

Question no. 2

Is Gender Studies a Multi-Disciplinary field? Justify your answer with examples.

Introduction

Gender studies is a multidisciplinary in nature because there is generally agreement that gender studies involves integration of different disciplines through combined efforts of scholars. Interdisciplinary integrates information, different data and concepts of feminist theories. In 1976 Florence Howe, in her introduction of "High School Feminist Studies", announced that women studies courses are interdisciplinary in nature. Because gender studies explores the past and present contributions of women as individuals, creators and thinkers to societies. It also discusses the social ethnic and economic diversity of women's experiences as well as study of factors affecting the lives of women and men. Gender studies draws upon methods and contents from wide range of disciplines including anthropology, literature arts, biology, economics, history, political science, psychology, religion, sociology, etc. It seeks to understand women's accomplishment and capabilities beyond

the limits of traditional gender- & differentiated roles.

1 Reasons making gender studies a multidisciplinary field.

Gender Studies is applicable to all disciplines and to practically every aspect of life. It encompasses interdisciplinary fields, which include exploration of histories and experiences of diverse women and men as well as studies of sexualities, masculinities, femininities and gender systems in society. It also analyzes how gender plays out in politics, culture, the workplace, technology, health and science. It provides historical, contemporary, and transnational analyses of how gender and sexual formations arise in various contexts such as colonialism, nationalism and globalization.

2 Some examples to understand the concept of multidisciplinary nature of gender studies.

Some examples of multidisciplinary nature in gender studies are:

Literature:

In literature gender studies can analyze how different genres, authors and books represent gender roles, identities and relations.

e.g. How Jane Austen's novels challenge the patriarchal norms of her time.

b History:

In history gender studies can examine how historical events, movements and figures were influenced by gender dynamics.

e.g. Scholars can investigate how French Revolution affected women's rights and participation in politics.

c Sociology

In sociology gender studies can study how social structures, institutions and interactions are shaped by and shape gender inequalities and differences.

e.g. Scholars might research how gender affects division of labour, the access to education and health care and pattern of violence and discriminations in various societies

Psychology.

Gender Studies can explore how psychological processes, behaviours and outcomes are affected by and affect gender identity and expression.

e.g. Scholars of subject might investigate how gender stereotypes, influence cognitive abilities, self esteem or mental health of male and female.

e Anthropology

Gender Studies can analyze how different cultures construct and perform gender through rituals, symbols and practices.

e.g. Scholars might examine how indigenous communities in Australia or Africa have different notions of gender.

Conclusion:

From the above examples and discussion it can be concluded that gender studies is a multidisciplinary nature and it requires other disciplines for conducting researches in the future and this subject cannot be studied in isolation.

Question no. 3

Write a note on sex versus gender debate. Discuss and justify if gender a socially constructed phenomenon.

Note on Sex versus Gender.

Sex is a biological term given to a person based on his/her genitals. whereas gender is socially constructed notion represents different definitions based on different societies. General definition of gender is, "Gender is seen as the process by which individuals who were born into biological categories of male and female, become the social categories of man and woman through the acquisition of local attribute." Sex on the other hand is a universal term, however, gender is a variable term mostly based on society, and it is based on masculine and feminine qualities. Gender is attached to norms and norms are unsettled rules and standards which are already defined and cannot altered or changed and most difficult to change.

Reasons that make gender a socially constructed phenomena.

1 Gendered Language

Language used in societies are gendered. Terms defined in societies have been particularly attributed to the roles. In certain societies there are professions attributed to men and women. e.g Doctor is the profession attributed to men only. other professions such as cook, nurse and pilot are professions attributed to women and men are discouraged to opt for those professions. This makes a society a gendered language and each society has specific attribution to men and women based on their biology and physical differences.

2 Gender socialization:

From the early childhood to adulthood, society impose gender norms to boy and girl. In childhood, parents

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give masculine toys to boys and feminine toys to girls. In their adolescent ages societies construct and teach boys and girls to learn the norms of societies. eg in case of boys, they learn from his father and surroundings to be strong and be dominant at home. Boys get teachings from society not to weep or cry because boys are strong. In case of girls they learn to remain obedient and look after the male members of houses.

3 Gender stereotypes
In societies of the world, gender stereotypes and gender expectations are reinforced through media, advertising and cultural narratives. Through media gender norms are learnt! e.g. Media and television industry portrays men as strong and unemotional while women should be nurturing and emotional.

Legal and Institutional Framework:

In societies, there are no equality to rights of men and women. In the past women did not have voting rights. Women still do not have equalities in term of their legal rights and in areas such as sports, corporate businesses, and politics. Because societies have constructed 'the' gender identities.

Conclusion:

The purpose of gender studies as subject is to erase the socially constructed gender roles, create the atmosphere of equality and give salvation to women from the cage of socially generated roles. Gender studies researchers are trying to provide solutions for women's emancipation from those socially constructed boundaries.

