Gender Studies - NDA - Final Mock 2026

Day: Date:

Question - 6

I. Introduction

Political participation is a fundamental human right that every human being deserves. However, women are denied this right in countries throughout the globe despite positive changes. Quotas have had some positive impact, it has also created some unintended consequences.

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2. Is political participation a fundamental human right?

Political participation is a fundamental human right.

Political participation refers to the right to choose your representatives and actively pursue political leadership of your community.

The UN charter call it a fundamental right

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-> **Human rights declaration** states it as a fundamental right

-> **Seneca falls** Convention - declaration of Sentiments categorized it as a fundamental human right

-> **Constitution of Pakistan** declares it as a fundamental human right as well

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2. Examine the obstacles faced by women in Pakistan's political system

1. Patriarchal leadership

The leadership in countries around the globe is patriarchal that is men are leading and similar in Pakistan

e.g only 8/183 seat won in 2023 by women

2. Clientalism - denied right to vote

In tribal society vote on patronage and women cannot vote

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3. Feudalism

women in these Societies cannot participate in Politics as giving women power means the lands will have to be broken up

4. Patrilineal System

Politics is often seen as passing from father to Son and this limits the role of women in political circles

→ Bhutto, Shareef and

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3. Evaluate the impact of gender quota on women representation

Positive impact

1. Participation of women increases

Women's participation increases as through quota 60 seats given to women in parliament in Pakistan.

2. Greater voice of women in political circles

Women have a greater say in running of affairs of the State

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A Fehmida Mirza - environmental minister vocal about women's issues.

3. Policy-making issues gender issues addressed

Women can bring to the forefront the issues that impact them for policies - Sexual Harassment of women at the workplace Act 2010

4. Easier for other women to stand up in the electorate process.

Other women contest elections when they see women parliamentarians.

Role-modelling for women.

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Negative impact

1. Tokenism - Symbolic gesture

This quota at times is criticized to be a symbolic gesture as Rubina Saigol has sharply criticized it.

2. Active participation of women unchanged in political process

The participation of women is unchanged in the political process as mere spectators they dont participate in the parliament to bring meaningful change.

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3. Dynastic politics - women from elite circles

Women from elite circles the main beneficiaries of this as other women - Trickle down neglected intersectionality argument

4. Women from rural areas not represented

The rural women at large are not participating their issues remain ignored.

" to talk with a woman about equality, who has no home or food" is a nonsense - Bureh.

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Conclusion

Women are denied the right to political participation in countries throughout the world. Quotas do some good but overall ~~band-aid~~ bandage are a measure.

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Q.1

1. Introduction

WID, WAD and GAD are different approaches explaining the development of women. These approaches explain how women's issues can be solved for the development of society as a whole. In developing countries, such as Pakistan, these models explain how to counter the underdevelopment of women and ensure their success as a social group

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Reproductive role

The biological differences of women are seen as important and their role to raise children emphasized on

Oppression unaddressed

The oppression at large faced by women remains unaddressed in this approach

Strategic need ignored
Pratical needs focused

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Gender and development - GAD

1. Productive and reproductive role

The focus here is on both women's ability to bear children and their capacity for working in the economy.

2. equity - structure change

The structure according to GAD needs to be changed to take into account the disadvantages faced by women

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3. Strategic and practical needs

The long-term needs such as education and health - strategic needs given weightage along with practical needs, livelihood and medicine.

4. Oppression addressed

the exploitation of women is addressed and that women need more protection through laws.

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5. Active role played by women

Women are believed to be active change makers in their community and SMEs development should be prioritized for women's development.

6. Policies on basis of gender

The policies are to be enforced on the basis of gender and women's role needs to be taken into account in policy-making.

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7. Focus on gender not Sex

The focus on the Social construction of gender that perpetuates and how cultural changes through education necessary.

8. Inclusive development

The development of Society by incorporating men and women both in the process and simultaneously addressing their needs.

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WAD
- Women & Development

1. Capitalist system the cause of oppression not gender differences

The capitalist system according to this theory is the cause of women's oppression that creates exploitation of women through structure imbalance.

