

Q#7:-

1) Introduction:-

Women in Pakistan face significant challenges in political participation due to deeply entrenched societal, cultural, and structural barriers. Despite constituting nearly half of the population, women remain underrepresented. To address this disparity, the quota system has been introduced, reserving a specific percentage of seats for women in the political process. The impact of quota system remains a debate. This discussion explores the challenges women face in political participation in Pakistan and examines whether the quota system can effectively address these obstacles and promote gender equity in governance.

2) Obstacles in the way of the Political Participation to women:-

Women in Pakistan face numerous obstacles in political participation due to

cultural, social, legal and structural barriers. These obstacles include:-

2-1) Low Representation in Decision-Making Bodies:-

Despite the presence of reserved seats for women, their representation in decision-making bodies remains low. They lack real decision-making power and are sometimes chosen based on nepotism rather than merit.

e.g. In the National Assembly of Pakistan, 60 seats are reserved for women, but they rarely have the same influence as their male counterparts.

2-2) Cultural and Social Norms:-

Traditional and patriarchal mindsets in many areas of Pakistan discourage women from stepping into public and political spheres. Women are confined to domestic roles only.

e.g., In rural areas like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, women are often prohibited from voting or contesting election due to societal pressures or opposition.

2.3) Limited Access to Education and Awareness:-

Women in Pakistan, particularly in rural areas, face restricted access to quality education. This limits their understanding of political processes and diminishes their confidence.

e.g., According to a recent analysis in Pakistan mentioned in DAWN that urban areas (74.1%) outpaced rural regions (51.6%) in literacy.

2.4) Harassment & Threats:-

Women politicians often face harassment, threats and defamation campaigns. These tactics are used to dissuade them

from participating in politics or voicing their opinions.

e.g.,

Prominent women leaders like Zastay Gull and Maryam Nawaz have been targeted with smear campaigns and online abuses.

2.5) Lack of Support Systems:-

Family responsibilities and societal expectations leave women with little support to engage in politics.

e.g.,

Women Politicians like Benazir Bhutto initially relied on family connections to enter politics, highlighting the importance of male support in patriarchal society.

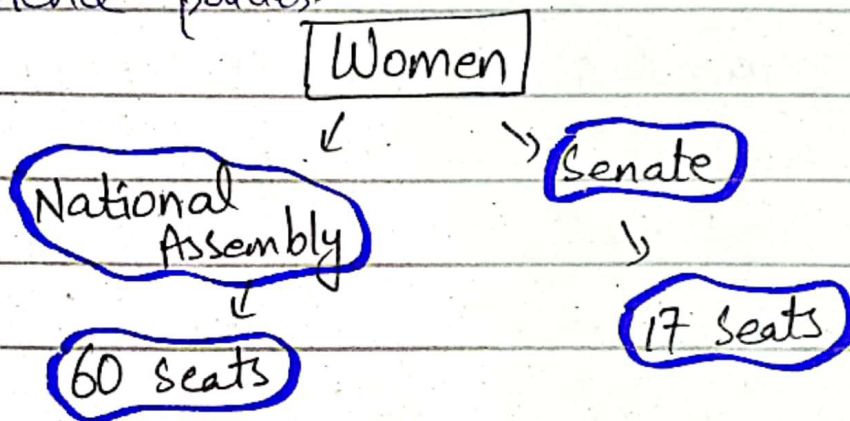
3) Efficiency of Political Quota for women participation:-

Quota system can make a significant difference in enhancing women's political

participation in various ways:-

3.1) Guaranteed Representation:-

Quotas ensure that women have a presence in legislative bodies, allowing them to voice their concerns and influence policies.



3.2) Breakdown of Gender Stereotypes:-

By introducing women into public office, quotas challenge traditional perceptions that politics is a male domain. Visible female leaders can inspire others to participate.

e.g.,

Women leaders like Shazia Masri and Dr. Fehmida Mirza gained prominence

through the quota system, later moving on to hold influential positions.

3.3) Encouragement for Future Participation:-

When women see others like them in leadership roles, it motivates them to aspire to similar positions. The quota system serves as a stepping stone for women to contest general seats in the future.

