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Question no 4.

Introduction:

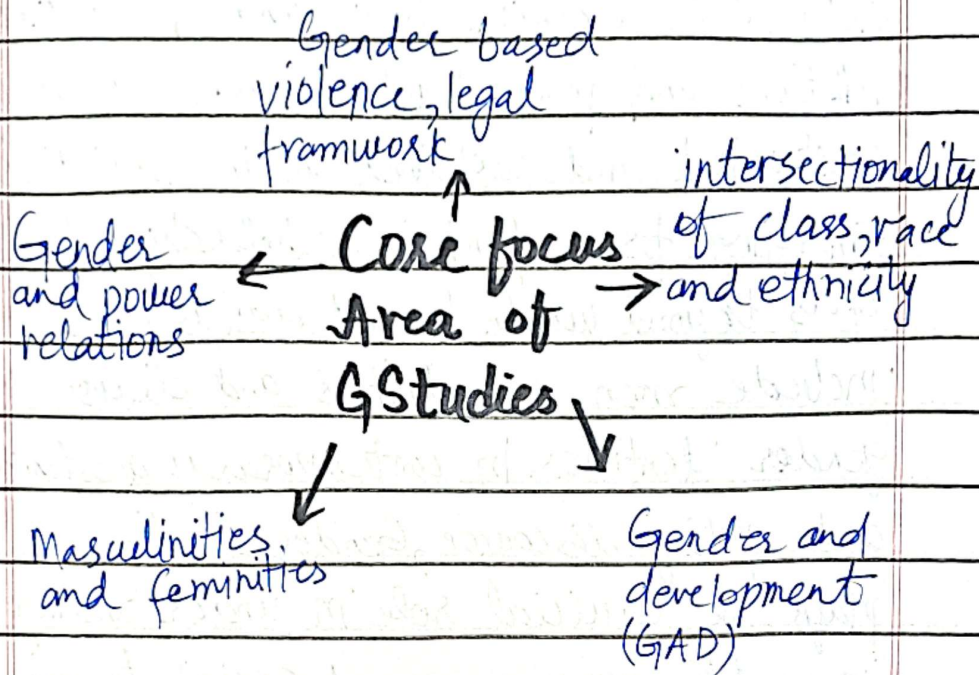
Gender studies is an interdisciplinary field that examines how gender identities, relations and power structures are socially constructed and sustained within societies. Emerging from feminist scholarship, it goes beyond women focused analysis to include men, masculinities and diverse gender identities. In contemporary academic and policy discourse, Gender studies plays a crucial role in understanding inequality, governance and social transformation.

Gender studies: overview

Gender studies analysis gender as a core social, cultural, political and economic construct rather than purely gender biological category. It explains how institutions such as family, state, economy and media shape gender roles and hierarchies. The

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discipline integrates perspectives, from sociology, political science, economics, law and anthropology.



Women Studies: overview

Women studies emerged during the second wave feminism movement with a primary focus on women's oppression and exclusion. Its objective was to make women visible in knowledge production and challenge patriarchal narratives. It remains rooted in advocacy oriented scholarship.

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Gender vs Women's studies

Comparison table

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Women centered | • Gender diverse relations |
| • Focus on patriarchy | • Focus on power system |
| • Advocacy oriented | • Analytical policy frame |
| • Female experience | • Inclusive of all genders |

Evolution process

Feminist Movements



Women's studies



Gender Studies



Inclusive social analysis

Autonomy vs integration debate

The autonomy vs integration debate addresses whether Gender Studies exist as an independent discipline or be integrated into mainstream social

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sciences. This debate reflects concerns over academic identity, political relevance and institutional survival.

Autonomy of Gender Studies

Preservation of feminist epistemology

Autonomy allows gender studies (GS) to retain its critical feminist foundations. Integration risks dilution of its transformative agenda. Autonomous department protects feminist knowledge production and core ideas.

Visibility of gender inequality

Independent status ensures sustained focus on gender studies. Mainstreaming disciplines often marginalize gender concerns. Autonomy guarantees institutional visibility.

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Safe Academic space.

Autonomous programs provide intellectual and social spaces for marginalized voices. This is essential for critical pedagogy. Such spaces foster innovation and resistance.

Policy advocacy role

Autonomous gender studies often influence gender sensitive policymaking. They maintain strong links of links with civil society and NGOs. Integration may weaken this advocacy role.

Case studies:

Women development departments and gender units in Pakistan often rely on autonomous gender experts for policy informed legislation on harassment and domestic violence.

