

**International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (Deemed to be University)**

**HS8.202: Gender, Culture and Representation**

**Mid Semester Examination**

**Max. Time: 90 min. Instructions:**

**Full Marks: 30**

- Answer any two questions out of the following questions.
- Each question carries 15 marks.
- Substantiate your arguments by providing relevant evidences from the texts.
- Each answer should be within 1000 words.

**Questions**

1. *"Culture does not make people. People make culture."*

- How does this statement challenge deeply ingrained gender norms? Reflect on the cultural expectations and gender roles that Adichie critiques in "We Should All Be Feminists".

2. In what ways does "The Laugh of the Medusa" advocate for the reclamation of women's voices and narratives? How does this apply to Ahalya's myth?

3. *"I sometimes fancy that in my condition if I had less opposition and more society and stimulus - but John says the very worst thing I can do is to think about my condition."*

- How does this quote reflect the silencing of women in the short story? Discuss the role of patriarchy in "The Yellow Wallpaper". How does the protagonist's descent into madness symbolize the impact of societal oppression on women's autonomy?

4. How does "An Introduction" reflect Kamala Das's assertion of identity and resistance to societal norms? Discuss the significance of her confessional style.

5. Compare and contrast Kamala Das's "An Old Playhouse" and "An Introduction" in terms of their exploration of female identity, agency, and resistance. How does Das use personal experience and poetic voice to challenge societal expectations of women in both poems?

6. If you could sit down for a conversation with any one of the authors from your syllabus, who would it be and why? What would you ask them?