

Q3 - Introduction

The world is undergoing through technological revolution on a consistent pace. Hence, it has been affecting the lives of people, resulting in social, economic, political and individual transformation. Unfortunately, rapid technological advancement has resulted in 'Digital Lag' in developing countries. Specifically, women in Pakistan are facing this problem. This has jeopardised potential development of women in the fields of education, employment and economy. Therefore, urgent measures must be taken to address this issue. On governmental level, societal level, educational level, individual level and global level. Not only will it benefit us in women development but that of overall.

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

2) Prompt governmental action to provide digital access:

Lack of accessibility and awareness and education: Women lack accessibility to digital technologies. Hence, the government could introduce different strategies to provide women with technology. Firstly, the government could increase the portion of women in Laptop schemes. This would enable them to have the medium of utilizing this technology. For example, more percentage of Laptop given to women under Prime Minister Laptop scheme. Secondly,

the govt should utilise tech centers to educate regarding the use of technology. Many digital skills should be introduced. For example, social media marketing, Microsoft Power Tools and the efficient use of Internet surfing platforms could be taught. Thirdly, campaigns must be initiated via TV, Newspaper and Internet regarding the urgency of this issue. This could include awareness sessions and political, economic, social and individual importance of digital technology in the life of women should be communicated.

2) Modern educational models based on digital technology:

Issue with current education in Pakistan:

Pakistan lacks effective educational model. The curriculum is outdated and ineffective in the dynamic of contemporary world. It is rigid and any technological improvement is ineffective. Moreover, the funds allocated to education is inefficient, considering the incalculable cost of digitalisation to education.

How can technology be part of education for women:

There are numerous ways to mitigate this issue. Firstly, it should be realised that the world keeps on evolving, in technological terms. Hence, the education system must be kept keep on adjusting to newer technologies. For example, the introduction of AI or the rise in business analytics has



resulted in great technological transformation. Therefore, it must be ~~be~~ adapt & constantly. Secondly, the teaching faculty must be given constant vocational training to upgrade with newer educational approaches. It must be ensured that women receive excellent utilisation to ~~all~~ changing technological circumstances. If a teacher identify women lagging behind, he must give additional efforts to ensure ... that women are not compromised to change.

### 3) Social changes to encourage women's digital development

The role of social institutions and the possible action to be taken:

Social institutions play roles in determining the position of women in society. Hence, it is a determinant of women facing digital divide. Therefore, the idea of digital empowerment in women must be introduced and emphasised through these institutions. For example, Family can significant ensure ways for women to receive ~~educational~~ digital education. Hence, awareness session and outreach programs should be conducted to convey the significance of technology in transforming lives of women.

<sup>International</sup>  
4) ~~Economic~~ measures to ensure better digital growth for women.

<sup>International</sup>  
On ~~economic~~ level, World organisations like U.N

can play significant role in digital development of women in various way. Firstly, SDGs (Sustainable Development Growth) should introduce the clause of digital growth in gender. Secondly, it can allocate greater funds to women education and training in digital technology. Thirdly, it can discuss its urgency on international platform. Highlighting the issue will develop greater attention. Hence, it could be utilised as an opportunity to spread mass awareness.

### Individual efforts to ensure digital empowerment:

It is an unfortunate reality that women across are lagging in digital technology. Hence, efforts must be made on individual level to ensure consistent upgradation with changing digital technology. Free Learning platforms like Coursera, YouTube, Facebook, etc can be utilised for stronger grasp on digital skills and knowledge.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, urgent measures has to be initiated on National, social, educational, individual and International level to remove the line of distinction in women's digital growth. This would empower women and, in bigger picture, would contribute to growth and development of developing countries and more equality in gender.



Q4. Feminism gained traction during the 19th Century after Seneca Falls convention. Three major Feminist waves came in 19th and 20th Century, bringing various concepts of feminism. Among them are Liberal feminism, ~~social~~ Radical Feminism, ~~social~~ <sup>Marxist</sup> feminism, psychoanalytical feminism and Post-Modern feminism. Each played their own role in improving socio-economic status of women by providing different lenses to the same problem.

