THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
BA DEGREE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES – LEVEL V (2025/2026)
FINAL EXAMINATION
DSU5353: GENDER AND SOCIAL INQUIRY
DURATION – THREE HOURS

Date: 03 May 2026 **Time: 09.30 am to 12.30 pm**

Answer TWO (05) questions only
Each answer carries equal marks.
The length of an answer should not be more than 3 pages
Answers should be numbered correctly
Unclear, Illegible handwriting will be penalized

1. Define the concepts of gender and sex giving relevant examples from your own locality and everyday life.

2. Discuss the theories on the origin of sex and gender-based division of labour in society. Include at least two different theoretical perspectives in your answer.

3. What is 'gender role socialization', elucidate considering scholarly ideas and inputs of Anne Oakley.

4. Write an essay on the women's movement, examining the socio-cultural and political factors of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that contributed to its emergence and development.

5. What are the key types of feminist theories? Explain any one of them using examples and illustrations.
6. Discuss the idea of gender performativity introduced by Judith Butler in 1990 in her work of *'The Gender Trouble'*.

7. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" is a famous essay by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak published in 1988. What is her main argument in that paper?

8. What factors influence human sexuality? Examine the role of culture in shaping sexuality using relevant scholarly ideas.

9. Write short notes on any four (04) of the following:
   a. Gender blindness
   b. Gender equality
   c. Gender equity
   d. Masculinity and femininity
   e. Gender based discrimination
   f. Gender awareness

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