access mobile phones:

Those women, who have frequent access to mobile phones, have access to social media apps at discretion of man. It is because of the fact that social media access of women is linked to "Honour" of the family. Thus, their social media apps are continuously surveiled by their brothers, fathers and male counterparts.

Honour  
women

[Honour unmasked: Nafeesa Shah]

### (iii) Patriarchal dictation of technology in Pakistan:

Otherisation of women is the basic reason of discrimination against women (Simon De Bouveir: Second Sex). This otherisation of women is continued in domination of technology in Pakistan. Any emerging technology first targets men in Pakistan to increase their sales. In this way, men become more oblivious of digitalisation while women access that technology after 10-15 years.

### Measures to narrow the gender-based digital divide in Pakistan:-

#### (i) Increase role of civil societies to accelerate participation of women:

In Pakistan, Gender mainstreaming in fields of governments is on the decline. In this situation, role of civil societies become prominent. It is proved by the fact that Women Action Forum in 1991 started education programmes for women, which are

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yielding fruits in form of women literacy. Therefore, civil societies can increase participation of women to know about technology and play their part for addressing digital divide.

(ii) Government needs to legislate laws to criminalise gender restrictions on internet:

In 2010, Government of Pakistan enacted Acid attack prevention Act. This act resulted in significant decrease of acid attacks and enhanced women empowerment. Such acts need to be legislated to criminalise acts, which over-veil rights of women to social media. Women need to independently post stories and access social media for true gender empowerment.

(iii) Empowerment of local governments with proportionate representation of women can address digital divide:

In Pakistan, Article 140A mandates governments to hold elections of local governments with proportional representation of

women. However, it never materialised. In contemporary era, digital divide can be ~~dece~~ bridged by devoluting technological powers to women in local governments. These representative women can address technological needs of women freelancers at their doorsteps, which can increase their access to economy and international trade.

#### (iv) Launching digital awareness program can address digital divide:

Government should launch digital awareness programmes for women.

It can increase gender mainstreaming of housewives, who do not hold agency in Pakistan. Through these digital awareness programmes, access of women to technology, sanitary pads and their equal rights can also be addressed.

Through this initiative, misogynistic society of Pakistan can be transformed in gender inclusive society with the help of technology.

#### (v) Investments in public sector developmental programmes

## Can bridge digital divide of gender:

In Pakistan's budget 2023-24, only 1% has been allocated for digital development programmes. Out of freelancers, only 6% women are entrepreneurs. However, an increase in investment in empowering women with skills, Pakistan can address digital divide. If this half of the population is given access to technology, generation of revenue can be significantly boosted. Thus, addressing digital divide through investment can be returned in increase of GDP.

(Empowering women in Pakistan: Urwa Hameed)

### Conclusions

Pakistan's gender potential is marred by digital divide. However, gender empowerment and gender mainstreaming can be materialised to through giving women access to technology.

Q. 1.

## Introduction:-

There are different types of feminism notably including liberal feminism, socialist feminism, standpoint feminism and radical feminism.

Liberal feminism elevated socio-economic status of women through equal pay ~~are~~ legislations and giving abortion rights. Socialist feminism was reason of giving women right to choose their surname and ~~give~~ providing access to private property. Stand point feminism led to recreation of knowledge in form of gender studies and gender mainstreaming in intersectionality. Radical feminism ~~obje~~ created awareness regarding pornography and commercialisation of women.

1. Liberal  
Feminism

Different types  
of Feminism

2. Socialist  
Feminism

3. Standpoint  
Feminism

4. Radical  
Feminism.

## ① Liberal feminism promoted rights for women:

Liberalism refers to the freedom of human rights to life, liberty and property, without intervention of state. In the same way, liberal feminism demanded same rights ~~from~~<sup>for</sup> women. They demanded gender mainstreaming in political and social life. Moreover, liberal feminism focused on drawing attention towards social construction of gender.

[Simon De Bouvier: Second Sex].

[Margaret Mead: Coming of Age of Samoa].

## Role in elevating socio-economic rights.

### ① Legislation for equal pay was result of liberal feminism:

Before liberal feminism, women were not granted equal rights to pay for their services.

They received \$0.17/day which was very low compared to men. However, in 1978, Reed



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vs Reed case, women were granted equal rights of pay through equal pay act.

(i) Abortion rights to women were result of liberal feminism.

Women were restricted right to abortion and were used as incubator (Aristotle: Politics). However, liberal feminists demanded rights of abortion for women. Thus, women were granted these right in 1975 US abortion act.

