



REG NO:

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ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE-27

M.S.W -III SEMESTER

SEMESTER EXAMINATION-NOVEMBER 2020

SW 9218: GENDER STUDIES

Time: 2 ½ hrs.

Marks: 70

This question paper has two printed pages and two parts.

Part 1

5x10=50

Answer any FIVE questions each question carries 10 Marks

1. Feminists are considered "Men haters" do you agree with this statement. If no explain.
2. Justice delayed is justice denied. Explain to what extent the laws and legislations in our country have been effective in empowering women. What are some of the measures you as a social worker would take to see that these laws do not remain just on paper but in practice?
3. Violence against women is experienced right from the womb to tomb. Explain.
4. Women have played an important role in Nation building explain with examples.
5. Define Gender. Why is it important for Gender studies to be mainstreamed in educational institutions?
6. Explain in detail the salient features of the Women's Reservation bill.

Part II

1x20=20

Answer any one question the question carries 20 Marks

1. Analyze how the following institutions further Gender Stereotyping and Gender Discrimination. Give personal examples if anywhere you have faced the same in any one of these institutions.

- Family
- Media
- Education
- Religion

2. CASE STUDY OF NAGAVALLI (A DALIT WOMAN)

Forty-five year old Nagavalli, a dalit, is the leader of a self-help group (SHG) in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. She has three children, two girls and one boy, and her mother-in-law (a widow) resides with them. A year back Nagavalli took a loan from a commercial bank, through her SHG for purchase of two milch animals. Nagavalli, (till recently) her mother in law and her children look after the milch animals jointly, with milking and grazing the animals being her responsibility. Nagavalli first sells the milk to her neighbours, and her husband sells whatever is then left to hotels in a small town nearby. Some hotels however do not accept milk from him because he is a dalit. The household earns a profit of roughly Rs 150-600 per month. Till recently her mother-in-law managed the money from sale of milk. As of late she has not been well. Nagavalli has started managing the proceeds from the sale of milk; but has to give money to her husband for personal expenses like purchase of beedis and occasional consumption of alcohol.

Her husband Medappa is a construction labourer. The number of days he gets work has come down from 200 days a year, to around 100 as a lot of mechanized equipments have replaced manual construction labourers. He earns Rs 70 per day of work. Six months back Nagavalli and other landless dalit SHG members mobilized two acres of land each on their names through a government programme. The scheme entailed distribution of porombokku land exclusively for dalits. The land was given on joint name of her husband and self, as per the new government rule on land titles for land- distribution. Her husband has taken a loan for irrigation from a commercial bank. He carries out land preparation and ploughing activities, and undertakes all external activities like purchase of inputs and marketing of produce. Nagavalli does the weeding and transplanting of paddy, and looks after the vegetable crops. While the paddy crop was very good this year, they needed the produce for consumption. The produce met consumption needs of family for 7 months a year. Though the vegetable crop was also good, they could not make much profit (they however recovered costs, and also costs of inputs for paddy), as the prices of tomatoes slumped, due to excess produce in the markets. Neither did they have access to cold storage facilities to sell later. They barely scrapped through the installment on the irrigation loan. Nagavalli also worked as an agricultural labourer for 60 days this year on others' field at Rs 40 per day. She would have got more number of days of work if she was also allowed to do post harvest processing inside the upper caste house compound. She retains some degree of control over the income, but has to give money to her husband when he demands it.

On the whole, the living conditions of the household members have improved only slightly after Nagavalli joined the SHG, purchased livestock and after their engagement in irrigated agriculture. The expected income increase through agriculture has not occurred, though food security has improved. The livestock income, has just offset the reduced income of Medappa from construction work. Nagavalli now plays a greater role in earning income for the household, and Medappa less. Nagavalli is however happy that she has backing of group members, in the event of her husband getting drunk and, occasionally, beating her up. Such incidences have

reduced a little bit. She is also happy that her bargaining power vis a vis her mother in law has improved.

Nagavalli's husband and her children (irrespective of sex) are more privileged with respect to their access to food and milk when compared to herself and her aged mother-in-law. She believes that her husband does more "hard" work when compared to her, and after all he is the head of the household. Though her household's living conditions has improved, she is worried about whether they will face hardships in the future as she has more daughters than sons, and will have to give atleast Rs 40,000 as dowry, apart from jewels to get them married to somebody of the same economic and social status. She does not want her daughters to face the same situation as herself. She had to get married to a landless widower (Medappa's first wife passed away during delivery, as well as the child) as she was the third daughter and her parents (who were by then landless labourers) could not afford to pay a handsome dowry. Though Nagavalli has acquired land on her name, she intends to pass it on her sons as per the traditions in her community. After all, she believes, they will look after her.

She is relieved that her relationship with her husband and mother-in-law, though very strained in the beginning of her marriage, has improved over the years. According to her, she would literally be on the streets otherwise. As per the local custom all assets acquired after marriage went to the husband's household upon any separation, unless she had brought it as part of her dowry and it was still intact.

Analyse the case study. How does the interplay of Caste, Class and Gender have an influence in Nagavalli life and how does she overcome the same.