

QNO. 3 :

⇒ INTRODUCTION :

Technological advancements play a major role in strengthening the economy of a country along with elevating the social status of the society as a whole. Thus technological know how and access to technology is essential for both core genders of the society i.e men and women. However, in Pakistan, women are deprived of tech education due to various reasons, which undermines their capacity of being a key player in growth and development of Pakistan.

0) MEASURES TO NARROW GENDER BASED DIGITAL DIVIDE IN PAKISTAN :-

• Integration of women in STEM fields :

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) field are primarily associated with men, especially in traditional societies like Pakistan. This produces a gender based gap in digital sector of Pakistan which can be minimized by integrating more women in STEM fields at both educational and job level.

Thus more innovative hands for growth and development of Pakistan.

o) **Free Digital Training Courses for Women:**
Free online or in-person courses on digital training, i.e. Digiskills, for women can also improve tech-capacity of women in Pakistan. This would help them in better sustenance in both individual and societal capacity.

o) **Societal awareness on son-daughter equality:**

The deeply rooted son-preference mindset in Pakistani culture is also a main cause of tech based gender gap. They (parents) need to be educated on how both son and daughter have equal cognitive and psychological tendencies thus their daughters will also do good in technology related education just like their sons.

o) **Eradicating "Women are noobs" mentality from society:**

Women and technology are always perceived as oxymoronic in nature. Women are made fun of and belittled for their "apparently" poor comprehension in digital discourses. This is merely a socially constructed concept and also because of lesser provision of opportunities. Thus this mocking behaviour should be called out in individual capacity as well to promote digitalization of women.

o) Incorporating tech-promotive curriculum in all-girls schools:

Incorporation of digitalization based curriculum in all-girls school would provide to more number of Pakistani women with early exposure of technology which would enhance their digital comprehension thus leading to a greater number of women workforce in tech sector of the country.

o) Mandatory Computer section in Vocational Institutes:

Government should ensure provision of a computer section in all women vocational institutes with authorization of NDC, based on this conditional term. This would help more destitute and underprivileged women in getting digital education, making them a skillful citizen of the state.

o) Glorification of Tech-geek women as Inspirational Role Models:

Glorification of women related to technology i.e. Arifa Kasim and entrepreneurs in tech-startups like Jehan Ara (Katalyst Lab) and Arusha Imtiaz (My Smac Ed), would create inspirational role models for Pakistani women to look up to and follow their

lead in becoming more digitally smart, eventually minimizing the gender-gap in digital fields.

o) Quota System in Technological Job Opportunities :

It should be implemented in both public as well as private job spheres, to integrate more women in technological spheres thus creating more digitally agile women workforce who can support domestic as well as national economy.

⇒ CONCLUSION :

These measures, if properly implemented, can bring a digital revolution in Pakistan with respect to more women occupying tech related jobs and as prominent ~~to~~ digital entrepreneurs. This would help in improving social status of women in a conservative society like Pakistan and would also help in strengthening Pakistani economy.

Q NO. 8 :

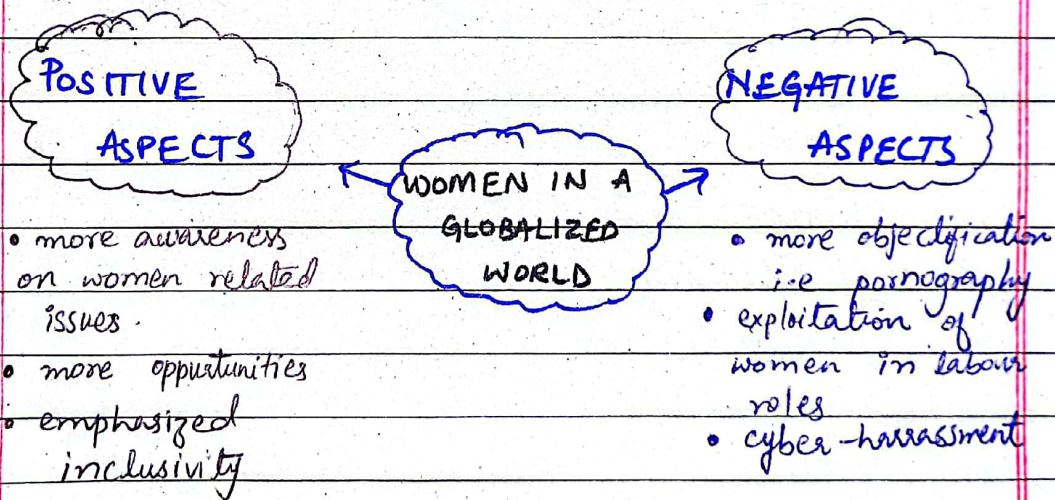
a)

GLOBALIZATION AND WOMEN

⇒

INTRODUCTION :

Globalization has made world a global village with easy transfer of material goods as well as information. Therefore, it has impacted all agencies of the society especially the comparatively more vulnerable ones i.e women. The social positioning of women in a globalized world is explained below:



b) WOMEN IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD :

Everything comes with both positive and negative aspects. Same is the case with globalization for women. Both aspects are discussed below.