(2) Socialist feminism targeted capitalism as cause of patriarchy.

According to socialist feminism, patriarchy is the sole result of capitalism. Capitalism is the result of accumulation of reserves in few hands, dominated by ~~women~~.

Thus, emancipation from capitalist system can empower women rights.

[Friedrich Engels: On private property and women.

August Biebel: woman and Socialism].

## Role of socialist feminism in elevating socio-economic role of women:

i) Socialist feminism granted right to women to choose their surname:

Socialist feminism predominantly impacted Russia, which transformed society in line with socialism. In 1945, Stalin announced an act to grant women the rights to choose their surname, which was a remarkable step of empowerment.

ii) Socialist feminism provided right of women to private property:

In 1918, Lenin granted women right to run enterprises and agriculture. It was result of socialist feminism, which granted right to women to ~~st~~ have private property.

"House chores stifles and strangles women"

(Lenin).

3) Standpoint feminism questioned evolution of

## knowledge and institutions:

Standpoint feminism was the result of third wave feminism.

In 1990s, Bell Hooke wrote 30 books to claim that institutions and constructed knowledge was the cause of discrimination of women in society. This term was derived by D.E.

Smith, to question role of institutions in gender discrimination.

## Role of standpoint feminism in elevating socio-economic status.

### (i) Recreation of knowledge in form of Gender studies:

As standpoint feminism questioned the very existence of knowledge and institutions, it resulted into demand for separate knowledge corridors for women. Thus, institutions of Gender Studies was created in Indiana University, U.S. It established the fact that gender experiences were not included in social construction of knowledge.

### (ii) Gender mainstreaming in intersectionality:

As standpoint feminism resulted

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from third wave feminism, intersectionality was a predominant idea behind that type. Intersectionality was based on the fact that multiple gender identities of gender, race, religion culminates in oppression. Thus, gender mainstreaming of African women was ~~just~~ created through perspective of intersectionality.

### ④ Radical feminism:

This type of feminism demanded an end to objectification of women. These feminists resorted to radical methods to cast vote in first wave feminism. Moreover, they questioned institution of marriage which is patriarchal (Andrea Rita). These feminists were of the view that gender oppression can only be ended through partial or complete separation [Book: The Golden Notebooks].

### Role of radical feminism in elevating socio-economic status of women.

- ① Created awareness regarding pornography:  
According to radical feminists,

pornograph is objectification of women. Thus, it created awareness about uplifting socio-economic status of women as human, but not as an object.

(Andrea Rita: Take back nights).

(ii) Commercialisation of women should be at will of women:

Radical feminists draws attention towards the fact that gender discrimination is the result of commercialisation of women ~~is~~ by business people. Thus, it resulted into laws, who mandated that gender commercialisation should be at pure disposal of woman.

### Conclusion:

All types of feminism demanded an end to gender discrimination and empowerment of women for inclusive global. Although these types of feminism adopted different methods, these types granted socio-economic agency to women.

## Q.6. Introduction:-

cultural  
structural

Different <sup>forms</sup> types of gender-based violence include direct violence, indirect emotional violence, economic violence, cultural violence and structural violence. Gender-based violence in Pakistan has been alleviated through laws by decrease in number of cases of acid attack. ~~It~~ and work-place safety of women. However, social values hampers ~~pro~~ effectiveness of these laws and lack of enforcement mechanism further make these laws ineffective to end gender-based violence.

### What is Gender-based violence:

"Any act of physical or non-physical nature, which causes physical, social and emotional damage to marginalised identities is called Gender-based violence."

(United Nations).

Different forms of Gender-based violence:  
Gender-based violence exists in

various forms, discussed below:-

(i) Direct violence refers to direct torture of victim.

Direct gender-based violence ~~and~~ include direct acts of thrashing women or injuring women to make them submissive.

Theoretical explanation:

Learned behaviour theory describes that women are subjected to male violence because male has learned this behaviour in his childhood, which is stored in unconsciousness of man.

(ii) Emotional violence is use of emotions to violate rights of woman.

Emotional violence is manipulating emotions of female for making her submissive. It includes sexual abuse of women or using child as barrier to manipulate emotions of female.

(iii) Economic violence hampers access of women to resources.

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~~Emotional~~ ~~violate~~ Economic violence is a concept in which access of women to resources is controlled. In rural areas of Pakistan, women are ploughed like animals in agriculture, but they are not empowered to control prices of commodities.

