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Q7

Introduction:

Political participation of women in Pakistan have evolved significantly. Female leaders like Fatima Jinnah, played role in independence and election of Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister. There are certain obstacles in the way of women political participation such as feudal mindset and culture, lack of financial resources and insecurity and lawlessness. The introduction of Quota system have impacted the women's political participation like increased representation, breaking stereotypes, and policy impact but it has ^{also} created the negative perception about women.

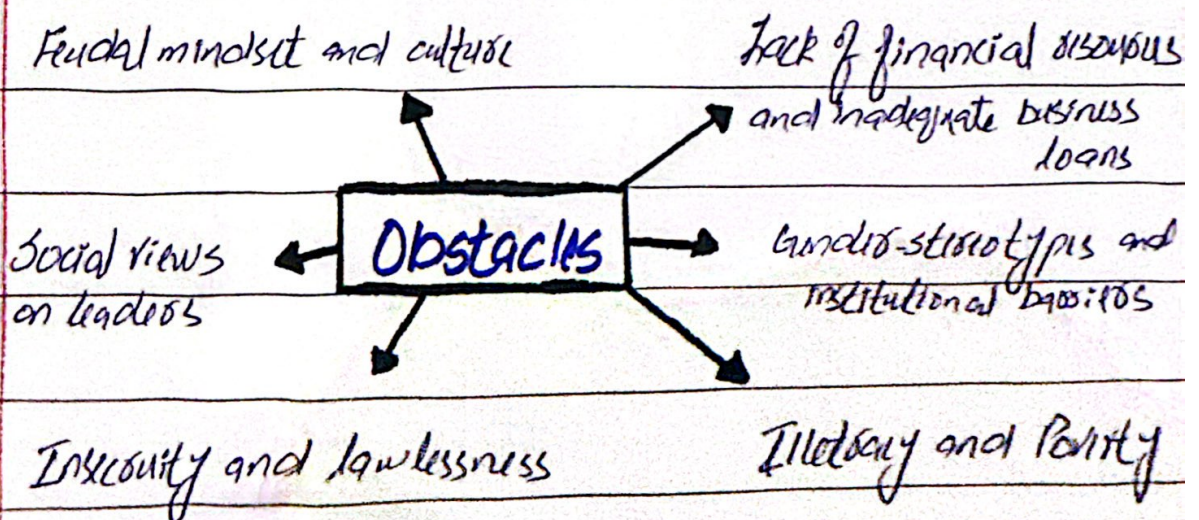
Need and Importance of Women in Politics

Give the roles female leaders like Fatima Jinnah, played in independence and being the first muslim

country led by Benazir Bhutto, one may think that Pakistan has been doing well when it comes to female political participation but according to global index put out by Inter-Parliamentary Union, an international organization of all National Parliaments, Pakistan even lags behind Rwanda and Somalia and ranks at 107.

There is a need of every sector of the ^{country} economy including women to work better in this regard.

Obstacles faced by women in participating in Politics



Feudal Mindset and Culture

One of the major obstacle in women's participation in politics is feudal mindset and culture.

Feudal lords think of women as slave and treat them as they desire. They keep them from moving away in politics. These customs and traditions discourage women from participating in political activities.

Lack of Financial Resources and Inadequate

Business Loans

Women in developing countries are often dependent on their male family members and they do not get the financial support they needed. Similarly,

Business loans are not provided to women,

according to World Bank report 2023, only

6% of women have their own bank accounts.

This dependence on their male family members makes it difficult to fund their political

campaigns.

Social Views on Leaders

In Pakistan, women are not much supported as compared to their male counterparts. They think that women are not good leaders. According to Pew Research survey, more than half of Pakistani's think that men are better leaders than women. This disproportionate support makes it hard for women to pursue their careers in politics.

Gender Stereotypes and Institutional Barriers

Many households in Pakistan are living with the perception that women should do only home duties and they do not need to join politics. In the similar way, women often face resistance from institutions as they are not ready to share the power sitting in top leadership positions. These barriers discourage women to actively participate in politics.