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Integration of gender studies

Mainstreaming gender perspectives

Integration embeds gender analysis across all disciplines. This prevents gender from being treated as a peripheral issue. It enhances holistic policymaking in all sphere of the disciplines.

Academic sustainability

Integrate programs receives greater institutional support. Often StandAlone department face funding constraints. Integration ensures long term survival process for the multidisciplinary nature.

Interdisciplinary strength

Gender studies intersects with economic, politics and law. Integration facilitates cross disciplinary research

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This improves analytical depth.

In Scandinavia, gender perspectives are integrated into economic and public policy programs. This has contributed to gender equality indices.

Critical Assessment of the debate

Risk of marginalisation through integration

Gender content may become tokenistic when integrated without dedicated scholars, depth is lost.

Integration can depoliticize gender discourse.

Risk of isolation through autonomy

Autonomous department may become intellectually isolated. Limited interaction reduce policy relevance.

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Excessive autonomy may restrict influence.

Power dynamics within academia

Maintain mainstream disciplines are often male dominated. Integration may reinforce existing hierarchies. Autonomy challenges existing power structures.

Context specific relevance

In developing societies, autonomy is often more effective. Weak institutions require focused advocacy. Integration works better in mature academic system.

Autonomy	Integration
Critical focus	Broad reach
Advocacy strength	Inst. support
Risk of isolation	Risk of dilution

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Contemporary trends

Hybrid model adoption

Many universities adopt hybrid approaches. Gender studies exists autonomously while influencing curricula across disciplines. This balance depth and reach.

Global development framework

UN sustainable development goals mainstream gender equality. This support integration at policy level while retaining specialized expertise.

Digital policy oriented expansion

Gender studies increasingly informs governance, budgeting and digital policy. Integration enhances applicability. Autonomy preserves critical insight.

Future of Gender studies

The discipline is moving towards strategic integration without losing

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autonomy. This reflects pragmatic adaption. Balanced models offer maximum impacts.

Conclusion:

Gender studies represents a vital analytical lense for understanding power, inequality and social change. While women studies laid its foundation, gender studies broadened its scope to include all gender relations. This autonomy vs integration debate highlight a fundamental tension between depth and reach. best resolved through a balanced hybrid model that safeguard critical inquiry while mainstreaming gender perspectives across academia and policy.

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Question no.5

Introduction:

Gender is not merely a biological distinction but a socially constructed systems of meanings, roles and expectations assigned to individuals by society. The concept of social construction of gender explains how masculinity & femininity are produced, reproduced and regulated through social institutions through social institutions and cultural practices. Understanding this process is essential to analyse power inequality, particularly in societies like Pakistan.

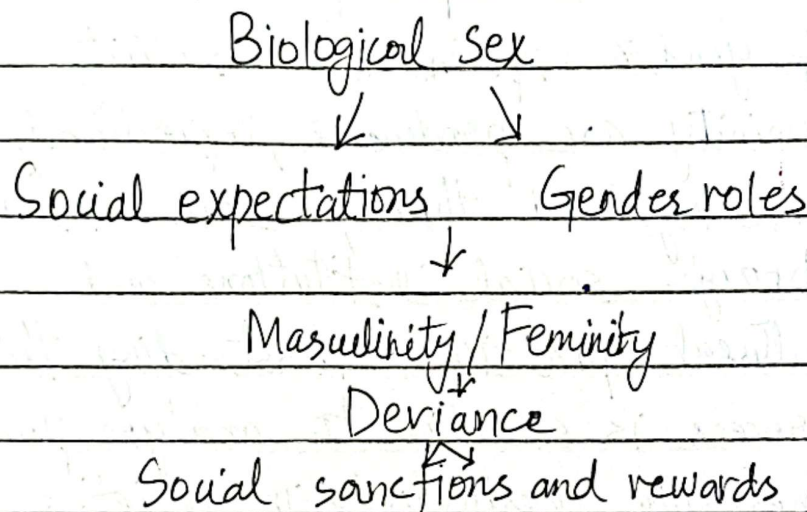
Social construction of Gender

The social construction of gender refers to the process through which societies defines, enforce and normalize ideas of masculinity and femininity. From birth, individuals are socialized into

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gender roles through family, religion, education and historical periods, proving that gender is not fixed but socially produced.

Process of gender construct



Major theoretical perspectives on gender formation

Biological determination

Biological determination explains masculinity and femininity as natural outcomes of biological differences.

