

23rd Jan - 25

Part - II

Q.1 :-

Introduction :-

Gender Studies and Women Studies are two significant disciplines that examine gender-related issues, yet they differ in scope, focus and approach. Women Studies emerged as part of feminist movements to address women's marginalization, while Gender Studies evolved to explore the broader spectrum of gender identities and power dynamics.

Differences Between Gender Studies and Women Studies

1. Focus :-

Women Studies: Concentrates on the historical, cultural and political experiences of women. It seeks to highlight women's contributions, address inequalities and challenge patriarchal structures.

Gender Studies: Focuses on gender as a socially constructed concept, analyzing the roles, identities and power relations of all genders, including men, women and non-binary individuals.

2. Scope :-

Women Studies: Limited in scope to issues affecting women, including feminism, women's empowerment and their societal roles.

Gender Studies: Broader in scope, encompassing masculinity studies, queer theory, LGBTQ+ issues and intersectionality. It goes beyond binary frameworks to include diverse

gender identities.

3. Analytical Lens:-

Women Studies: Primarily critiques patriarchy and focuses on women's oppression and struggles for equality.

Gender Studies: Uses a multi-dimensional lens to explore how gender interacts with other social categories like class, race and ethnicity.

Sex Vs. Gender Debate:-

- The sex vs. gender debate is central to understanding the differences between biological determinism and social constructivism.

1. Definitions:-

Sex: Refers to the biological and physiological characteristics (chromosomes, hormones, reproductive anatomy) distinguishing male, female and intersex individuals.

Gender: A social and cultural construct that defines roles, behaviors and identities associated with masculinity, femininity and non-binary identities.

2. Key Debates:-

Biological Determinism vs. Social Constructivism:

Biological determinists argue that sex determines gender roles and behaviours, asserting that gender differences are natural and fixed. Conversely, social constructivists emphasize that

gender is shaped by societal norms, expectations and power structures, making it fluid and dynamic.

Binary vs. Spectrum:

Traditional views categorize sex and gender as binary (male/female, man/woman). Modern perspectives recognize both sex and gender as existing on a spectrum, acknowledging intersex individuals and non-binary identities.

Critical Analysis:-

Strengths of Women Studies:

By focusing on women's experiences, Women Studies laid the groundwork for feminist movements, highlighting patriarchal injustices and advocating for equality. However, its narrow scope limits its applicability in addressing broader gender issues.

Strengths of Gender Studies:

It offers a more inclusive framework, addressing complexities of identity and intersectionality. However, its broad scope may dilute specific issues faced by women, risking a loss of focus on feminist goals.

Conclusion:-

Gender Studies and Women Studies, while interrelated, differ in their scope and focus. Similarly, the sex vs. gender debate underscores the evolving understanding of identity, challenging traditional binaries and advocating for inclusivity.

Q.2 :-

Introduction:-

Feminist thought in Pakistan has evolved over decades, shaped by the country's socio-political, cultural and religious dynamics. From the early women's movements during the pre-Partition era to contemporary struggles for gender equality, feminism in Pakistan has taken a unique trajectory. The academic institutionalization of Gender Studies reflects these broader socio-political shifts and the growing recognition of gender-related issues.

Evolution of Feminist Thought in Pakistan:-

1. Pre-Partition Era:

Feminism in the subcontinent emerged during the colonial period as part of broader reformist movements. Women such as Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain and Fatima Jinnah championed education and political rights for women. The All India Women's Conference (1927) also highlighted issues like women's education and participation in public life.

2. Post-Partition Era (1947 - 1970s):

- After independence, feminist thought in Pakistan focused on women's participation in nation-building.
- Fatima Jinnah emerged as a symbol of women's leadership, inspiring women to engage in politics and public service.

3. The Zia-ul-Haq Era (1977 - 1988):

- The 1980s marked a turning point due to the introduction of Islamization policies under General Zia-ul-Haq. Laws such as the

Hudud Ordinances curtailed women's rights and institutionalized gender discrimination.

- In response, feminist activism intensified. Organizations like Women's Action Forum (WAF) emerged, advocating ~~against~~ against discriminatory laws and policies.

4. Post-Zia Era (1988-2000):

- The 1990s witnessed the rise of feminist organizations, such as the Aurat Foundation, focussing on grassroots mobilization and legal reforms.
- This period also saw an increase in women's political representation, particularly during Benazir Bhutto's tenure as Prime Minister.

5. Contemporary Feminist Movements (2000-Present):

- Feminism in Pakistan has embraced intersectionality, addressing issues of class, ethnicity and sexuality.
- Social media has played a pivotal role in amplifying feminist voices, creating platforms for marginalized communities.

Development of Gender Studies as an Academic Discipline in Pakistan:-

1. Introduction of Women Studies:

- Women Studies was introduced in Pakistan during the late 1980s and early 1990s, influenced by global feminist movements and local advocacy for gender equality.
- In 1989, the First National Women's Studies Conference was held in Islamabad, emphasizing the need for academic research on women's issues.

2. Institutionalization of Gender Studies:-

- Gender Studies evolved from Women Studies to adopt a broader, more inclusive framework. It addresses the complexities of gender identity, masculinity and intersectionality.
- Leading Universities, such as the University of Karachi, Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU) and Punjab University, established Gender Studies departments to offer specialized degrees.

