Course Code: BGS 005 (Semester III for BA (Gender Studies)

Course Title: Issues of Gender and Development

Assignment No: BGS005/AST 1/TMA-2026-27

Maximum Marks: 100

Weightage: 30 percentage

Note: Assignments with plagiarized material will not be accepted for evaluation. (50 marks each answer).

Attempt any two of the following questions. The word limit for writing each answer will be a minimum of 1000 and a maximum of 1500 words.

1. Explain the following gender-related concepts in detail.
    a. Gender Mainstreaming
    b. Power
    c. Matriarchy
    d. Post-Modernism
    e. Socialist Feminism
2. Highlight women's role in the household care economy, with examples.
3. Write about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in detail.
4. Define the environment and discuss its functions.
5. Compare the pros and cons of technology use with examples.
6. What do you mean by the gendered aspects of sustainable development? Explain.

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Answer

a. Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming means examining how every policy, scheme, budget or decision may affect women and men differently. Its purpose is to make gender equality part of ordinary planning rather than treating it as an isolated women's welfare activity. The idea became internationally important through the 1995 Beijing Conference and the United Nations Economic and Social Council's 1997 approach. For instance, building a new bus service may look like a gender-neutral project. However, women may depend more on public transport for travelling to work, markets, schools and health centres, while safety, lighting, timing and affordability may influence their ability to use it.

In practice, mainstreaming requires collecting information about the actual lives of different groups. A village development plan should ask whether women have land titles, whether girls can reach schools safely and who spends time collecting water. Women must participate in consultations and decision-making, not merely appear as beneficiaries. The government should then set targets, provide money, implement the policy and monitor outcomes. A drinking-water scheme, for example, can reduce the time women and girls spend carrying water. A women's employment programme will have limited benefits if it ignores childcare needs.

Gender mainstreaming does not mean that women and men must always receive identical treatment. People can have unequal starting positions because of caste, income, disability, age or rural location. Sometimes special measures such as hostels for working women, maternity protections or scholarships for disadvantaged girls remain necessary. Mainstreaming also involves men and boys, because changing household responsibilities and social attitudes cannot be achieved by women alone. Its success is judged through changes in opportunities, rights, resources and everyday experiences, not simply by counting the number of female participants.