⇒ POSITIVE ASPECTS :

o) Increased Social Awareness on Women Issues :-

With more enculturation and rise

in social media platforms for raising voice against women, more and more everyday life issues of women came to light with women raising voice against perpetrators e.g. #MeToo, #womenempowerment e.t.c. Menstruation, PCOs, GBV were also among the issues getting focus with globalization.

o) More Opportunities for Women:

Globalization provided more opportunities to women in job market through remote work and hybrid models. This made work-family balance easy for women from all classes and backgrounds, thus supporting them in strengthening their societal status.

o) More inclusivity:

Globalized world came in contact with all forms of body shapes, colors and creeds of women, thus creating a more inclusive environment with sensitivity towards such topics i.e. body shaming and color shaming e.t.c.

⇒ NEGATIVE ASPECTS:

o) Increased Objectification of Women:

Globalization gave a boost to objectification of women body as well in the form of increased pornography.

-phy and onlyfans etc. These include both enforced and deliberate pornography which eventually undermines worth of women in society, minimizing them only to a level of mere body without any emotions, intellect or other strengths.

⇒ **Exploitation of women in labour roles:**

West primarily exploited the Global South for cheap labour, both men and women. Women suffered more since their social status as women from South is already very much neglected. Exploitation based on meager wages, more work thus doubled their sufferings by not providing their due pays in return of their hard work i.e. home based football and textile industries.

⇒ **Cyber Harassment of Women:**

Although digital media enhanced support for women but it also gave way to increased cyber-harassment of women through blackmailing, vid-leak threats, hacking and unsolicited nudity.

⇒ **CONCLUSION:**

The above discourse explains the various factors of globalization

and women i.e how a globalized world has made life more easy or difficult for women.

b) Autonomy vs Integration :-

o) INTRODUCTION:

Autonomy vs integration debate focuses on the dilemma of individual freedom vs the societal cohesion and respect for normative values of the society. This debate is relevant in various spheres of human lives i.e gender identity, social norms and policy and law e.t.c.

AUTONOMY $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \text{self-determination} \\ \rightarrow \text{critique of essentialism} \\ \rightarrow \text{empowerment and liberation} \end{array} \right.$

VS

INTEGRITY $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \text{Preservation of tradition.} \\ \rightarrow \text{Resistance to change.} \\ \rightarrow \text{Binary norms.} \end{array} \right.$

o) AUTONOMY PERSPECTIVE:

Autonomy perspective is characterized by individual agency and freedom of choice in all spheres of life. It is based on the following core elements.

1) Self - Determination :

Autonomy supporters agree that humans should have independence of self-determination of the gender identities and sexuality that they think best aligns with them as humans. i.e. transgenders.

2) Critique of Essentialism :

Autonomy supporters are critique of essentialism which prescribes fixed gender identities and roles to humans based on their biologically defined sex and apparently sexuality as well. e.g. queer and homosexuals.

3) Empowerment and Liberation :

Autonomy supports empowerment and liberation for all humans in all spheres of life, no matter their gender, sexual behaviours or diversion from heteronormative belief system. e.g. right to abortion and same sex marriage.

0) INTEGRATION PERSPECTIVE :

Integration perspective is characterized by upholding of traditional social norms and acquiescing hetero-normative sexual

as well as gender roles.

1- Preservation of tradition:

Integrationists are staunch supporters of preservation of tradition and any divergence from those paths is considered sinful and corrupt e.g. institution of marriage in Pakistan.

2- Resistance to change:

They resist all sorts of change and support the values and customs being followed since the advent of civilizations. e.g. homophobia.

3- Binary norms:

They support binary norms i.e. only two genders of men and women. Anything other than that is mere illness or corrupt morality that needs to be fixed. e.g. essentialism supporters.

9) CONCLUSION:

The autonomy vs integration debate has been a core topic since the renaissance but it gained significant popularity since queer theories starting getting propagation.