2. The developed countries exploit

developing countries and waste input on women.

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women bear the brunt of the unequal conditions between capitalist system and developing countries as poverty affects women the most.

3. Developed countries benefit from cheap labour of women

The developing countries benefits from the exploitation of women by putting them in invisible sectors that often pay low wages to women and enjoy cheap labour and profit.

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3. Which approach offers the most effective strategy for achieving equality in Pakistan?

1. GAD approach most favourable

A. Makes women active participants

In Pakistan, 49% women economic survey 2024-
in such population

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Demographics women cannot set idle.

B. Strategic needs prioritized with practical needs

women in Pakistan lack adequate schooling - 52% in comparision with men economic Survey of Pakistan whereas for men 74% this creates unequal chances.

C. Reproductive and productive role Simultaneously important

the productive capacity of women given some weightage 28 & reproductive this helps reduce poverty level in country like Pakistan

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40% below poverty line world Bank by 2024.

D. equity approach

The structural violence needs to be addressed 1/3 Pakistani women experienced some form of harrassment and GAD approach emphasis on creating a fair structure.

E. inclusive development

The development of all segments of society encouraged in a country such as Pakistan where inequality is at it seems an ideal model.

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Conclusion

There are various approaches that explain gender how to address gender inequality. However, GAD seems the most befitting approach for developing countries, such as Pakistan as it addresses all the dimensions that are adding to exploitation of women.

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Q. 4

1. Introduction

Women Studies and Gender Studies both seek to study injustice in society though differ in who can be studied or not. At the same time, there is a debate whether women or Gender Studies should remain as distinct disciplines or integrated into other subjects.

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2. What is gender Studies? differentiate it from women Studies

Gender Studies is the study of Gender- men, women and other genders to assess why gender differences exist

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1. Gender Studies
focus on
gender

The focus of gender studies is on men, women and transgender. It seeks to understand all genders. whereas

Women Studies
focus on women
issues

research of women, for women and by women. The entire focus is on women in Women Studies.

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2. Gender Studies Research by all

Everyone can do research in gender studies. Either it be male, female or transgender or intersex.

Women Studies Research by Women

Women Studies research can only be done by women

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3. Gender Studies gives a theoretical approach

The Gender Studies focus is to give a theoretical approach to most of the issues based

e.g gender wage differences

Women Studies encourages political activism

Women Studies focus is on how to create policies that reduce gender inequality between sexes.

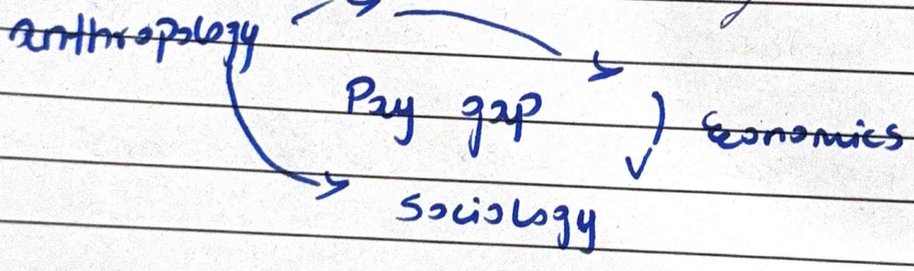
e.g Equality Act

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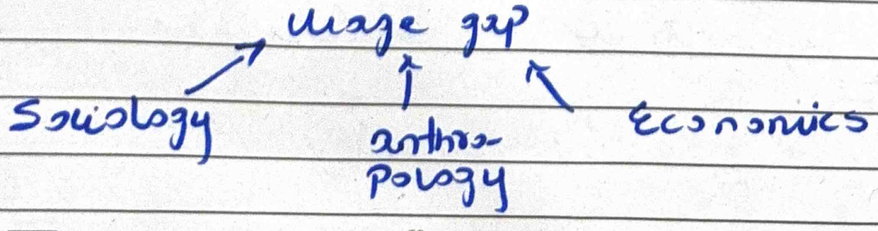
4. Gender Studies inter disciplinary

The focus of gender studies is to understand gender inequality by incorporating all subjects to do a combine study



Women Studies multi disciplinary

Takes various subject to understand why differences exist between women and men



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5. Gender Studies seeks to study non-binary topics - Queer theory

These are topics neglected at large, in women studies as they focus on women's agenda. It helps us understand divergence from conventional norms.

