

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, JODHPUR

End Term Examination August-December 2025

Semester: UG IX Semester (Optional)

Fundamentals of Gender Studies

Time: Three Hours

Marks:100

Instructions:

1. Answer any five questions.
2. Read the questions carefully.

Q.1). In March 2023, legislators from both the ruling party (BJP) and the opposition (Congress) in the Gujarat Assembly raised demands to amend the existing marriage laws to include parental consent. MLA Fatehsinh Chauhan argued that **marriages solemnized without parental consent contribute to the state's crime rate**, and that mandating consent could reduce the crime rate by 50%. He claimed that parents who are busy cannot "take care of their girls," leading to "anti-socials" taking advantage and eloping with them, resulting in suffering for the girl or suicide by the parents. MLAs Geniben Thakor and Imran Khedawala also resonate and support the same sentiments.

How does such demands reflect upon the construction of 'free choice' for an individual? Do you think that such demands or law of public notifications (Special Marriage Act, 1954) takes away the agency of a woman?

[Marks 20]

Q.2). 'Sympathy for the untouchable woman was garnered by social reformers through the deployment of literary, visual and rhetorical devices. A sense of historical guilt, combined with the need of the times, helped in the reproduction of such images. In the process, however, terms of upper-caste privilege were reworked and reinstated. Depiction of Dalit women as tragic and submissive figures confined them as objects of charity, and in need of the benevolent intervention of upper castes from above, for their improvement.⁵⁴ Within sympathy was framed a condescending language, wherein Dalits were shown as defiled' - *Charu Gupta*

Dalit feminist scholars contend that the shift in the dominant representation of Dalit women—from hyper-sexualized "vamps" to passive "victims"—reveals the ways in which narrative power remains controlled by upper-caste society. Do you agree with this assessment? Additionally, in what ways has upper-caste masculinity shaped, influenced, or constrained the development of Dalit masculinity?

[Marks 20]

Q.3). Discuss the visibility and inclusion of transgender and gender-diverse individuals in the Indian education system. What challenges do they encounter, and to what extent can the mere enactment of laws or policies address these issues?

[Marks 20]

Q.4). Write notes on any two:

- a. Principle of proportionality as a tool for women's right.
- b. Need for decolonising the understanding of 'transgender persons'.
- c. Transnational Feminism.

[Marks 10*2=20]

Q.5). Analyse the provisions relating to sexual offences under the Bharitya Naya Sanhita, 2023 from the feminist lens. (Provisions are provided in Annexure.1)

[Marks 20]

Q.6). How does the centrality of the home function as a tool for the hetero-patriarchal state in regulating and controlling narratives of gender and sexuality?

[Marks 20]