3.4) Policy Influence:-

Women in legislative roles can prioritize issues affecting women, such as education, healthcare, and gender equality, which may otherwise be ignored by male-dominated assemblies.

e.g.,

Women legislators in Pakistan have been instrumental in passing laws like Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010).

4) Challenges to Quota System for Women in Pakistan:-

Nepotism and Favoritism

Lack of long-term impact

Resistance & Stigmatization

5) Conclusion:-

Women in Pakistan face significant obstacles while participating in politics. To overcome these obstacles, systemic changes are needed including education, financial support and safe environments for women. Quota system is powerful tool, when implemented effectively, it can lead to a more inclusive political landscape.

Q # 8 :-

a) Gender & Globalization-

1) Introduction:-

Gender and globalization examines how globalization influences gender roles, relationships, and inequalities across the world.

Globalization refers to the interconnectedness of nations through trade, technology, culture and politics. This process often reshapes traditional gender norms, opportunities and challenges for the individuals based on their gender.

2) Aspects of Globalization related to gender:-

Economic globalization

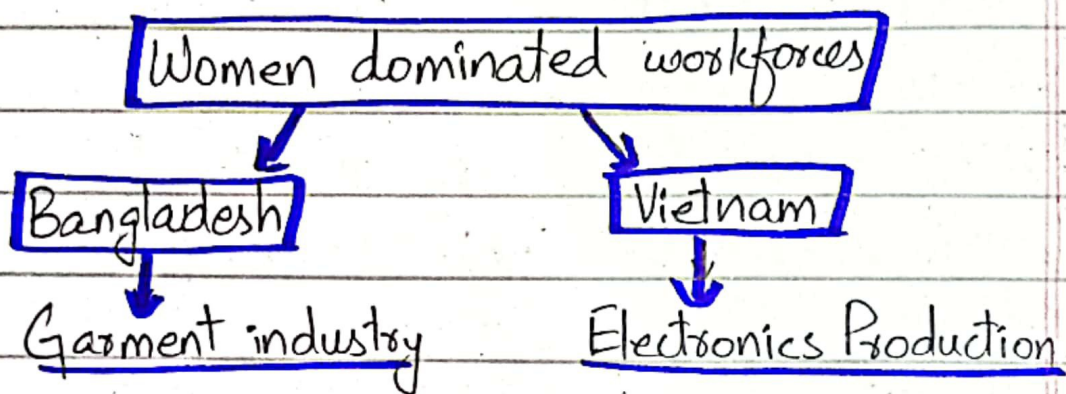
Cultural globalization

Political globalization

Environmental globalization

2-1) Economic Globalization:-

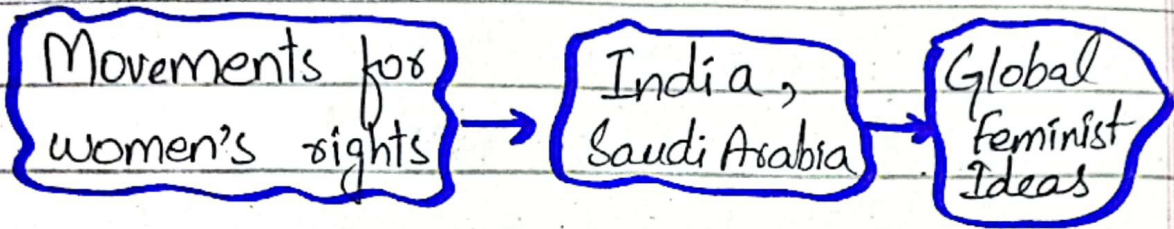
Globalized labor markets often face low-cost production, leading to increased employment opportunities for women in developing countries in the sectors such as textiles, electronics, and the agriculture. However, these jobs are often low-paid, insecure, and exploitative, reinforcing gender inequalities.



2-2) Cultural Globalization:-

Globalization spreads ideas of gender equality through media, education, and international politics, challenging the traditional gender roles in many societies. However, it can lead to the cultural homogenization, erasing local

gender dynamics and reinforcing stereotypes.