Insecurity and lawlessness

women in Pakistan often face insecurity when it comes to their participation in politics. They often get threats. They also face online abuse and harassment which makes it difficult for them to give their views without any fear.

Illiteracy and poverty

Illiteracy and poverty is also one of the main barriers to women's participation in politics.

According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics report 2023, approximately 52% women in Pakistan are illiterate which makes it hard for women to understand complex political issues.

Introduction of Quota System

Quota systems are a mechanism to ensure a minimum⁺ of women are represented in political bodies either by legislated (mandatory by law) or voluntary adopted by political parties.

Positive Impacts of Quota System

Increased Representation

Quota systems help ensure that women are adequately represented in political bodies, leading to increased representation of women. For example, in 2002, Pervez Musharraf's government ~~started~~ ^{introduced} Quota system, reserving 17% seats for women in National Assembly and Senate as well as 33% quota at the local government. Now, by 2024, women held over 20% seats in N.A exceeding the reserved quota and 40,000 women were elected in local government.

Bringing Diverse Views

Having more balanced representation of genders leads to diverse-view points, which improves decision making and innovation. For example, McKinsey found that companies with more women in leadership were 25% more likely to be profitable.

Role Models and Policy Impact

Increased female representation provides role models for other women, encouraging greater political participation and leadership aspirations among young women and girls. Similarly, women legislators are more likely to prioritize and address issues such as health care, education, and gender-based violence, leading to more inclusive policies.

Negative Aspects of Quota System

Tokenism Reputational Stereotypes Meritocracy Concerns

Critics argue that quotas can lead to the perception of women as token representatives, rather than qualified leaders. They might perpetuate stereotypes by creating a perception that women need special treatment and cannot do on their own. Quotas might compromise the principle of meritocracy by prioritizing gender over qualifications and experience.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, women are often under-represented in political bodies due to lack of finances, societal barriers, inequality, and cultural stereotypes. Quota's system have made difference by increased representation, breaking stereotypes but it also have negative aspects. It is like one side of coin if one see only positive impacts.

Q1

Introduction:

Gender studies and women studies are two academic fields in which gender studies focuses on all genders and women studies focuses, especially on women. They work on challenges faced by all genders including transgender and non-binary and advocate for equitable rights. Sex refers to a person's biological status and is typically categorized as male and female and Gender is seen as the process by which individuals who are born into biological categories of male and female become the social categories of men and women.

Gender Studies vs Women's Studies

Focus

It adopts a broader perspective, addressing not only women but all gender identities. It examines how gender roles and identities

It focuses on women's experiences, roles and contributions. It seeks to understand the historical perspective and contemporary challenges

are socially constructed and how these intersect with other social categories.

faced by women and its impact on gender inequality.

Scope

It includes all gender identities including men, women, non-binary, transgender and individuals and their experiences, roles.

For Example:

Masculine studies, Queer Theory, and gender performativity

It concentrate on issues such as women's right, feminism, gender equality and economic status of women.

For Example:

Might focus on historical suffrage movements world wide.

Susan B. Anthony and Emmeline Pankhurst

Theoretical Approaches

Utilizes a diversity array of theoretical frameworks including feminist theory, Queer theory and post colonial theory. It is concerned how gender intersects with race, class and sexuality.

Rooted primarily in feminist theory. Women studies focuses on patriarchy, gender oppression and feminist activism. It emphasizes the experiences and struggles faced by women within societal and historical contexts.

Methodologies

Utilizes both qualitative and quantitative methods such as gender analysis, discourse analysis, and performing surveys. It encompasses a broad range of data sources and analytical methods.

For Example:

Performing surveys on gender based violence (GBV) survivors or analyzing media portrayals of different gender identities.

It often employs qualitative methods such as historical analysis, feminist ethnography and case studies focused on women's experiences and struggles.