### Theoretical explanation:

Power and Wheel theory explains that a cycle of violence is inflicted upon women by restricted her right to part of economy.

(iv) Cultural violence is done through cultural discrimination of women:

Culture is a set of values, art and ideas that are constructed as truth to suppress women. When women tries to liberate from those ideas, she has to face segregation, which can be termed as cultural violence.

### Theoretical explanation:-

Social constructionism proposes that certain ideas, beliefs and notions are presented as absolute truths. Those values, ideas and belief continue to violate rights of marginalised identities.



through indirect system of violence.

✓ Structural violence is gender-based violence through institutions.

This term was coined by John Galtung. According to this form of violence, certain institutions are created in order to grant few gender identities to have access to power and resources. These institutions are patriarchal, so they formulate such policies which continue Gender-based violence.

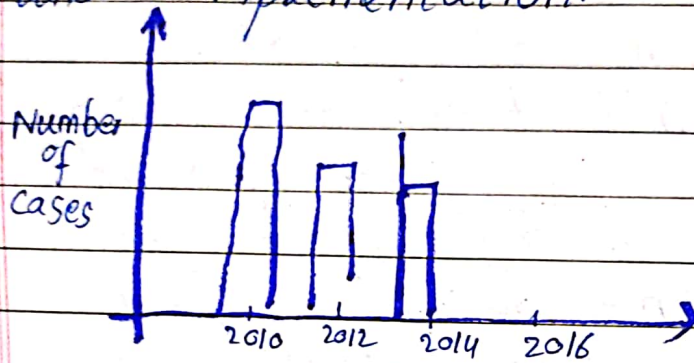
### Domestic laws in Pakistan to eradicate gender-based violence:

1. Acid Control (Prevention) Act 2010.
2. Elimination of Ghay act, 2010.
3. Dowry (prevention and punishment Act), 1976.
4. Zainab Alert, (prevention and punishment) act, 2020.

### Positive results of these laws:-

## (i) Decrease in number of acid attack cases:

In Pakistan, number of acid attacks have been positively decreased. It is ominous from acid attack act's efficacy and implementation.



**Source:** National Police Bureau, report on number of acid crime cases, 2014.

## (ii) Work-place safety of women has been ensured after enactment of laws.

Harassment of female at work places was frequent act of violence in 1995. However, this form of GBV decreased after enacting domestic laws in 2000 to prevent work-place harassment.

Ineffectiveness  
Negative impacts  
of domestic laws  
regarding Gender-based  
violence.

(i) Social stigmatisation towards women render these laws ineffective:

In Pakistan, women discrimination and Gender-based violence is rooted in society. Society is not ready to empower its women. Despite enacting several laws, domestic violence is on the rise in Pakistan, which questions effectiveness of these laws.

(ii) Lack of enforcement mechanism hampers progress of these laws:

Every law needs enforcement to yield results. However, law enforcement agencies are reluctant to implement these laws. It is evident from a case lodged in Faisalabad in January, 2025. In this case, police demanded raped student to compromise with criminal, which highlights ineffectiveness of laws to eradicate Gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence is dominant in visible and

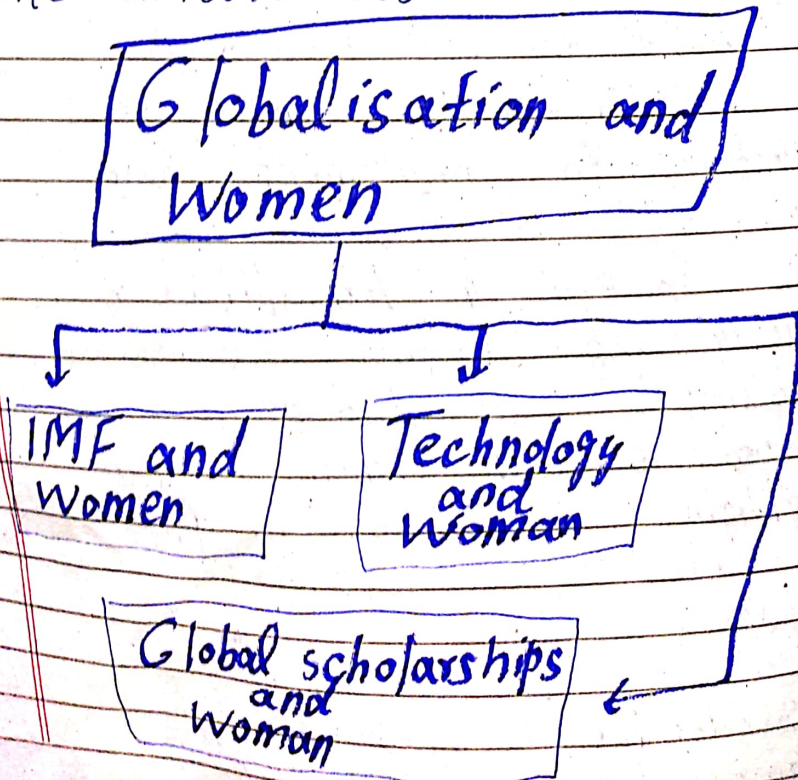
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power structures. A number of laws have been enacted to confer agency to woman in social life. However, they should be implemented in letter and spirit to end Gender-based violence.

