

Q#6

Different forms of Gender Based violence:

1- Domestic Violence:

Domestic violence is further divided into two categories.

Physical Violence:- A woman is physically assaulted by her husband, brother, father or any relative is physical violence or it could be due to dowry issues, not meeting household expectations etc.

It includes slapping, hitting, kicking or severe beating.

Case study of 2018, a woman named shazia was admitted in hospital with many fractures for serving cold tea to husband.

Honour Killings:-

Honour killing refers to taking the life of a woman due to bringing shame to their family. For instance: a famous case of

Qandeel baloch, she was murdered by her brother.

Another case is from Kohat, where brother killed her sister by shooting her in head two times while she was making breakfast for him. He killed her because of the alleged affair of her sister with someone.

Another case is from Lahore where a husband killed her wife on the basis that she left home and went to old age house because he used to beat her.

2- Sexual violence:

Sexual violence is divided into two categories:

Rape: Sexual assault, including marital rape which remains unreported due to social stigma.

Case study of girl named Naila from Lahore in 2020, who was abducted and raped by multiple men, which sparked nationwide protests demanding justice. Another major case of motorway rape case incident in Lahore motorway.

Harassments: Unwelcomed sexual advances in workplace, educational institutions and public spaces.

In 2022, a girl named Sania reported a case against her professor who used to pass unethical and inappropriate remarks in class. This case led to spark debates that whether women are safe in educational institutions or not.

Trafficking: Exploitation through forced prostitutions and sexual slavery. Usually women are tricked in rural areas and they are promised to give them jobs in cities. A large scale

trafficking gang was busted in Karachi in 2017.

3- Psychological / Emotional Abuse:

Verbal Abuse: Degrading remarks, threats and humiliations. For example a wife is constantly devalued by her husband, father brother or anyone by calling her useless, stupid etc. Many women take psychological help from health professionals from undergoing through this.

Coercive Control: Isolation, manipulation and restricting personal freedom. A woman is isolated from meeting her family, friends by a man who controls her finances. Sometimes women are threatened that her kids would be taken into custody as well.

4. Economic Violence:

Financial Abuse: Denial of financial resources or opportunities. A woman is denied to access her own earnings or forced to hand over her earnings / salary to her husband, leaving her financially dependent.

Workplace discrimination: Underspaid jobs and overworked practices. Many women reports the issues that they are underspaid than their male colleagues although they do the same work for same hours a day.

Harmful traditional Practices:-

Forced Marriages: Marriages without consent including child marriages. Young girls are often married to their cousins as it is their family traditions without her consent and despite if she protests against it.

Dowry related violence: Abuse or violence related to dowry issues. Many women are tortured by in-laws for not fulfilling their dowry expectations. For example in 2018, A girl named suman was tortured and starved by her in-laws for not giving enough dowry money.

Acid Attacks: Intentional attacks to disfigure individuals specially women, as a form of revenge. Women are attacked with an acid over her face in form of revenge. For example, a husband threw acid on his ex wife because she refused to reconcile with him.

Key laws related to GBV:

- 1- The domestic violence act 2012
- 2- The Acid control and acid crime act 2011
- 3- The protection of women against harassment at workplace act 2010
- 4- The Anti rape act 2017

Challenges in implementation:

- 1- Deep rooted patriarchal practices often discourages victims from reporting violence.
- 2- Police and judicial systems lack gender sensitivity training, resulting in poor handling of the cases.
- 3- Insufficient funding for victim shelters, legal aid and rehabilitation service.
- 4- Long and inefficient judicial processes deter victims from pursuing justice.
- 5- Many women remains unaware of their legal rights due to illiteracy and lack of outreach in marginalized communities.

Policy initiatives:-

- 1) Gender equality policies like inclusion of quotas for women in public offices to increase their representation.

ii) Awareness campaigns by NGOs and govt bodies to spread awareness about laws related to gender based violence.

Challenges in implementation

Despite some progress in political participation for women, several obstacles hinder their full involvement in this arena.

1- Patriarchal Norms:

The deep rooted patriarchal system in Pakistan often sees women as subordinate to men specially in rural areas. Women are expected to focus on domestic responsibilities and their participation in public affairs is considered taboo or inappropriate. For instance, in backwards areas of KPK, women are not even allowed to vote then how can they themselves become candidates for an election processes.

Society often perceives women who enter politics defying traditional roles. This stigma deters many women for participating in politics.

For instance, Benazir Bhutto, the first

female Prime minister of Pakistan, was criticised too much by conservative people due to her gender.

2- Limited access to resources:

Financial Constraints:-

Political campaigns in Pakistan requires significant financial resources and usually women lack access to finances and funding. Without financial support it is impossible for a women to build political careers.