Q no. 8

Write a detailed note on

a = WID

b = WAD

c = C+AD

Women In Development

Women in development (WID) is an approach of development projects that emerged in the 1970s as a response to women's least participation in development. Here are some key points about women in development.

i Gender Perspective:

WID emphasizes the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into development projects and policies. It recognizes that development initiatives should consider the specific needs and roles of women and men and address gender based disparities.

ii Economic Empowerment:

It focuses on economic empowerment, recognizing that women's participation in the workforce and access to economic resources is crucial for their development and for overall societal development.

iii Women's Right:

WID emphasizes the importance of women's rights and aims to promote gender equality by addressing

issues such as women's legal rights reproductive health and access to education. 10

B Women And Development.

Women and Development (WAD) is an approach emerged as a response to the limitations of earlier approach (WID). WAD takes a broader and more critical view of the relationship between gender and development.

i Structural Inequalities:

WAD acknowledges that gender inequalities are deeply rooted in social structures, power dynamics, and economic systems.

ii Economic and Political Power:

WAD was concerned with the distribution of economic and political power, as well as how these power imbalances affect development outcomes. It questions the policies of western capitalist societies that are playing main role in existing inequalities in gender.

Gender And Development

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Gender and Development (GAD) is an approach within the field of international development that recognises the critical importance of gender in shaping development outcomes. It goes beyond simply addressing the needs and roles of women in development, as in the women in development, or WID, approach) and takes a more comprehensive and inclusive view of how gender impacts development processes.

i Empowerment and Equality

GAD focuses on promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all genders. It aims to challenge and transform existing power imbalances and social norms that perpetuate gender inequalities.

ii Economic, Political and Social Aspects

GAD recognises that gender issues extend to economic, political and social dimensions of development. It considers how economic policies, political decision-making and social institutions can either perpetuate or challenge gender inequalities.

Intersectionality

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GAD incorporates the concept of intersectionality, which acknowledges that individuals may experience multiple forms of discrimination or privilege based on the intersection of various social identities. e.g., a poor woman of color may face different challenges than a wealthy white woman.

iv Inclusivity:

GAD is inclusive and recognizes the diversity of gender identities beyond the binary concept of male and female. It considers the experiences and needs of trans-gender and gender-nonconforming individuals.

Q no. 7

What are the different forms and sites of gender based violence. Also suggest some workable strategies to eliminate violence from Pakistani society.

1 Introduction

Gender based violence is an act or threat of harm inflicted on a person because of their gender. This violence is rooted in gender inequality, discrimination and patriarchy. It affects women and girls disproportionately. Here are some of the types of gender based violence and their sites.

1 Physical Violence:

This is an act that cause physical harm or injury to a person, such as hitting, kicking, punching, burning, stabbing, shooting etc. Physical violence can occur in various sites, such as the home, the workplace, the street, the school, etc. This kind of violence can result in bruises, cuts, fractures, disabilities or even death.

2 Sexual Violence:

This is any sexual act performed on a person without their

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consent or against their will. Sexual violence can include rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, forced prostitution, trafficking, forced marriage, etc. Sexual violence can occur in various sites, such as the home, the workplace, the street, the school, hospital, etc.

Sexual violence can result in unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, psychological trauma or even death.

3 Psychological Violence,

This is any act that causes psychological harm or distress to a person, such as threats, insults, humiliation, intimidation, isolation, manipulation, coercion etc. Psychological violence can occur in various sites, such as the home, the workplace, schools etc. This kind of violence can lead to low self esteem, anxiety, depression, stress or even suicide.

4 Economic Violence: This is any act that causes economic harm or deprivation to a person such as

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withholding money, controlling resources, restricting access to education or employment, damaging property etc. This kind of violence can happen mostly at homes. Economic violence can result in poverty, dependency, debt or even homelessness.

5 Structural Violence:

This is any form of systematic inequality or discrimination that prevents a person from enjoying their human rights and dignity because of their gender. Structural violence can include laws, policies, institutions and practices that exclude or oppress a person based on their gender. Structural violence can occur ~~at~~ in various sites such as the state (e.g. legislation), the society (e.g. culture), the media (e.g. representation), etc. Structural violence can result in marginalization, disempowerment and injustice.

⇒ Methods to eradicate gender based violence.

1 Legal and Policy reforms: Pursue structural interventions to improve

the creation, implementation, and enforcement of laws and policies that protect the rights and dignity of survivors, hold perpetrators accountable and prevent gender based violence from occurring.

2 Service and Support.

Provide comprehensive, accessible and quality services and support for survivors of gender based violence, such as health care, psychological counselling, legal assistance, shelter, livelihoods etc. Ensure that services are survivor-centred, confidential, safe and respectful of the rights and choices of survivors.

3 Prevention and Education:

Raise awareness and educate people about the causes and consequences of gender based violence, as well as the available resources and survivors. Challenge the harmful gender norms and stereotypes that perpetuate gender based violence such as male dominance, female

Subordination, rigid masculinity, etc. 17

Promote positive values and behaviours that respect diversity, and equality among genders. Empower women and girls to claim their rights and participate in decision making.

Conclusion.

Gender based violence is a serious crime and it is a major obstacle in the economic and public development. There are some methods of to mitigate the gender based violence. However, there is no one-size-fits all solution to this complex problem. It requires a holistic multi-sectoral and coordinated approach that involves all relevant all relevant actors at all levels.