Q. 8.  
(a)

Globalisation:-

Globalisation is the free flow of goods, services and people among the world. Its social, economic and political pillars are based on the concept of interconnectedness.



(i) IMF and Women have worsened gender-discrimination.

When countries agree with International Monetary Fund (IMF) to disimburse loans, IMF provides those countries with list of stringent conditions which is known as Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs). SAPs mandate government to decrease spending on developmental programmes. In this way, women in developing countries remain marginalised.

(Alice Walker: Womanism and loans: 1984).

(ii) Technology and women has empowered women but increased their objectification.

Due to globalisation, women can raise voice for their right, which increases Gender mainstreaming. However, pornography is also the result of this free flow of technological services among nations, which increased their objectification.

[Take back nights:  
Andrea Rita]

(iii) Globalisation provided international  
scholarships for women.  
Due to globalisation, access  
of women to global scholarships  
have increased manifold.  
Globalisation resulted in participation  
of women in Erasmus Mundus  
Scholarship, which has 50%  
quota for women.

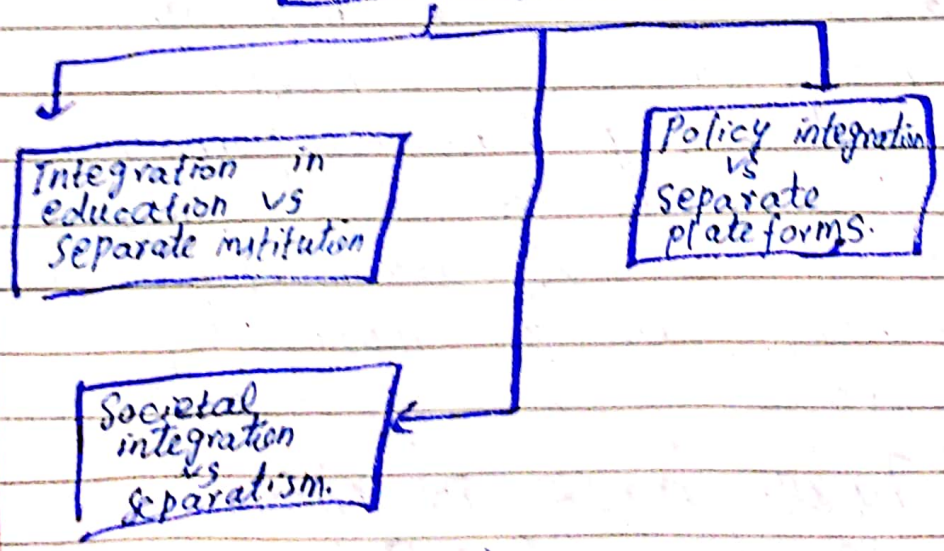
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(B).

### Autonomy vs integration debate:

Autonomy vs integration debate  
hinges upon the idea that  
whether women should be merged  
as part of development or  
should have separate platform  
to address their problems.

### Main points



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(i) **Integration in education vs separate education system:**  
Integrationists demands inclusion of women studies with lesbian and Gay studies to promote mainstreaming (Simon De Beauvoir: **Second Sex**). On the other hands separationist demand that women studies should be separated from gender studies.

(ii) **Policy integration vs separate platforms.**  
Integrationists demand inclusion of women in mainstream assemblies to promote Gender development. However, autonomy proponents demands that there should be separate platform to address experiences of women.

(iii) **Societal integration vs Separation:**  
Integrationists argue that woman should be part of development and mainstream their demands. However, proponents of autonomy holds the view that women should be segregated from man to avoid discrimination.

[Dialecticism of Sex: Schulamite Firestone]