2.3) Political Globalization -

International organizations (e.g., UN, World Bank) promote policies for gender equality, influencing national laws and practices. However, these changes often clash with local traditions and can be resisted or slow to implement.

e.g.,

The global treaties like **CEDAW** (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) push governments to address gender inequality.

2.4) Environmental Globalization -

Globalization affects gendered responsi-

bilities for natural resource management and access to healthcare. Women in developing countries are disproportionately affected by climate change and the environmental degradation.

e.g.,

In subsistence farming communities in Africa, women bear the brunt of resource scarcity caused by global demand for land and water.

3) Conclusion:-

Globalization brings both opportunities and challenges for gender relations. While it has created new pathways for women's empowerment, it often reinforces existing inequalities or creates new forms of exploitation. Addressing these issues requires policies at both global and local levels.

Q#8 - (b)

1) Introduction:-

The autonomy vs. integration debate is a significant discourse in gender studies. Autonomy perspective emphasizes the need for independent women's spaces, organizations and movements to challenge patriarchal systems and foster empowerment. On the other hand, integration perspective advocates for inclusion of women within existing structures. Exploring this dynamics reveals the complexities of addressing systemic inequalities and the diverse strategies employed in the pursuit of gender justice.

2) Autonomy vs. integration debate in gender studies:-

This debate revolves around question of how gender identity and experiences of marginalized gender groups should be approached within broader societal

societal structures.

2-1) Autonomy in gender Studies:-

This perspective emphasizes importance of self-determination, independence and recognition of distinct identities and experiences.

a) Recognition of distinct experiences:-

Autonomy ensures that the voices of marginalized genders are heard and respected.

The recognition of distinct experiences involves identifying and addressing unique challenges and lived realities of women and marginalized genders e.g., maternal health etc.

b) Safe spaces for women:-

Autonomy supports the creation of

gender-specific spaces that allow people to connect with others who share similar experiences, build solidarity and heal without external pressures.

e.g.,

Women's shelters

Women's only Educational Spaces

Women's only Sports Leagues

c) Freedom from Dominant Structures:-

It resists the pressures of traditional norms, allowing individuals to create their own understanding and to self-determine their lives without conforming to oppressive societal norms.

Women's Organizations e.g. Women's Aid

Feminist Publishing & Media

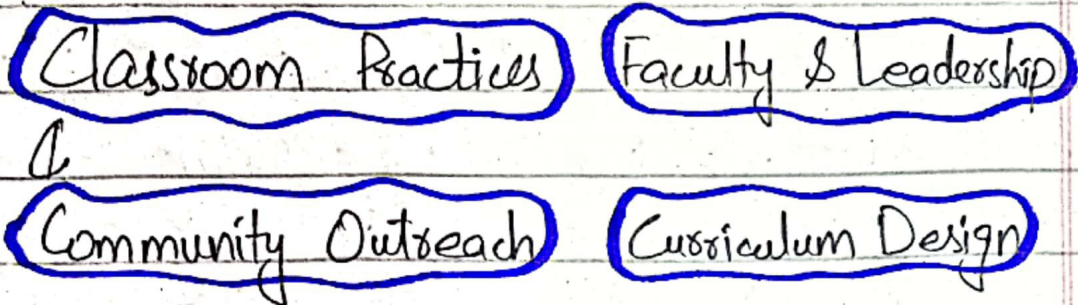
Separate Legal Frameworks e.g. matriarchal legal system.

2-2) Integration in Gender Studies:-

Integration focuses on the idea of bringing marginalized genders into mainstream, advocating for dismantling of rigid gender norms and structures to promote equality for all genders.

a) Equality and Inclusivity:-

It promotes a more just society, equitable policies, and cultural acceptance of diverse gender identities and expressions.



b) Challenge to rigid gender binaries:-

It emphasizes the importance of moving away from traditional binary

understanding of gender and embracing fluidity and diversity in gender expression.

Teaching Fluidity

Language & Terminology

Intersectionality in Practice

3) Conclusion

Autonomy vs. integration debate underscores the delicate balance between independence and unity. Both perspectives have merits and limitations. Striking a balance requires careful consideration of context, mutual respect and adaptable framework, ensuring the sustainable growth and harmony in the long term.