For Example:

A women studies thesis might involve oral histories of women who participated in the feminist movements of 1960's and 1970's.

Practical Applications

Gender studies prepare students for diverse careers in fields such as human resources, inclusion and diversity, counselling, academia and media.

For Example:

Graduates might work as diversity and inclusion officers in organizations.

Women studies often leads to careers in advocacy, social work, education, public policy and non-profit organizations focused on women's rights.

For Example:

Graduates might work for org who support GBV survivors or women's issues.

Sex vs Gender

Sex:

Sex refers to a person's biological status and is typically categorized as male or female. There are number of indicators of biological sex including sex chromosomes, gonads, and internal reproductive organs.

Gender:

Gender is seen as the process by which individuals who are born into biological categories of male and female become the social categories of men and women through the acquisition of locally-defined attributes of masculinity and femininity.

Difference between Sex and Gender

The term 'sex' and 'gender' are closely linked, yet they are not synonyms. Robert J. Stoller, in his book, 'Sex and Gender: The Development of Masculinity and Femininity' has drawn the distinction between them. He suggested that the word 'sex' be

used to refer to the physical attributes between men and women, while the term 'gender' be used in connection to the behaviours and cultural practices of men and women. This distinction is the basis for all the definitions of 'sex and gender' that are provided in the literature nowadays.

Gender should not be mixed with sex.

Sex is biological, ascribed and natural. Sex refers to the physical attributes that define a person as female and male. Gender, on the other hand, is the social definition of what it means to be female and male in the socio-cultural context. For instance, gender indicates that a female should know how to cook and should be in charge of cooking while a man should be the bread winner by providing the needs of the family.

The preceding instance is socially constructed from cultural norms of the society. The instance also portrays gender division of labour which has been challenged by gender scholars and feminists.

Gender is the social significance of the difference in sex. Gender, according to Prof. Lois Self is a social concept. Masculinity and femininity

are the usual descriptors of genders; it an achieved social status.

Key Differences between Sex and Gender

	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Gender</u>
1	Sex refers to biological traits such as chromosomes, hormones and reproductive organisms, including men and women.	Gender refers to the social, cultural and psychological roles, behaviours and identities associated with being male, female or binary.
2	Sex is typically assigned at birth based on anatomy.	Gender is influenced by personal identity, societal norms & experience.
3	Sex is considered more stable.	Gender can be fluid and vary across time and cultures.
4	Sex is natural.	Gender is a socio-cultural construct.
5	Sex is often used in legal and medical contexts to categorize individuals.	Gender is more relevant in social, cultural and psychological contexts.
6	Sex is often limited to the categories of male and female.	Gender encompasses a wide range of identities, including non-binary and transgender.

Q6

Introduction:

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender. It encompasses a range of abuses including domestic, sexual, psychological and Economic violence. Although, many laws are formed such as Protection of woman Against Harassment Act and Protection of woman's right at workplace but these are not effectively implemented as they should be. Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) is crucial for promoting gender equality and safeguarding human rights in Pakistan.

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-Based violence (GBV) refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender. It encompasses a wide range of abuses, including physical, sexual, psychological, honor-based killings, and economic violence.

Forms of Gender-Based Violence

Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence encompasses physical, emotional or sexual abuse inflicted by a partner or family member. It involves repeated instances of abuse, which can have severe long-term effects on the survivor's mental and physical health. For example, physical assaults may include slapping or choking while emotional abuse can involve constant belittling or threats. According to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, around 70% of women experience some form of domestic violence during their lifetime, but many cases go unreported due to fear of retaliation.

Sexual Violence:

Sexual violence includes any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act through violence. Examples include rape, sexual assault and harassment in both public and private settings. The Aurat Foundation reports that sexual violence is alarmingly prevalent

with numerous incidents reported each day.
However, survivors often face substantial
barriers to accessing justice due to societal pressures.