6. Women Studies focus binary

The focus of women studies is to study binary categories that is how male systematically oppress women and root causes of patriarchy.

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Autonomy vs integration debate

1. Autonomy argue women studies seperate entity

This side argues that women are to be treated as seperate identity and should not be mixed

integrationist argue integration with other subjects

The integration side opposes this view and believe integration should be encouraged.

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2. Autonomy means presence will Seperate ensures Survival

According to autonomy supporters seperation means survival as without it the Subject will mean that other subjects will observe women studies

integrationist - Seperation will lead to ghettoization

These Side effects that will the subject have a limited presence and confined to specific circles.

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3. Autonomy - men will fail to understand women's concern

According to this side men cannot get a complete understanding of women's issues and allowing them to talk about it will add further complications

Integration - a better understanding of gender issues

This side states that women's and gender issues will be understood if men are included in the subject and conduct research.

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4. Autonomy - will decrease funds when cuts - scapegoated

The autonomy side argues when funding is reduced women studies will be reduced with financial resources and departments will discard it.

integration - Ensures women and gender studies get due funds

This side states that the women studies will maintain presence despite cuts if integrated as reduced financial constraint

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5. Autonomy - Seperate presence for activism / policy-making

This side argues that women should have a seperate presence for their political activism that ensures political change

6. Integration : better policy making suggestions as holistic

This side believes entering women to the academic realm and political activism gives the subject a bad image.

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6. Autonomy - Seperate identity means greater women employment

The autonomy side states that women will be employed in greater number in academic discipline if seperation and this maintains female presence

integration - women will be employed across various disciplines

women will get involved in various circles that will increase their participation.

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7. Autonomy -

Separate identity means women voices heard

The women voices will be heard in greater strength if they have a separate department. This will ensure they have a say.

Integration - women voices get greater coverage

According to them women will have a stronger voice if they are integrated into other subjects.

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Conclusion

Women Studies and Gender Studies though Feminist Principles on how to go about studying in issues Overall the content is similar in what is taught. further, autonomy and integration debate used points give from exen Feminist making it Feminist to decide the future discourse.

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2. Critical analysis of postmordern feminism and expound the ideas of foucault, Butler and Beauvoir

1. Postmordern feminism

A. Reject universal experience

Postmordenist reject their is a universal female notion. They believe women see a diversity of experiences and to club them all as one is not right. Every women has a distinct experience

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B. No Grand narrative

- ism rejected

Rejects the idea of one theory explaining the subordination of women. A grand theory cannot holistically cover everything.

C. Truth is ever-changing

The truth is society is always changing and as such experiences of women are changing. The version of what women are living existing simultaneously as well.

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D. intersectionality - Crenshaw

According to postmordenist feminist like Crenshaw - various factors such as class, gender and race combine to create inequality for women.

E. fragmented identities

Identities increasingly become mixed up and a person or female does not have an absolute identity.

e.g working mum

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Michael Foucault

According to him, ideas hold a lot of power on individuals.

it is the idea of men and women that is more important and the ideology behind it.

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Judith Butler - Gender Trouble

'Gender is performative'

is her book, she explains that the idea of men and women is a social construct.

The society socializes men and women into different gender role.

She rejects the biological notion that women and men are different because of nature.

Gender a result of out actions -

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Simone de beauvoir
- Second Sex (book)

-> She was a radical feminist who is believed to put forward the idea of existentialism

'One is not born a woman but becomes a woman'
- beauvoir

existentialism preedes essence

One is born first and then beesmes Something reesrding to her. Therefore, gender is a socizl consTruction.

She believes Society socializes women to be docile.

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Conclusion

Postmodernist approach in many affirms the diversity in feminist thought and gives us a different way of looking at gender inequalities.

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