

Semester V


Sociology of Gender



Preliminary Observations

- ▶ In a paper like this with an interdisciplinary approach one has to keep moving back and forth, making constant comparisons and establishing linkages between the different topics so as to facilitate a deeper understanding of certain core issues
- ▶
- ▶ We need to move beyond a descriptive kind of analysis in terms of numbers and statistics to locating deeper theoretical issues.
- ▶
- ▶ We need to deconstruct the category woman. Gender is a social construction and to specify one's gender entails asking questions about relations of race, class, caste, political power and sexuality
- ▶
- ▶ Do away with the 'victim syndrome' which signifies dependency and vulnerability and show women as positive agents. How women resist and subvert structures of domination in everyday life

Preliminary Observations

- ▶ Multiple patriarchies of caste, class, gender and race
 - ▶ Feminist pedagogy – interrogate social locations, emphasis on lived experiences, self reflexivity and an attempt to problematize issues.
 - ▶ Interrogate the hetero–normative bias
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Unit – 1

Sex, Gender and the hetero–normative regime

- ▶ Shifts in the discourse on sex and gender
 - Traditional understanding of sex as biological differences and gender as constructed social differences.
 - Recent writings (Butler for e.g) contest the above

Heteronormative regime



- How only two genders have defined our understanding of the subject
- What about those who do not identify either as male or female or those who reject the label given to them at birth.
- The non cis–gender persons so to say.
- We need to speak to many more subjects than just men and women

Gender Beyond the Binary



- New Gender System with gender porous boundaries

- Beyond Masculine and Feminine

Many women, many feminisms and intersectionality

- ▶
- ▶ Deconstructing the category 'women'
 - Women do not constitute a homogenous category
 - A recognition of differences between women along caste/religion/queer/class lines
- ▶
- ▶

Unit 11 Feminist Perspectives: Selected Readings

▶ Liberal Feminism

- Basic tenets of Liberal feminism
- Critique of Liberal feminism
- Mary Wollstonecraft– A Vindication of the Rights of Women



▶ Radical Feminism

- Basic Tenets of Radical Feminism
- Critique of Radical Feminism
- Kate Millets – Sexual Politics

Contemporary

- ▶
 - Black feminism – bell hooks
 - Feminist solidarity
 - Race and gender
 - Postmodern feminism: Julia Kristeva
 - What is post modern feminism
 - Julia Krsiteva's rejection of fixed gender identities

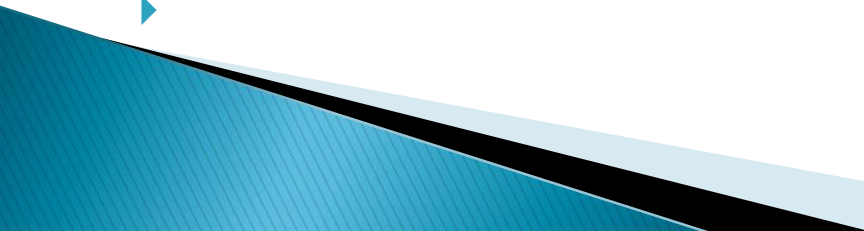
Unit III New Challenges

- Dalit feminism: Kumud Pawade
 - Religion
 - Women's movement
 - Violence, Education and relationships

New Challenges

- Queer perspectives: Judith Butler
 - Performativity
 - Gender Matrix
- ▶ Masculinity Studies
 - Emerged in the 1990's
 - Interrogates the construction of masculinity across cultures
 - Types of masculinities
 - Intersections between men of different classes, castes, ethnicities

Unit IV History of Women's Struggles: Key Debates

- ▶ Pre independence
 - ▶
 - ▶ Colonial encounter and the Woman's question
 - ▶
 - ▶ 'Reform' in the status of women as a civilizing mission
 - ▶
 - ▶ Family and Community – The last bastion of banished freedom
 - ▶
 - ▶ How the discourse was constructed widowhood, child marriage, sati, education and political rights
 - ▶
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Contemporary era: Campaigns

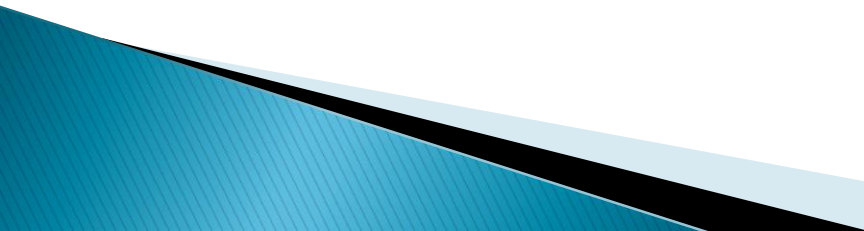
- Emergence of the autonomous women's movement: Dowry, Rape and Health
- Current debates: Sexual violence and Rights in Marriage and Divorce