3. Current Trends and Impact:

- Gender Studies has gained recognition as an essential discipline, producing research that informs policymaking and advocacy efforts.
- Gender Studies departments have also facilitated dialogue on sensitive topics, such as LGBTQ+ rights and the intersection of religion and gender.

Conclusion:-

Feminist thought in Pakistan has progressed from the early reformist movements to contemporary struggles for social justice. The institutionalization of Gender Studies as an academic discipline makes a significant milestone in this journey. Despite challenges, feminist discourse and Gender Studies continue to play a transformative role in shaping a more equitable society in Pakistan.

Q.6:-

Gender-Based Violence:-

Gender-based violence refers to harmful acts directed at individuals based on their gender. It encompasses physical, psychological, sexual and economic abuses. In Pakistan, gender-based violence is deeply rooted in cultural, societal and institutional practices.

Different Forms of Gender-Based Violence:-

1. Domestic Violence:

- Physical, emotional, or sexual abuse inflicted by a family member, often within intimate relationships.
- Common due to patriarchal norms, financial dependency and societal acceptance of spousal abuse.

2. Honor-Based Violence:

Acts of violence, including murder, committed to restore family "honor" when a woman is perceived to have violated cultural or moral codes.

3. Sexual Violence and Harassment:

- Includes rape, sexual assault, workplace harassment and street harassment.
- Women and children are particularly vulnerable, with incidents often going unreported due to ~~societal~~ social stigma.

4. Forced Marriages and Child Marriages:

- The practice of forcing individuals, especially young girls, into marriages for economic or cultural reasons.
- Often legitimized by tribal customs and religious misinterpretations.

5. Human Trafficking:

Trafficking of women and children for forced labor, sexual exploitation or marriage.

6. Acid Attacks:

A form of violence where acid is thrown at victims, causing physical and emotional trauma.

Motivated by revenge, rejection or disputes.

Effectiveness of Existing Laws and Policies in Pakistan:-

1. Strengths of Existing Laws:-

(a). Domestic Violence Laws:

Provincial legislations such as the Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act (2016) and the Sindh Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2013) aim to protect women from domestic abuse.

(b). Anti-Rape and Anti-Honor Killing Laws:

The Anti-honor Killing Bill (2016) removed loopholes allowing perpetrators to escape punishment through family pardons. While the Anti-Rape (Investigation and Trial) Ordinance (2021) introduced measures like special courts and witness protection.

(c). Child Marriage Restraint Act (1929):

Prohibits child marriages, though enforcement remains weak.

2. Challenges in Implementation:-

(a). Weak Enforcement:

Corruption, inefficiency and lack of capacity in law enforcement agencies hinder effective enforcement.

(b). Lack of Awareness:

Many victims are unaware of their legal rights or lack access to legal support and resources.

(c). Judicial Delays:

Slow judicial processes and insufficient prosecution lead to low conviction rates, deterring victims from pursuing cases.

Conclusion:-

Gender-based violence in Pakistan remains a critical issue despite the existence of progressive laws and policies. While these measures signify progress, societal resistance, weak enforcement and limited awareness hinder their effectiveness. To combat gender-based violence effectively, Pakistan must adopt a multi-faceted approach that strengthens law enforcement, addresses cultural barriers and empowers victims to seek justice.

Q. 8 :-

(a). Globalization and Women :-

Globalization has had a multifaceted impact on women worldwide, influencing their socio-economic, cultural and political lives.

1. Economic Opportunities :-

- Globalization has opened new avenues for women in the global workforce, particularly in industries like textiles, technology and services.
- Many women, especially in developing countries, benefit from access to international markets and entrepreneurship opportunities.

2. Challenges of Exploitation :-

- Women in developing countries often face exploitative working conditions in global supply chains, earning low wages and lacking labor protections.
- Gender disparities persist in access to resources and leadership roles, limiting their benefits from globalization.

3. Migration and Trafficking :-

Economic globalization has led to increased migration, where women often seek better opportunities but face vulnerabilities such as exploitation and trafficking.

Conclusion:-

While globalization offers significant opportunities for women's economic and social advancement, it also perpetuates inequalities and challenges that require targeted policies and global advocacy to ensure equitable outcomes.

(b). Autonomy vs. Integration Debate:-

The autonomy vs. integration debate revolves around the strategies used by women's movements to achieve gender equality, particularly in relation to their engagement with mainstream political, economic and social structures.

1. Autonomy Approach:-

Def: Advocates for independent women's movements, free from male-dominated institutions and political systems.

Key Argument: Autonomy allows women to focus exclusively on their own agendas, ensuring that their issues are not sidelined or diluted.

2. Integration Approach:-

Def: Supports the inclusion of women's movements within mainstream structures to bring change ~~within~~ from within.

Key Argument: Integration ensures women's voices are heard in policymaking, governance and institutional reforms.

3. Contemporary Relevance:-

The debate remains significant as women's movement balance autonomy to maintain their identity with integration to influence systemic change.

Effective advocacy often combines both approaches, fostering collaboration while preserving feminist priorities.

Conclusion:-

The autonomy vs. integration debate highlights the challenges faced by women's movements in achieving equality. Both approaches have strengths and limitations and a balanced strategy is often necessary to ensure sustainable progress.