BSOC 107: SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER

Tutor Marked Assignment

Course Code: BSOC 107
Assignment Code: BSOC-107/ASST/TMA/2026-27
Total Marks: 100

There are three Sections in the Assignment. You have to answer all the questions.

Section I

Answer the following Descriptive Category questions in about 500 words each.

1. Explain how gender role is linked to labour. 20

2. 'Masculinity is a social construct.' Discuss. 20

Section II

Answer the following Middle Category questions in about 250 words each.

3. What do you understand by women's subordination? 10

4. What do you understand by gender socialization? 10

5. Discuss some of the legal measures taken to control sexual violence against women. 10

Section III

Answer the following Short Category questions in about 100 words each.

6. Discuss any one of the women's social reform movement's during colonial India. 06

7. Which activities done by women are unaccounted? 06

8. Distinguish between sex and gender. 06

9. Explain the relationship between gender and biology 06

10. What is the meaning of 'Hegemonic Masculinity'.? 06

1. Explain how gender role is linked to labour. 20

Answer

Introduction

Gender roles refer to the expectations attached to being identified as a woman, man or another gender within a society. Labour means the physical, intellectual and emotional work through which people produce goods, provide services and sustain daily life. The two are closely linked because society does not distribute work only according to ability or preference. Families, workplaces and institutions often decide who should perform a task on the basis of learned gender expectations. Sociologists call this the gendered or sexual division of labour.

Division of labour in the household

From childhood, girls are commonly encouraged to cook, clean, care for younger siblings and assist older relatives, while boys may be directed towards outdoor tasks, paid employment and activities associated with authority. These differences are not universal or fixed by biology. For example, men can cook and provide care, and women can manage farms, businesses and machinery. The repeated assignment of particular duties makes the arrangement appear natural even when it is socially produced. Household chores such as cooking, fetching water, washing clothes and caring for children are essential to the survival of families, although they are often described as mere responsibilities rather than economic work.

Unpaid care and social reproduction

Unpaid domestic labour reproduces the workforce by feeding, caring for and educating people who participate in the economy. Care for children, older persons and people with disabilities also supports the functioning of schools, hospitals and employers. Feminist sociology uses the idea of social reproduction to show that paid production depends on this frequently invisible labour. The unequal share of care obligations reduces many women’s time for education, paid work, rest and public participation. Because unpaid work usually does not generate a wage, it can weaken their financial independence and bargaining power, even when the total hours worked are substantial.