Lack of political network:-

Politics in Pakistan, like in many other countries is often driven by established political network and women are generally excluded from these circles.

3- Legal and Institutional barriers:

Weak legal protection:- Although there are

laws and policies like 33% women seats but often the implementation is weak like most of these seats are symbolic.

Political party dynamics:

Political parties in Pakistan are mostly male dominated while they may nominate women under quota system but they merely provides leadership roles to women.

4- Violence & Threats:-

Women who enters politics often faces violence, threats and harassments including verbal abuse, physical abuse and even death threats which deter women from political participation.

5- Education & Awareness:-

Women specially in rural areas lack education and awareness about their rights and political participation which further reduces women participation in political arena.

The Quota System: Will it make difference?

The introduction of the quota system in politics is a significant forward step, but its

effectiveness is still a point of debate.

1- Increased representation:-

This ~~quota~~ quota system has significantly increased the women's political participation in the national and provincial assemblies. This has allowed women to advocate for their issues like women's rights, education and healthcare. In 2018 National assembly had 20% of women in it.

2- Symbolic change and Inspiration:-

Having more women in power even in symbolic roles can encourage other women to aspire for political participation, creating role models for future generations.

For example during Benazir's tenure many women took part in politics.

Conclusion:

While the Quota system has led to an increase in the representation of women in politics landscape, it is not enough to overcome deep rooted challenges they face. For the Quota system to have a meaningful impact, it must be accompanied by broader societal changes such as changing patriarchal norms, ensuring equal access to political resources, providing protection from violence and promoting education and awareness.

QNO1

Critically Examine the difference b/w gender studies and women studies. Shed light on Sex Vs Gender Debate as well.

Gender studies:-

Introduction:

Gender studies investigates all the difference and inequalities between men and women. It critically analyze these differences and inequalities in social and cultural perspective. According to gender studies both men and women are essential for life. For instance alone Adam was unable to survive, Adam and eve both were essential for each other and both participated equally.

Definition:-

It is an interdisciplinary field that deals with gender related issues at multiple level. Gender studies aims at analyzing biological differences and relate them to socio-cultural context.

It ~~also~~ analyzes that how identities are shaped and how roles are assigned as per gender. For instance there was a concept of:

"Man the hunter, women the gatherer"

Major school of thoughts related to gender are:

- i- Men are superior than women.
- ii- Men and women are equal. Gender studies base is this school of thought. Equality does not mean that men and women are same, rather, it means that both should have equal right, opportunities, significance, benefits and responsibilities.

As an academic discipline:

Gender studies emanated out of women studies. It consolidated as an academic field of inquiry in 1970.

Need of gender studies:

There were many reasons which are following:

- 1- Unrecognised social position of a women.
- 2- Myopic representation of women's perspective, experiences and interpretation of social realities.
- 3- Recognition of their contribution.

- 4- Women: empowerment and putting an end to their social status as underpaid, overworked, abused and exploited.

Women Studies:

Women studies is the study of social status, societal contributions of women and relationship between gender and power. Women studies since its emergence in 20th century focused on issues particularly related to women.

Women studies interrogates the history of women and their contributions to the society. Women studies focused on women development.

Gender Studies

- 1) Multidisciplinary
- 2) Addresses issues of men, women and LGBTQ+
- 3) Looks for causes, impacts and solution for issues
- 4) Overcoming social differences
- 5) Emerged out of women studies.

Women Studies:

- Interdisciplinary.
- Addresses only women issues
- Focuses only on women identity.
- Women's participation in men's trade
- Off shoot of 2nd wave of feminism.

Difference b/w Sex & Gender:

Sex	Gender
1) Biological Phenomenon	Social phenomenon
2) Given at birth	Learned through socialization.
3) Sex issues include genitals issues, women associated illnesses.	Gender issues include oppression, violence, discrimination etc.
4) It is fixed	It is fluid.
5) It does not change over time	It changes over time.

Sex:-

Sex is a biological phenomenon, and it is determined on biological and physical characteristics like:

i- Chromosomes:

Humans typically have XX chromosomes for females and XY chromosomes for males.

ii- Genitals:-

Humans have external organs like penis for males and vulva for females.

iii- Gonads:

Reproductive organs like Testes for males and ovaries for females.

iv- Hormones:

Hormones like testosterone for males and estrogen for females.

v- Secondary characteristics:

Secondary factors like beard and mustaches for males and development of breast in females.

Gender:

Gender refers to roles and expectations that are associated with particular sex through social constructivism. For example, the traits like assertiveness, physical strength etc are associated with men while nurturing, emotional sensitivity are linked to females.