Honor-based violence:

Honor-based violence is perpetrated to protect
or restore the perceived honor of a family
or community, often driven by cultural and
patriarchal norms. This type of violence
includes honor killings, forced marriages, and
acid attacks.

Human Trafficking and Forced Prostitution

Human trafficking involves the illegal trade of
individuals for exploitation, which includes
forced labor and sexual exploitation. The
Global Slavery Index highlights that
Pakistan is a significant source, transit
and destination country for human trafficking.

Economic Violence:

Economic violence refers to the denial of access to financial resources, employment or education, undermining an individual's economic independence and security. Examples include, wages discrimination and restricted access to job opportunities. In Pakistan, women face significant economic disparities, with one of the lowest labor force participation rate globally and substantial wage gaps.

Psychological Violence:

Psychological violence involves inflicting mental harm through threats, intimidation or controlling behaviours. It affects emotional well-being and self-esteem, often having long lasting impacts on mental health. Examples include verbal abuse, isolation and manipulation. Psychological violence is pervasive but often less visible than physical violence.

Key Laws Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Pakistan

Protection of Women Act, 2006

Strengthened protections against honor killings, rape and other forms of violence.

Critics argue that its implementation is weak due to cultural resistance and institutional barriers.

The Acid Control and Acid Crime Prevention Act, 2011

This act introduced harsh penalties for acid attack and regulated the sale of acids.

Critics argue that acid attacks persist due to weak monitoring of acid sales and limited prosecution.

The Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2010

It provides a legal framework to address

workplace harassment.

It is criticized as many women remain unaware of this law, and internal committees often lack independence.

Key Policies Addressing Gender Based Violence in Pakistan

National Action Plan on Human Rights (2016)

It includes gender-based violence (GBV) as a priority area and allocates resources for awareness. However, its implementation remains inconsistent across provinces.

Gender Reform Action Plan (GRAP)

It aims to mainstream gender in governance but limited impact due to weak institutional support.

Conclusion:

Gender-based violence is pervasive in Pakistan as many people do not have the knowledge or do not have such literacy level about women's rights. Many different laws and policies are protecting women's rights but their effectiveness is not upto the bench mark due to cultural resistance, institutional barriers and weak implementation. Addressing gender-based violence is crucial for promoting gender equality and safeguarding human rights in Pakistan.

Globalization and Women

Introduction:

Globalization, the growing connection between countries through trade, technology, and culture, has both positive and negative effects on women. It has created opportunities for empowerment but has also highlighted inequalities. Women in developing countries, such as Pakistan, experience these changes in unique ways.

Positive Effects of Globalization on Women

Economic Opportunities

Globalization has opened up new job markets for women, particularly in industries, such as textiles, agriculture and services. Women have gained access to more employment opportunities, contributing to household incomes and financial independence. However, there is a significant gender gap in wages. For example,

According to World Economic Forum (WEF), the global gender pay gap remains at 16% as of 2024,

Access to Education and Information

Global initiatives and organizations have worked to improve education for girls, resulting in higher enrollment rates and opportunities for women to acquire new skills. However, in many rural areas, women face barriers to education due to cultural norms and lack of resources.

Challenges of Globalization on Women

Workplace Exploitation

While globalization has created job opportunities for women, many still work in low-paying, exploitative conditions, especially in multi-national companies. According to International Labour Organization (ILO), women earn only 60% of the wages of their male-counterparts.

Unequal Access to Resources

Despite progress, women in many parts of the world still lack equal access to resources, such as technology, financial services, and education.

In rural or low-income areas, women often face additional challenges due to poor infrastructure and limited access to digital tools. As of 2024, only 57% of women globally have access to the internet compared to 62% of men, making it harder for them to participate in digital economy.

Conclusion:

Globalization has brought significant benefits for women including economic participation, access to education. However, women face challenges such as workplace exploitation and unequal access to resources. To ensure women benefit fully from globalization, continued efforts are needed to address these disparities and promote gender equality worldwide.