Men are viewed as aggressive.

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rational, while women are considered nurturing and emotional. This perspective has been criticized by justifying gender inequality and ignoring variation.

Pakistan's example

Traditional beliefs linking women to caregiving roles and men to breadwinning are often justified through biology.

Socialization theory

Socialization theory argues that gender roles are learned through interaction with family, peers, schools, and media. Masculinity and femininity are reinforced through rewards and punishments. This theory highlights the role of early childhood experiences.

Pakistan perspective

Boys are encouraged to be assertive, while girls are taught calm.

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and obedient behaviour within households

Structural functionalism

According to functionalist, gender roles exist to maintain social stability

Men perform instrumental roles,

while women performs expressive roles

This perspective has been criticized for legitimizing patriarchy.

Pakistan example

The expectations that man earns and women manage household is seen as socially functional

Feminist theory

Feminist theory viewed masculinity and femininity as products of patriarchy and power relations. Gender roles are imposed to maintain male dominance. Feminists emphasize resistance and transformation.

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Domestic example

Feminist movements challenges honor based norms and restrictive dress codes.

Marxist feminism

Marxist feminism argued that gender roles are shaped by economic structures. Women unpaid domestic labor support capitalism. Masculinity is linked to control over production.

Pakistan example

Women unpaid household work and informal labour remain economically invisible.

Radical Feminism

Radical feminism sees patriarchy as a primary system shaping genders. Masculinity is associated with dominance and control over femininity with submission. It emphasizes restructuring social

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Institutions

Pakistan Example:

Critique of male over women
sexuality and mobility.

Symbolic interactionism

The perspective focus on daily
interactions where gender is performed
and reinforced. Masculinity and femininity
are enacted through language, behavior
and symbols.

Pakistan perspective

Gendered greetings, dress codes
and public behavior norms. Abusive
language in gendered way.

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Postmodern and queer theory

Postmodern theory rejects fixed gender identities. Gender is fluid, context dependent, and multiple. This challenges binary notions of masculinity and femininity.

Pakistan example

Growing visibility of transgender communities and legal recognitions of third gender.

Impact in Pakistan: Social construction

Social construction of gender in Pakistan affects education, employment and law. Patriarchal norms restrict women's participation and reinforce hegemonic masculinity. However, legal reforms and social movements are gradually shaping gender identities.

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Conclusion:

Gender is dynamic social constructs shaped by cultural norms, institutions and power relations. Different theoretical perspectives explains how masculinity and femininity are formed, each highlighting distinct dimension of social life. In Pakistan, understanding gender as socially constructed is essential for addressing inequality and promoting inclusive development.

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Question no. 6

I Introduction:

Political participation is widely known as a cornerstone of democratic and a fundamental human right. Liberal democratic theory, as articulated by John Locke and J.S. Mill, links political participation with individual liberty and consent of the governed. In patriarchy societies like Pakistan, however, women's political participation remains constrained by structural, cultural and institutional barriers, making gender quota system a significant but contested intervention.

Political participation as a basic human right

Political participation refers to the right of the individual to vote, contest elections, influence policy and engage in public decisions making.

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According to Hannah Arendt, participation in public life is essential for human dignity and citizenship. International human rights framework such as universal suffrage norms treat political participation as an inalienable right rather than a privilege.

Women political participation in Pakistan

Despite political constitutional guarantees, women in Pakistan remain underrepresented in political institutions. Patriarchal norms, elite capture of politics and democratic weakness, cultural risks restrict women's effective participation. This gap between formal rights and substantive participation reflects what Iris Marion Young terms 'structural injustice'.

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Obstacles faced by women in Pakistan's political system

Patriarchal social structure

Sylvia Walby's theory of patriarchy explains how women face male dominance operations across family, state and culture. In Pakistan, politics is perceived as a male dominant, limiting women's mobility and public engagement. Social approval remains a prerequisite for women's participation.

Cultural norms and gender stereotypes

Social role theory suggests that leadership traits are culturally associated with masculinity. Women politicians are often viewed as symbolic or secondary actors. This perception discourages voter support and party nomination.

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Political party structures

Robert Michels's Iron Law of Oligarchy explains how party leadership remains concentrated among male elites. Women are marginalized in decision making bodies of political parties. Ticket distribution overwhelmingly favours men.

Economic constraints over women

Marxist theory highlights economic dependency as a barrier to political agency. Election campaign requires substantial financial resources. Women's limited access to property and capital restricts electoral competitiveness.