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Subjective: Part - II

Q#1:

Gender

VS. Women
Studies:-

Introduction:-

Gender and Women Studies are two critical fields elucidating struggles of marginalized groups in society. They differ in their focus, topics, scope and aims.

(A) Gender vs Women

(1) Topic

Socially constructed
repressive power
structures

Patriarchy

(2) Scope

Broad:

All genders

Narrow:

Women centric

(3) Inclusivity

More

Inclusive

Less

Inclusive

(4) Theoretical

Framework

Queer,
feminist,
psychology

Feminist
theories

(5) Aims of Each

Uplifting
all genders

Uplifting
Women

(6) Topics Explored

LGTBQ+
sexuality

Violence against
women, work
place harassment

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Intersectionality

of all
genders

impact on
women only

(1) Topics Explored in Each:

(1.1) Gender Studies:

Gender studies explores topics such as socially constructed repressive power structures, LGBTQIA+, Queer rights, sex vs. gender debate and social construction of sex and gender.

(1.2) Women Studies:

Women studies explores topics related to patriarchy, harassment at home, workplace, wage gaps, educational and political inequality as well as violence against women.

(2) Scope of Each:

(2.1) Gender Studies: Broader Scope

Gender Studies has a broader scope since it includes various genders, identities, groups and experiences. It explores a broader range of topics as compared to women studies.

(2.2) Women Studies:

Women studies women-centric approach makes it narrower in scope and application.

(3) Inclusivity:-

(3.1) Gender Studies:

Gender Studies includes not only women and queer groups, it also includes men which makes it

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more inclusive.

(3.2) Women Studies:

Women-centric focus, women's issues, women's experiences and women's voices makes this field less inclusive for other marginalized segments.

(4) Theoretical Frameworks:

(4.1) Gender Studies:

gender studies employs a plethora of theoretical frameworks like Queer theory, social construction of gender, feminism.

(4.2) Women Studies:

The major theoretical framework of women studies is feminism: Radical, liberal, Marxist, Socialist and ecological feminism.

(5) Aims of Each field:

(5.1) Gender Studies:

Gender Studies aims to uproot oppressive forces like social construction of sex and gender, binary notions of gender, sexuality as well as intersectional factors like race, class.

Women

(5.2) ~~Gender~~ Studies:

Women Studies central focus is uprooting patriarchy and patriarchal norms.

(6) Intersectionality:

(6.1) Gender Studies: Intersectionality and all genders:

Gender Studies focuses on how intersectionality impacts all genders (men, women, non-binary)

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and not just women alone

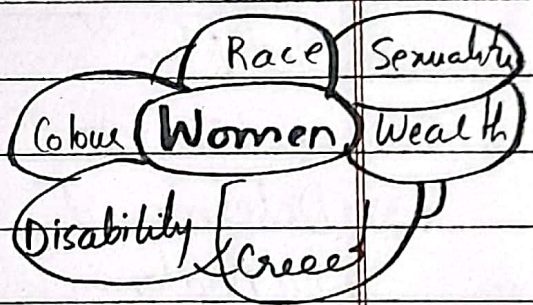
(6.2) Women Studies:

Women Studies focuses on how intersectionality impacts women alone.

Gender Studies



Women Studies



(B) Sex vs.

Gender Debate:

Sex and gender are two sides of the same coin. The debate around them revolves around their social construction.

Sex vs. Gender

Debate: Tabular Form

	Sex	Gender
(1)	Biological	Social
(2)	Male Men or Women	Masculine or feminine
(3)	Determined by Anatomy , Physiology	Determined by clothing, behaviour
(4)	Is rigid	Is flexible
(5)	Deviations: Klinefelter's Syndrome (XXY)	Deviations: Transgender.

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(1) Biological VS.

Social Determination:

Sex is biologically determined by sex chromosomes (XY: Male and XX: female). Gender, on the other hand, is learned and socially determined. A child learns his/her behavior by socialising and observing.