### Liberal Feminism and its role in elevating status of women

#### Liberal Feminism:

Liberal feminism came in the first two waves of feminism. Its main focus was to ensure that women attain their rights in the existing system. Hence, its main focus was on equality of women and men. This is why women legally received rights to property, custody, divorce and vote in the U.S. However, it has been criticised by Radical feminism for accepting the current system.

#### Contribution to status of women:

Due to the motto of equality, women gradually achieved right to vote, equal pay, political representation, education opportunities and employment. Hence, the women status alleviated and were empowered.

In 21<sup>st</sup> Century, ~~there are numerous~~ the struggle persist in developing country. In countries like Pakistan, efforts are made to empower women through the system of quota.

Radical Feminism and its reservation with council system

Radical Feminism:

Radical Feminism focuses on the idea that the current system and structures are altogether flawed.

This is because they failed to give women their rights in first place and is patriarchal in nature. More focus was given to gender role and responsibilities.

The hard core concept of gender masculinity and femininity were blurred between the male and female sexes. Gender roles ~~was~~ are claimed to be constructed and does not define the nature of sexes. Concepts like Queer theory gained prominence to widen sexual orientations.

The role of Radical Feminism in women's status.

Radical Feminism questioned the existing system and advocated for its replacement with new structure in which gender lines are blurred. Women globally took gender roles that were historically given to men only. They started earning, became politicians and judges and initiated movements against gender based violence. 'Silencing a woman' is diminishing and women are more vocal about their rights. The face of society reduced and women gained autonomy. For example, Malala Yousafzai fought



Taliban to ~~stop~~ ban girls from gaining education.  
Hence, Radical Feminism inculcated the idea that  
Gender roles are not rigid based on sexes.

## Psychoanalytical Feminism and its role

### Psychoanalytical Feminism:

Sigmund Freud stated that women feel inferior because they lack penis. Penis signified authority which results in women subordination. This is known as 'Penis envy' Theory. However, it Kuchrow signified 'Penis envy' to patriarchal norms where male is in authority. Hence, psychoanalytical feminism states that patriarchal norms and values suppresses women who perceive their responsibility of subordination. This is inculcated as the child is born. Boy is already trained to become authority while girl is trained to be polite and submissive. Hence, it was stated that social institutions must change their approach to start defining responsibilities that empower women.

### Implications of Psychoanalytical Feminism:

Children are now raised in more friendly & gender environment. Distinction to authority and submissiveness, is blurred from the young age and equal gender treatment is given. This not only empowers women but also educates men about equality. Thus, strengthening socio-economic status of women.

## Marxist Feminism and its economic implication

### Marxist Feminism:

Karl Marx states that the powerful class exploit working class economically. Hence, a male may exploit female through unpaid labour. Moreover, men have greater financial authority like Bourgeoisie while women is financially dependent on him like working class. Hence, women must struggle to topple the exploitative system and establish economic status equality.

### Implications of Marxist Feminism:

Marxist Feminism enables women to attain financial autonomy. A financially independent woman is less prone to domestic violence since she is not dependent on the male. Hence, it challenges patriarchal structure via financial status.

### ~~Post-Modern Feminism~~

### Conclusion

Hence, the waves of feminism gave birth to various concepts of feminism. Each of these approaches solves the socio-economic issues of women in their own unique ways. The current post-Modern feminism focuses on intersectionality of feminism with culture, religion and nationality. Hence, tailoring it to specific conditions to improve lives of women.



## Introduction

Q6- Gender based violence is common in the contemporary world. It involves suppression of one gender by another through the use of physical force, mental abuse, economic exploitation. Gender Based Violence is prevalent in Pakistan despite laws. Pakistan has different laws for sexual harassment, honour killing, equal pay, forceful marriage, etc. Unfortunately, these laws have no effective implementation in Pakistan. Therefore, Pakistan remains vulnerable to gender violence.

## Different forms of Gender based violence

### i) Physical violence

Physical violence includes the use of physical force to suppress a woman. It involves the use of fists, objects and force that causes injuries to women including death. Among the most prevalent in Pakistan are honour killing and acid attack.

### ii) Mental Abuse

Mentally traumatizing a woman through threats is another form of violence. Since women are vulnerable, they are compromised in societies like Pakistan, they are forced into marriage, subordination and ill treatment. Serious implications could include depression or Fatalistic suicide, in accordance with Emile Durkheim theory of suicide.

