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UGC NET Paper 2

Women Studies (074)
Complete revision notes — all 10 units

10 units | Tables & formulas | Key revision points

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02 Feminist Thought
03 Strands of Feminism
04 Women's Movement in India
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06 Women and Law
07 International Frameworks
08 Women, Work and Economy
09 Gender Measurement
10 Women's Studies as a Discipline

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Ten units of focused revision notes. Each unit ends with a box of key revision points.

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How to use these notes

- Read one unit at a time, then test yourself with its key revision points.
- Make your own short notes on topics you find difficult.
- Units follow the main areas of the official syllabus — the exact unit list can change between sessions.
- Always check the latest syllabus and notices on the official UGC NET portal: **ugcnet.nta.ac.in**.

UNIT 01

Key Concepts

Sex and gender, patriarchy and related concepts.

- Sex vs gender — Ann Oakley (1972).
- Patriarchy (Sylvia Walby — six structures); gender roles, stereotypes, gender division of labour.
- Intersectionality — Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989).

★ Key revision points

- Sex vs gender = Ann Oakley.
- Intersectionality = Crenshaw (1989).
- Six structures of patriarchy = Walby.
- Gender is socially constructed.

UNIT 02

Feminist Thought

Major feminist thinkers and waves.

Thinker	Work
Mary Wollstonecraft	*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)
Simone de Beauvoir	*The Second Sex* (1949) — 'One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman'
Betty Friedan	*The Feminine Mystique* (1963)
Kate Millett	*Sexual Politics* (1970)
bell hooks	*Ain't I a Woman* (1981)
Chandra Talpade Mohanty	'Under Western Eyes' (1984)

★ Key revision points

- *Vindication* = Wollstonecraft (1792).
- *The Second Sex* = Beauvoir (1949).
- *Feminine Mystique* = Friedan (1963).
- 'Under Western Eyes' = Mohanty.

UNIT 03

Strands of Feminism

Liberal, radical, Marxist, socialist, postcolonial and other feminisms.

- Liberal (equal rights), radical (patriarchy as root), Marxist and socialist (class and gender), eco-feminism (Vandana Shiva), black and Dalit feminism, postcolonial feminism.
- Waves: first (suffrage), second (1960s–70s), third (1990s), fourth (digital).

★ Key revision points

- Eco-feminism in India = Vandana Shiva.
- First wave = suffrage.
- Radical feminism: patriarchy is the root.
- Dalit feminism links caste and gender.

UNIT 04

Women's Movement in India

Reform era to the contemporary movement.

- Reform era: abolition of sati (1829), Widow Remarriage Act (1856).
- Organisations: Women's Indian Association (1917), All India Women's Conference (1927).
- **Towards Equality** report (Committee on the Status of Women in India, 1974).
- Anti-dowry and anti-rape campaigns (Mathura case, 1979).

★ Key revision points

- *Towards Equality*: 1974.
- AIWC: 1927.
- Mathura case triggered law reform.
- Sati abolished 1829.

UNIT 05

Women and Development

Approaches to women in development.

- Ester Boserup — *Woman's Role in Economic Development* (1970).
- Approaches: WID (Women in Development), WAD (Women and Development), GAD (Gender and Development).
- Gender budgeting in India (since 2005–06).

★ Key revision points

- Boserup: 1970.
- WID → WAD → GAD.
- Gender budgeting since 2005–06.
- GAD focuses on gender relations.

UNIT 06

Women and Law

Constitutional provisions and key laws.

Law	Year
Dowry Prohibition Act	1961
Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act	2005
Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (POSH) Act	2013
Maternity Benefit (Amendment) — 26 weeks	2017
106th Amendment — one-third reservation in Lok Sabha and assemblies	2023

★ Key revision points

- Dowry Prohibition: 1961.
- POSH Act: 2013.
- Maternity leave 26 weeks: 2017.
- Women's reservation: 106th Amendment (2023).

UNIT 07

International Frameworks

UN conventions and conferences on women.

- **CEDAW** (1979) — 'international bill of rights for women'.
- World Conferences on Women: Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985), **Beijing (1995)** — Platform for Action.
- UN Women (2010); SDG 5 — gender equality.

★ Key revision points

- CEDAW: 1979.
- Beijing Platform: 1995.
- UN Women: 2010.
- SDG 5 = gender equality.

UNIT 08

Women, Work and Economy

Women's labour, unpaid work and empowerment.

- Unpaid care work; double burden; informal sector.
- Self-help groups; microfinance; MGNREGA (one-third women).
- Glass ceiling; gender pay gap.

★ Key revision points

- Double burden = paid + unpaid work.
- MGNREGA: one-third women.
- Glass ceiling blocks promotion.
- SHGs support women's finance.

UNIT 09

Gender Measurement

Indices of gender inequality.

- UNDP: Gender Development Index (GDI), Gender Inequality Index (GII).
- World Economic Forum: Global Gender Gap Index.
- Sex ratio, female literacy, female labour force participation.

★ Key revision points

- GII = UNDP.
- Global Gender Gap = World Economic Forum.
- GDI compares male and female HDI.
- FLFPR = female labour force participation.

UNIT 10

Women's Studies as a Discipline

Development of women's studies and research methods.

- Indian Association for Women's Studies (1982); UGC women's studies centres.
- Feminist research methods: standpoint theory (Sandra Harding, Dorothy Smith), oral history.

★ Key revision points

- IAWS: 1982.
- Standpoint theory = Harding, Smith.
- Oral history records women's voices.
- UGC funds women's studies centres.

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