(2) Binary Categories:

Sex has the binary category of Male (testes, high testosterone, penis) and female (vagina, ~~testes~~ ovaries, breasts, high estrogen levels). Gender, on the other hand, is bifurcated into male (short hair, strong, tough, muscular) and female (feminine (long hair, smooth skin)).

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(3) Deviations:

Sex is challenged by the presence of a spectrum of chromosomal combinations.

Gender is challenged by "gender anxiety" where some individuals feel they do not belong to the gender ascribed to them at birth.

Conclusion:

Gender and women studies both form important academic disciplines where binary notions of sex, patriarchy, marginalization and other issues can be highlighted to foster a more inclusive world for all sexes and genders.

Q#6:-

Gender Based Violence:

Introduction:-

Gender based violence, as defined by United Nations, is:

“Any act causing physical, sexual or psychological harm to anyone on the basis of gender, including the threats of force, arbitrary deprivation of liberty”

Hence, any act or threat of act which is carried on the basis of gender, which harms a person physically, sexually and emotionally and deprives them of liberty, and the threats of use of such acts is termed

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gender based violence. The U.N further bifurcates gender based violence into Direct and Indirect (Structural form) of violence. In Pakistan, 63000 cases of "reported" gender based violence in 2020-2023 paints a stark picture. Laws such as Anti-
"Workplace Harassment Law 2010," "Domestic Protection Act 2016," "Child Marriage Restraint Act," "The Criminal Law (Offences relating to rape) Act 2016," "The Criminal Law Amendment (Offences in the name or pretext of honour 2016)" are legal frameworks addressing gender based violence in Pakistan. Yet, challenges such as patriarchy, societal stigmas, poverty, unawareness and bureaucratic hurdles remain challenges of enforcement.

(A) "Gender Based Violence" :-

	Structural	Direct
(.)	Attitudes	(.) Physical
(.)	Laws/Institution	(.) Sexual
(.)	Patriarchal mindsets	(.) Economic
		(.) Emotional

(i) Structural forms of violence:

This is the type of violence perpetrated through media, laws, attitudes and patriarchal mindsets.

(1.1) Attitudes:

Attitudes such as "He is your husband, he can hit you", "So what if he hit you, he feeds you" and "He is a man, he gets angry"

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"You are a woman, what will people say?" Such attitudes perpetuate violence and re-inforce the victim's mindset.

(1.2) Laws and Institutions:

(a) Laws:

Napoleon's family code where he made "male" the leading figure of the family, deprived women of the right to divorce and own wealth are examples of how legal frameworks perpetuate violence. Zia's Ordinances on rape are a glaring example of this form of violence.

(b) Institutions: Role of Clergy:

A recent video of clergy Iqbal Haseer Chishti "O tay dance kardi payi ayy" [She is

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dancing there] perpetuates harmful attitudes towards women. The clergy contended that girls are dancing, partying and doing "immoral" stuff in universities / schools / colleges, hence they should be covered in veils and made to sit at home. Such filth only dampens the prospects of female literacy in an illiterate and unequal society like Pakistan.

(1.3) Media and Patriarchal Mindsets:

Promotion of domestic violence during heated arguments on T.V dramas, economic dependancy and other harmful behaviours have "normalised the use of force" in heated situations, while also paving the minds of young generation. Songs such as "Laal Dupatta" normalise

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intimate partner violence
by "Maana Keh Mujhe Dil
Dega Wo, Magar Meri Jaan
Lega Wo" [Though he will
give love, but take my
life too].

Such glamorisation of "intimate
partner violence" is dangerous to
gender based violence.

"(2) Direct Forms of Violence"

(2.1) Physical: Violence

Physical violence such as
kicking, punching, pushing, slapping,
, throwing acid on face is the
physical aspect of violence (Beating
gays).

(2.2) Sexual:- Violence

Rape, forced prostitution, blackmailing to send nude pictures and marital rape are sexual forms of

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violence. Raping women, transgenders and homosexuals due to their gender is an example of it.

Sexual exploitation of third gender like Mehale Malik in dance parties. In a recent case, Dolphin Ayan was stripped and recorded by unknown people after abducting her.

