

CSS-2022

①

Question:

Discuss in detail the multidisciplinary nature of Gender Studies.

Answer:

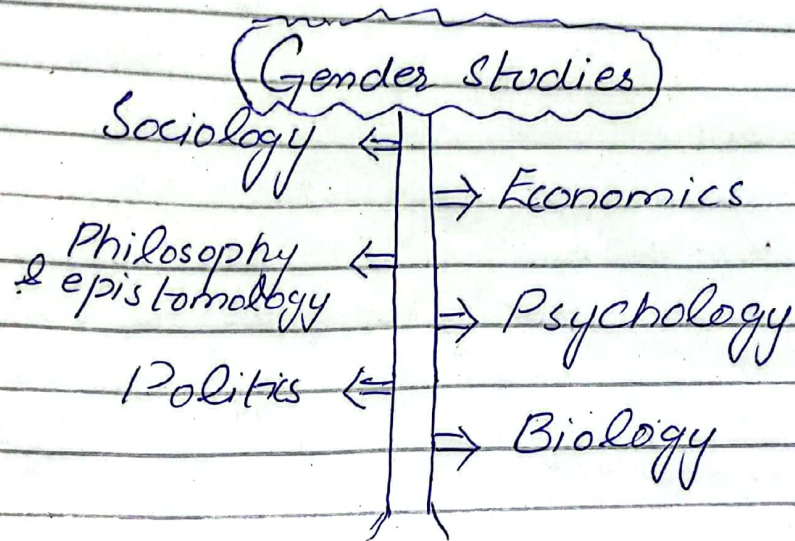
Introduction:

Gender studies is an inter-disciplinary field of study that studies various disciplines - economics, politics, sociology, biology, philosophy and epistemology - from the perspective of gender. The two definitions of gender studies that also illustrate its multi-disciplinary nature.

"Gender studies is primary study of genders, their relationship with each other, their respective role in different stages of life and their respective status in the society". (Colorado.edu).

"Gender studies is an inter-disciplinary field of study that seeks to study various disciplines - economics, politics, sociology, philosophy, biology and psychology - from the perspective of gender". (Writeman college report)

Flow-chart showing Multi-Disciplinary Nature of Gender Studies:



Moreover gender studies has a broad scope: it includes within its domain men's studies; women studies; LGBT studies queer studies; and sexuality studies.

1- Economics and gender studies - From the lens of developmental economics:

Economics and gender studies are deeply related disciplines of study. Developmental economics is primarily that studies or branch of economics that studies the impact of developmental plans and strategies on both genders.

(3)

Subfields of developmental economics that are concerned with Gender studies.

⇒ Women in Development:-

It studies the impact of modernization theory on men and women. They contend that women are left out of development projects and call for the integration of women in development.

⇒ Women & Development:-

Believe that women are a part of development but their inclusion serves to sustain capitalism. So, they call for remedying the unequal power relation b/w the genders.

⇒ Gender and Development:-

Criticizes the socially constructed economic and other roles of women and call for the deconstruction of the society to eradicate the gender division of labour.

(4)

2 - Sociology is also deeply Co-related with Gender Studies.

Gender studies is also deeply correlated with the discipline of sociology. Various social dynamics like patriarchy, culture, and religion affect the perspective roles and status of genders.

This is exemplified below:-

Judith Lorber's Social Construction and progression of Gender Thesis - which stipulates that throughout an individual's life, gendered names, roles, dresses, behaviour patterns and even feelings are socially determined. This is ample proof that sociology and Gender studies are intertwined.

Lorber, in her thesis titled "Social progression of Gender" stipulates that right from a child's birth to adulthood all aspect of men and women's lives are determined by a society's culture, religion and other institutions or agents of socialization.

(5)

3- Gender studies and Psychology:

Even psychology is studied in the backdrop of gender studies. Gender studies seek to study the genetic makeup of men and women and their roles in affecting different outcomes for both the genders. The subfields of psychology relevant to gender studies are as follows:-

(a) Developmental psychology:

It deals with the changes occurring in individuals throughout the course of their lives. Some main areas of developmental psychology are physical development; cognitive development; psycho-social development; sexual and moral development

(b) Social psychology:

It deals with how all humans interact with one another and what role it is that the society and culture play in shaping how an individual socializes.

⑥

c- Learning and Behaviour.

It shows how learning occurs throughout the course of an individual's life.

4- Gender Studies and Philosophy.

Even philosophy is studied in the backdrop of gender studies. Writings of various philosophers - Socrates, Plato and others - are analyzed in the understanding of the relationship between genders and their respective status in the society.

5- Gender studies and politics.

Last but not the least, Gender studies is also studied in the light of politics.

"The fact that several political policies are devised keeping into account their possible impacts on the different genders underscores the fact that gender studies and politics are deeply intertwined disciplines".
(Rubina Saigol)

⑥

Conclusion:

From the aforementioned arguments, it becomes amply clear that gender studies is indeed a multidisciplinary field that can be studied in the backdrop of various disciplines.