### 3) Sexual violence

Sexual violence is unconsented sexual approach that violates the rights of woman. It includes verbal harassment, physical touch and sexual activities. In digital world, it has increased to leaks of private images and cyberbullying.

### 4) Economic Violence

Economic violence happens usually when woman is not financially independent. Hence, the male threatens her his withdrawal of financial and social support for her. This suppresses woman and make her vulnerable to sheer exploitation of women. Another lens to it is lack of property rights of woman, making her financially reliant on male.

### Effectiveness of law and policies in addressing GBV in Pakistan

Honour killing and its social acceptance:

Honour killing is a common practice in Pakistan. Although, an anti-honour killing act was passed in 1990, its effectiveness in bringing justice remain elusive. This is because honour killing is a socially established practice in Pakistan. In her documentary 'The Girl in the River' Shameen ul-Haq Chancy highlighted how an



attempt to honour killing was made by a ~~father~~ brother on her sister. The family was praised for keeping their honour and legal pardon was given by family to the brother. Hence, social applause normalcy to violence renders the enacted laws ineffective.

Constitution does not apply to those in power: ...

There are many instances in which powerful people get away with crime of gender violence. The most famous among them is the case of Mukhtaran Mai. She was gang raped as a way to restore honour by the Panchayat.

This case was taken ~~of the oppressed~~ to Shariah Court and Supreme Court. Only one person was sentenced to death ~~after~~ despite gaining prominence.

This highlights irregularities in law enforcement and the ability of powerful to get away with the crime.

Underreporting of the issue:

Domestic violence is generally underreported due to various reasons. Firstly, there is lack of family report support to report the crime.

A perception exists that cases like rape will tarnish the honour of victim's family. Secondly, financial dependency of woman on culprit disables her to report because she does not have any financial support. Lastly, a divorced woman in Pakistan finds it difficult to marry. Hence, she fears divorce and lack of financial support.

## Conclusion

Domestic violence and Gender-based violence are unfortunate reality of Pakistan. It involves physical, verbal, mental, sexual and economic violence usually on women. Although, Laws on GBV exists in Pakistan, they are not effective due to social ~~reason~~ acceptance of GBV, powerful elites and unreporting of crime. Hence, a more holistic approach must be adopted to ensure legal accountability of GBV.

Q8-

a) Globalization and Women

### Globalization:

Globalization is the increased exchange of people, ideas, culture and goods in the world. It has gained immense traction after the liberal World Order and technology. Faster travel, greater economic dependency, social media, global politics and relations are some reasons of rapid globalisation.

### How globalisation affect Women

1) International Struggle to Women rights of women

Globalisation has made the struggle of feminism an international issue. It has created mass awareness and increased efforts to secure women a rightful and equal status. Post-



modern feminism approach is the most applicable in global context. This is because it highly emphasise intersectionality with class, religion, Nationality, race and culture. For example, Awasat March highlights issue specific to the women of Pakistan.

More opportunities for women:

With more mobility and rising digital technology, women are exposed to vast economic and educational opportunities. Now, women can earn through remote jobs and test their abilities elsewhere if she feels that the environment is compromising her strong abilities. Hence, more sources of empowerment are present on the 'table'

Involvement of international organisations and groups to improve women's rights:

Different International organisations like U.N ensures that women rights are assured. They It has added Gender equality in its SDGs for 2030. Moreover, International Organisations acts as pressure groups, funds women education, create awareness, provide economic framework for women development, etc, to alleviate socio-economic status of women on global scale.

## b) Autonomy vs Integration debate

Feminism advocates for both autonomy and integration of women in society. Liberal women has emphasised on equal rights. Hence, it is tilted more towards integration while Radical Feminism demand for greater autonomy. It is critical of patriarchal system and rejects the strict gender roles.

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Autonomy refers to the idea of specific gender being ~~as~~ in power. Traditionally, Patriarchy has remained autonomous. However, the question arises on whether to integrate women in the ~~the~~ social circles or to outrightly make them autonomous. Hence, it is not clear on what basis of gender should autonomy be given.