(2.3) Economic Violence:-

Depriving women of economic independence, or confiscating their salary is an example of ^{economic} ~~physical~~ violence.

(2.4) Psychological violence:

Threatening to harm one's partner through knives, divorce and other repercussions is an example of psychological violence.

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(B) Effectiveness of Existing laws and Policies:

(1) Existing laws:

(a) Domestic Violence

Act: 2016

(b) The Criminal law (Rape), 2016, 2020

(c) The Criminal law on
honour killing: 2016

(d) Workplace harassment Act: 2010

State of Women in Pakistan:-

Despite these legal frameworks, the National Human Rights Commission reports 2023 posited that "63000" reported cases

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of gender based violence in Pakistan were seen from 2020-2023.

⇒ Despite legal frameworks, gender based violence still plagues Pakistan due to:

(1) Persistence of Patriarchal Mindset:

Patriarchal mindset, ingrained in both men and women stifle the effectiveness of legal protection.

(2) Stigmas and Societal Barriers:

The stigmas associated with women going to courts or holding their husbands accountable is another barrier in achieving an effective enforcement system.

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(3) Poverty:-

Lack of resources to hire a lawyer, pay court fee has also discouraged women from pursuing legal course of action.

(4) Conclusion:-

To address gender based violence, Pakistan and every other state should address both structural and direct forms of gender based violence. A holistic approach is needed to achieve success in this regards.

"Gender based Violence

Any where is a
threat to peace and
Security everywhere"

- John F. Kerry

Q#7:

"Women and Politics in Pakistan"

Introduction:

Women in politics has been a great debate since time immemorial. In the case of Pakistan, women have played a defining role. Fatima Jinnah, Begum Rana Liaquat Ali Khan and Benazir Bhutto are examples of this. Our founding father, Qaid-e-Azam, Jinnah said:

"No nation can progress, without its women standing side by side with men" [Jinnah]

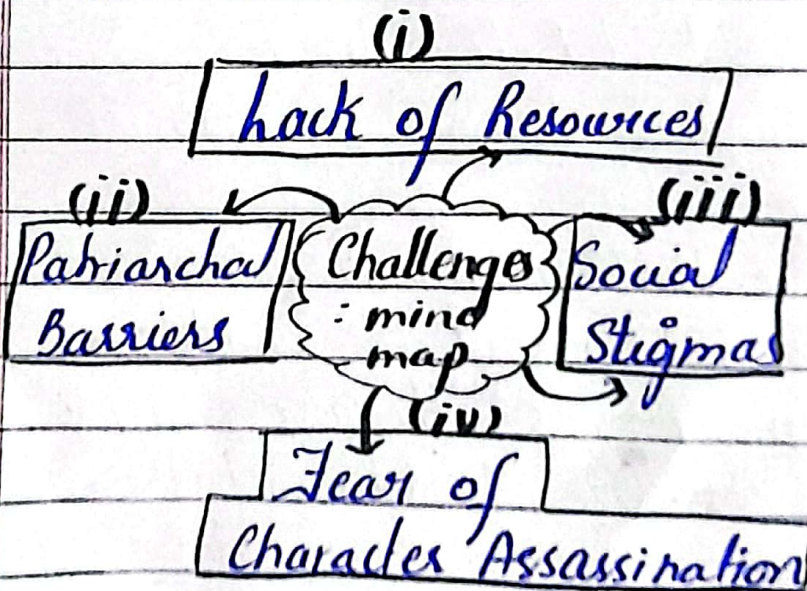
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Yet, this vision of Oaid is faced with various challenges such as patriarchy, poverty, ostracisation, character assassination,

(A) Challenges to:

"Women's Participation in Politics:"



(i) (→) Economic Barriers

lack of Resources:

Unemployment and wage gaps dampen the prospects for women owning businesses, saving for campaigns and elections.

lack of political links, sponsorships further hinders their political participation as they do not have enough money to buy party tickets [6-7 lacs for PTI and PML-N] and then spend lavishly on campaigns.

