

QUESTION # 01

GENDER AND WOMEN STUDIES

INTRODUCTION

Gender studies and women studies are different fields having differences on many parameters such as origin of discipline, scope of study, objective of subject etc. On the other hand, sex vs gender debate is an academic difference of opinion that hold different view over 'sex' and 'gender'. A vast majority of scholars criticize biological determinism and regard 'gender' as a social construction, whereas there are scholars who also believe that 'sex' too is socially constructed.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GENDER STUDIES AND WOMEN STUDIES

•> Origin of Disciplines

GENDER STUDIES: Gender Studies emerged as an academic discipline in the 1990s

WOMEN STUDIES: Women Studies originated as an academic discipline in 1960-70s.

•> Influence of Waves of Feminism

GENDER STUDIES: Gender Studies was heavily influenced by the third wave of feminism

WOMEN STUDIES: Women Studies was heavily influenced by the second wave of feminism

•> Focus of Study

GENDER STUDIES: It has broader scope of study that focuses on all genders

encompassing men, women, and LGBTQ+

WOMEN STUDIES : Women studies has narrow scope of study as it focuses primarily on women-related issues.

➤ Goal of the Subjects

GENDER STUDIES : Gender Studies aims to uncover how sex and gender identities are constructed and shape the social relations, institutions and systems.

WOMEN STUDIES : The goal of women studies is to uproot patriarchy to ensure equal opportunities of emancipation to women.

➤ Views on Intersectionality

GENDER STUDIES : It gives close attention to intersectionality of gender and race and cater individual needs.

WOMEN STUDIES : It largely overlook the intersectional lens and promote 'sisterhood' view.

➤ Views on Social Norms

GENDER STUDIES: Gender Studies seeks to unveil ~~is~~ construction and impact of social norms.

WOMEN STUDIES: Women Studies give limited attention to construction of social norms, instead it targets patriarchy to achieve women liberation.

GENDER STUDIES	WOMEN STUDIES
➤ Emerged in 1990s	➤ Emerged in 1960-70s
➤ Influenced by 3 rd Wave of Feminism	➤ Influenced by 2 nd Wave of Feminism
➤ Broad Scope	➤ Narrow Scope
➤ Study all Genders	➤ Women-centric Study
➤ Attention to intersectionality and social norms	➤ Limited attention to intersectionality and norms

SEX VS GENDER DEBATE

➤ Critique of Biological Determinism

A vast majority of gender studies ^{scholars} criticize the biological determinism approach which advocates formation of gender identities on the basis of biological features. Hence, they contend that gender is socially constructed.

➤ Is 'Sex' Socially Constructed too?

The sex vs gender debate ^{also} revolves around the question of social construction of 'sex'. While the majority of scholars hold that sex is biologically determined, certain post-modernist and queer theorists contend that sex too is socially constructed.

: 6/5

•> The Influence of Simone de Beauvoir

Simone De Beauvoir's work 'The Second Sex' advocates how femininity is socially taught rather than biologically inherent. Her seminal statement signifies that socialization shapes feminine identity:

"One is not born rather becomes a woman"

•> Judith Butler's 'Gender Trouble'

Judith Butler introduced the idea of gender performativity in her book "Gender Trouble" wherein she contended that repeated performances create the illusion of a stable identity.

•> The Fluidity of Gender

The postmodern and queer theorists floated the idea of fluidity of gender, rejecting the traditional gender roles. They advocated for a spectrum of genders between the traditional gender identities of men and women.

CONCLUSION

Gender Studies and Women Studies are different fields having difference of origin, scope, focus and views. Whereas, the sex vs gender debate revolves around the construction of gender and sexuality wherein majority of scholars view sex as biologically determined and gender as social construction.

QUESTION # 07

WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

INTRODUCTION

Women political participation in Pakistan is significantly low due to obstacles ranging from socio-cultural barriers to structural issues in the political system. The introduction of political quota is a good setup step as it paves way for further political participation and empowerment of women.

OBSTACLES FOR WOMEN VOTERS

➤ Absence of Voter Registration

Many women fail to use their voting right due to lack of voter registration, especially in rural areas.

•> Restricted Mobility and Transport Issues

Women in rural areas have restricted mobility and they face transport issues to go to polling station.

•> Patriarchal Mind-set and Tribal Culture

The prevalent public-private divide in tribal cultures do not allow women to cast vote as they lie in 'private' domain.

•> Lack of Awareness among Women

Due to confinement in private sphere, women lack awareness about political affairs and activities.

•> Mansplaining in Voting Decisions

Generally, male members of family dictate the women whom to vote deeming them poor decision makers.

OBSTACLES FOR WOMEN AS CANDIDATES

•> Non-Participation of Women

Due to non-participation of women in politics, women candidates face less public support.

•> Lack of Funding for Campaign

Women candidates face lack of funding for electoral campaigns as sponsors regard them unfit for election.

•> Patriarchal Gender Role

Perception

Women candidates face patriarchal criticism since patriarchal role perception about women is about keeping them private.