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶ Dowry
- ▶ The campaign and the current scenario in the context of increasing consumerism
- ▶
- ▶
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Contraception (Family planning Programme)
- ▶ Reproductive technologies
- ▶
- ▶ Rape
- ▶
- ▶ Feminist discourse on rape(Rape as an act of intimidation, power and control
- ▶ Rape as a weapon of terror and subjugation in situations of class, caste and communal conflicts,Women's bodies as sites of community honour
- ▶ The campaign in the 1980's and the more recent one
- ▶ Criminal law amendment Act, 2013.(briefly)
- ▶

Semester – VI

- ▶
- ▶ Gender and Society: Emerging Issues and Contemporary Debates

Unit I Sites of Violence Against Women

- ▶ Family as a site of violence: Invisible forms of everyday violence
 - ▶
 - ▶ Normalisation of violence against women
 - ▶
 - ▶ Family as a space not only of harmony but also a site of intense power struggle
 - ▶ Personal is political
 - ▶ Private vs Public divide
 - ▶ Psychological, economic forms of violence
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communal conflict, caste violence and armed conflict.

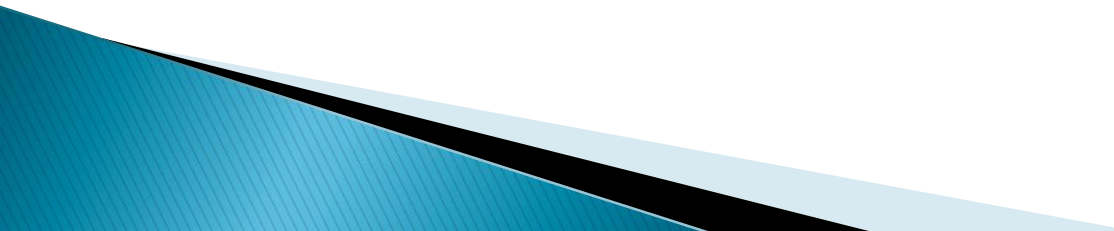
- ▶ Communal conflict
 - Women as Participants
 - Women as victims
- ▶ Caste Conflict
- ▶
- ▶ How a woman's position is mediated through caste
- ▶ Notion of honour
- ▶ Case studies
- ▶

Armed Conflict

- ▶
 - Situations of insurgency like in Kashmir and Chhattisgarh where state is pitted against the people.

- ▶
- ▶
 - Details of the Act to be discussed

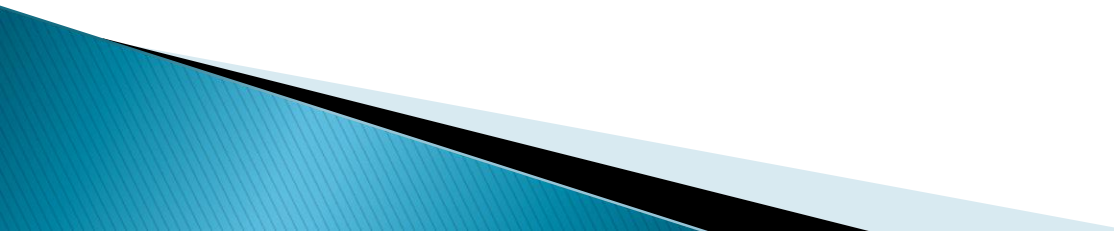
Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at the workplace Act, 2013

- ▶ Brief mention of Visakha guidelines
 - ▶ Complaint Mechanism
 - ▶ Internal Committee
 - ▶ Employers responsibilities
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Unit II Marginalised Genders

- ▶ Gender galaxy
 - Refers to multiple genders
 - Introduce the idea of gender fluidity and gender spectrum
- ▶
- ▶ Queer activism
 - The movement seeking a recognition of their constitutional rights
- ▶
- ▶ Section 377
 - Specifics of section 377 and how it criminalises same sex behaviour
 - The campaign to decriminalise Sec 377.

Unit III Protests and Resistance

- ▶ Reproductive Health: Debates on surrogacy
 - ▶ Livelihood struggles: Land and forests
 - ▶ Legislation: A feminist critique (rape and domestic violence)
 - ▶ Feminist engagement with law as a strategy and why it did not work
 - ▶ Problem areas
 - ▶ We need to move beyond laws
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Legislation

- ▶ Domestic violence/Rape



- ▶ Laws

- A brief introduction on the law (the pertinent sections)
- Delineate the problem areas
- Examine the role of the police and the judiciary (discern distinct patterns and trends in court rulings and attitude of the police)

Unit IV Feminist campaigns in digital spaces

- ▶ Feminist activism on online platforms. How effective are they? Is it liberating or constricting?
 - ▶ Why loiter
 - ▶ Right to bleed
 - ▶ Pinjra Tod
 - ▶ #Me too
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