(→) Cultural Barriers

(ii) Patriarchal Barriers:

Patriarchal mindsets looking down on women, encouraging them to stay at home and confine to gender roles hinders women's political participation

(iii) Social Stigmas

and Ostracisation:

Women who join politics are blamed to neglect their family responsibilities and are often ostracised from family and society. The letters of Khadijah Shah from Adiala jail regarding their and their family's sufferings discourages other women to pursue leadership.

(iv) Fear of Character Assassination:

Media's unbiased attitude towards women discourages women's participation. Recently, criticism on Maryam Nawaz

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on shaking hands with an Arab by leader is how media plays a role in discouraging women's political participation.

(B) Impact of "Quota"

on Women's participation:

Though quota system has raised women's prominence from 21% to 33% in National Assembly and Senate, yet it has not fully materialised women's participation in politics :

(1) Positive Impacts of Quota System:

(1.1) Increased Political Space for women:

"More women participate"

Quota system has raised the prospects of women winning and filling political seats. Women now feel there is a "real chance" of them being in politics which has driven political participation. New faces like Zarbij Gul, Shereen Mazari and Sherry Rahman are manifestations of this.

Negative Impacts of Quota System on Women's political participation

(2.1) Perpetuates dynastic politics:

Poor women, who fail to gather resources for elections

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fail to benefit from this system. The richer relatives of political parties have enough resources to fill quota seats with the women of their families.

Hence, the impact of political quota fails to uplift women at the grass-root level.

**(R.2) Does not address
Politico-Cultural
Barriers:**

Merely providing quota, without ensuring societal barriers are first broken down, does not encourage participation of women at a large level. Only a few women escape these barriers hence preventing mass participation.

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Conclusion:

Without ensuring holistic efforts that trickle the benefits to grass-root level, Baid's vision of "women standing side by side" cannot be materialised.

"The Master's tools will never dismantle the master's house."

[Audre Lorde]

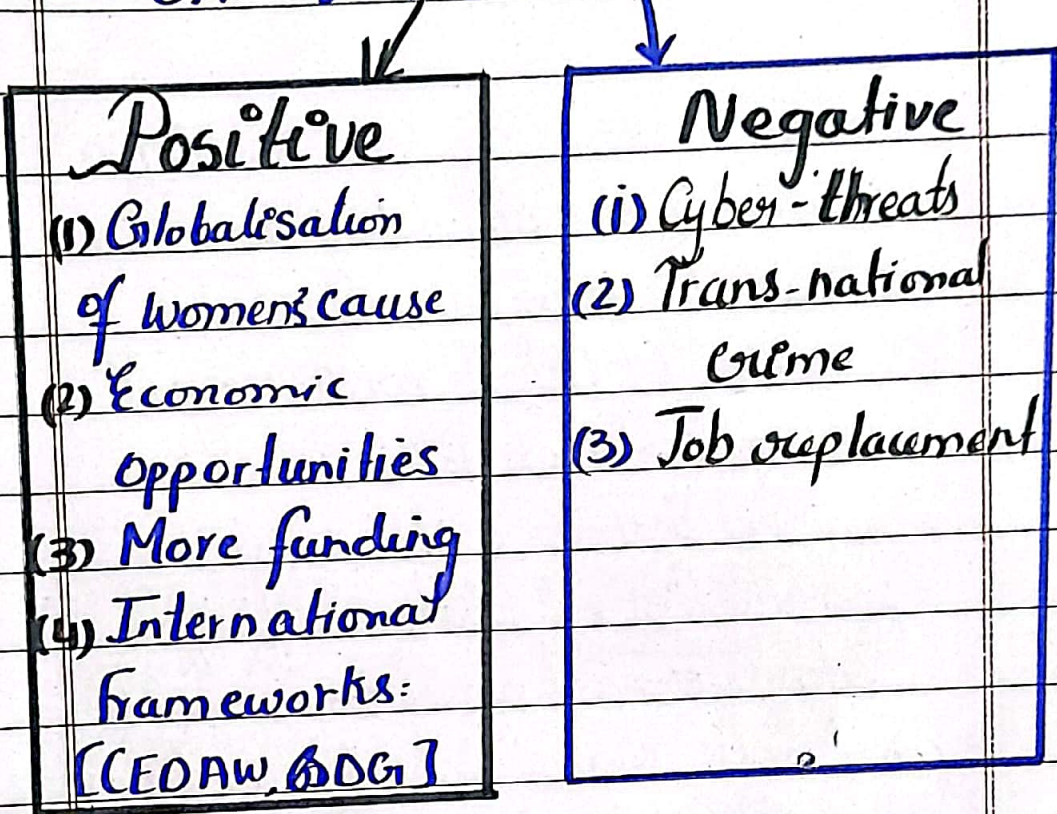
Hence, along with quota system, supporting feminist movements and their causes is equally important to achieve complete equality.