•> Sexist and Derogatory

Comments

Women candidates face sexist and derogatory comments from competitors.

ABSTACLES FOR WOMEN RERESENTATIVE

•> Male Dominance in Decision Making

Generally, male representative dominate the decision-making bodies. The Global Gender Gap Index 2024 revealed that only 6.3% women ^{make-up} ~~are~~ leadership position in Pakistan

•> Lack of Training Programs

There exist no training program to educate women about the complex matters of politics.

•> Soft Portfolios and Glass Ceiling

Women are given soft portfolios like Ministry of Human Rights or Climate Change Ministry, revealing a glass ceiling for them to reach at the top of hierarchy.

IMPACT OF QUOTA SYSTEM

The introduction of quota for women would improve women's political representation, and it would pave the way for further political empowerment of women.

•> Increased Women Representation

Political quota increase women representation in politics. For instance, the Global Gender Gap Index 2024, reported that women make 19.3% of Parliamentary representatives.

•> Input in Policy Making

Women representatives' input increases in policy making due to quota.

For example, Senator Sherry Rehman played Pivotal role in ^{shaping} Pakistan's foreign policy stance over 2022 floods.

•> Pressures System to become More Inclusive

Women representatives through quota reach the Parliament, where they can push the government to become more inclusive towards women.

•> Role Model for Women

Women representatives (on quota) can become a role model for women to participate in politics.

•> Road towards Long-term Reforms

Women quota paves way for the long-term reforms in system to ensure equal political opportunities for women.

For instance, Zartaj Gul Wazir became the first women NA member who won election on general seat. Hence, quota paves way for long-term reforms and empowerment.

CONCLUSION

Women face many hurdles in political participation. However, the introduction of quota given them opportunity to bypass the obstacles and represent women. Using this opportunity, they can remove the hurdles in women's political participation.

QUESTION # 08

GLOBALIZATION AND WOMEN

INTRODUCTION

Globalization impacts gender through diverse mechanisms. Women have emerged as significant beneficiaries and contributors to global economic, cultural and political integration. However, globalization has also exposed women to vulnerabilities like exploitation in labor market and cultural homogenization.

PROS OF GLOBALIZATION ON GENDER

•> Economic Empowerment of Women

Globalization has created job opportunities for women, particularly in developing countries, enhancing their financial independence.

•> Education and Skill Development

Increased initiative for promotion of women education such as UNESCO's Women for All is made possible due to globalization.

•> Voice against GBV

Globalization led to universalization of ideas like feminism and gender-based violence that resulted in conventions like CEDAW.

•> Increased Political Participation

Globalization of feminist ideas pushed the world towards increased political participation of women.

CONS OF GLOBALIZATION ON GENDER

•> Exploitation in Labor Markets

Globalization-led women inclusion into market resulted in exploitation of women, exhausting them with "double shift"

•> Wage Parity

Women are paid less for the same work as of their male counterparts.

Pakistan's wage parity is 82%, as per Labour Force Survey 2020-21.

•> Increased Gender-based Crimes

Globalization also led to increase in crime like women trafficking, pornography and prostitution.

CONCLUSION

Globalization impact gender through diverse mechanisms resulting more pros than cons for women.

AUTONOMY VS INTEGRATION DEBATE

INTRODUCTION

Autonomy vs Integration debate revolves around the question, whether gender studies should be kept as a separate discipline or it should be integrated into other academic disciplines.

THE AUTONOMY MODEL

The autonomy model advocates that gender studies should remain a distinct and autonomous discipline and it should be mingled into other fields.

PROponents:

Scholars like Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde and Gloria Anzaldúa advocate the autonomy of Gender Studies.

THE INTEGRATION MODEL

This model advocates embedding gender studies into existing disciplines broadening the impact of gender perspectives.

PROponents:

Scholars like Joan Scott, Judith Butler and bell hooks advocate the integration of gender studies.

CONTRIBUTION OF DEBATE

While each of the model has certain advantages and disadvantages, the autonomy vs integration debate led to great academic contribution. Autonomy model led to deepening of gender studies through indigenous theoretical constructs while integration broadened the discipline making it a multi-disciplinary field of study.

QUESTION # 06

GBV AND POLICIES

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence is physical, sexual or mental harm directed against an individual because of gender. It has many direct and indirect forms. In Pakistan, laws and policies such as Workplace Harassment Act exist, however weak implementation and judiciary makes them largely ineffective.

DIRECT FORM OF GBV

•> Domestic Violence

Women face physical, emotional assault in domestic settings. As per UN Women Report (2023), 80% married women face domestic violence.

➤ Sexual Violence

Women face sexual violence in the shape of marital rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancies, genital mutilation and virginity tests.

➤ Psychological Violence

Women frequently suffer from verbal attacks, threats of violence, threat of isolation and use of children to get emotionally blackmailed.

SOCIAL STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE

➤ Social Institutions

Social institutions unleash structural violence on women. For instance, the Kohistan Case of 2012 where five women were killed on orders of Jirga.