

International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad

Gender and Society (HSS447)

End Semester Examination

Max. Time: 3 Hrs.

Max. Marks: 20

Answer any 5 questions (4 points each). Please attempt a sixth question for extra credit (optional).

- ✓ 1. All early reform with regard to colonial Indian women met with strong resistance from religious hard-liners. Jyotirao Phule, Rammohan Roy, and I.C. Vidyasagar made significant progress in the matter of basic rights and legislation for women despite this opposition. What is specific to Gandhi and his understanding of women that stands apart from early reformers? Where do his views on women converge with religious hard-liners? Discuss one way each of how he has been of service and disservice to women in India.
- ✓ 2. Please attempt both of the following questions. (2x2)
 - a. Write a note on Mrinal's understanding of death and her position as a woman in her household in Tagore's *A Wife's Letter*. How does Bindu change her relationship to death?
 - b. Write a note on Sajitha M's *Matsyagandhi*. What and where, in the story, is fish-stink? How does the story use fish-stink to mount a critique of caste, culture, mythology, and capitalism?
- ✓ 3. Rajinder Singh Bedi's *Lajwanti* and Krishan Chander's *Preeto* map a male gaze through which women are rendered visible. How do male protagonists see women in these stories? Do the women characters reflect this image, or do these stories provide a divergent narrative of the women? If so, how?
- ✓ 4. The first wave of feminism brought some basic acknowledgement of women's humanity into legal and state language. What did the second wave address? Discuss two ways in which the second wave sought to change women's place in social construction.

5. Please attempt both of the following questions.

(2x2)

- a. Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), writes one of the most powerful and persuasive arguments revealing social structures that produce women in derivative roles. How does she argue for full moral and human rights for women against established thought?
 - b. What according to Sally Scholz is a feminist methodology? How does the third wave of feminism deploy this methodology to understand popular culture? Use any one instance discussed in the book to elaborate.
6. Katyayani's *Hockey Khelti Ladkiyaan* and Sashi Deshpande's *I Want...* present to us women who are at the threshold of matrimony. Discuss how each text produces women's desire, their relationship to the process of selecting a groom, and a marriage. What do these texts tell us about what women want, and what they have the freedom to articulate?