Q#3: Notes on:

(a) Globalisation and Women:

(1) Impact of Globalisation on Women:



(A) Positive Impacts:

(1) Globalisation of Women's Cause:

Globalisation has exported feminist ideas via media, U.N meetings and agreements to other states including Pakistan, India and Saudi.

(2) Economic

Opportunities:

Online businesses such as Zojja (hair oil brand on Instagram owned by women), Youtube earning (Kitchen with Amna crossing 1 million followers) have provided women with earning opportunities. Global reach of videos, export of women made products have driven entrepreneurship in women's world.

(3) More Funding to Women's Causes:-

Global civil society like ~~women~~ Amnesty has funded various projects on women related causes.

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(4) International Frameworks:

Political globalisation and international agreements like SDG (5) and CEDAW have ensured protection of women's rights.

(B) Positive Impacts:

(B) Negative Impacts:

(i) Cyber-Threats:

Online harassment, deepfakes, hackers and groups on dark web have hunted women online. Ducky Bhai's wife, Aroob Tatoi, and her deepfake has sparked a debate about women and globalisation

space, the ||

(2) Trans-National Crime:-

Transnational crimes such as abduction, selling and forced labour and prostitution also impact women in the wake of a globalised world. Parents selling little girls in Afghanistan to foreigners is an example of this menace.

3) Economic Impacts:-

Economic globalisation and international Monetary institutions like IMF also impact women. Inflation, debt and liberalisation further "feminizes poverty" and also damages locally owned small women businesses.

(b) "Autonomy vs Integration"

The autonomy vs integration debate revolves around integrating gender studies into other fields or maintaining its autonomy as a separate field.

(1) Autonomy Debate:

Rationale: Integrating in a dominant field might diminish its prominence and impact. The biases and frameworks of other fields will impact gender studies negatively.

(1.1) Platform for Critical Voices:

Bell Hooks: "Without a counter-hegemonic space, the

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voices of the oppressed will remain silent".

(a) Creation of Space
Spaces for critical groups (LGBTQ+)

Combahee River Collective:

" We have realised that the only people who care enough for us to work consistently for ~~us~~ our liberation is us"

Autonomy is important to create safe intellectual and social spaces for marginalised groups to prevent dismissal from dominant groups and fear of judgement and mocking.

~~1~~

(1.2) Developing Unique Theories and Methodologies:

According to Sandra Harding, "standpoint epistemology" is important to understand gender complexities and developing theories and perspectives tailored accordingly.

(1.3) Preventing Biasness:

Preventing biasness of other fields plaguing gender studies is important to create autonomous spaces.

(B) Integration Debate:

Rationale: To increase visibility and effectiveness.

(1) **Integration Arguments:**

(1.1) **Transforming other fields:**

Transforming other fields, their objective knowledge (such as rigid notions of gender) is important to integrate gender studies.

(1.2) **Prevent "Perceived Marginalization"**

Integrating the field will prevent gender studies being perceived as a special "niche" or "special and separate" subject to be studied separately.

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(1-3) Preventing Gender Blind Policies:

Integrating gender into
fields like economics is
vital to address wage gaps
and gender blind policies.
