

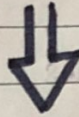
Discuss in detail the multidisciplinary nature of gender studies.

Introduction

Multidisciplinary means the overlapping of field or subfield of any subject by other subject. Gender studies is multidisciplinary in nature as it draws upon a number of subjects, to create a paradigm that is open to all types of interpretation. Historically the roots of gender studies can be traced back in social sciences and humanities disciplines. It seeks to study different disciplines i.e. anthropology, economics, politics, sociology, and others, forming the perspective of gender. Gender studies is an extensive subject, catering to social, political, public, private, biological and cultural issues of genders. With a deep understanding of social roles and how they integrate into society the studies of the following disciplines creates a wider scope of understanding of gender studies. Therefore it is prominently interrelated to all important discipline of studies.

Multidisciplinary nature of Gender Studies:

Gender Studies:



Sociology: Addresses women related issues faced in patriarchal society.

Economics: Talks about economic inequality of women.

Anthropology: Concerned with human behavior, biology, culture in both past and present about masculinity and femininity.

Political Science: Talks about attainment of equal political rights for women.

Social Work: Addresses problem such as slavery, trafficking, violence from gender perspective.

Law: Demands making and strict implementation of women related laws.

Psychology: Gender Psychology deals with Psychology and social impact of sex difference.

Literature: Women writers write women related prevalent problems in society to address them.

Communication Studies: Works on language and the way we talk about people, especially women from a gendered lens to create harmonious environment.

History: Looks at past from the perspective of gender.

i- Sociology and Gender studies

Sociology is the study of society and social interaction. It also studies social culture, relationships and institutions. Gender Studies, the parent subject, also deals with women-related culture and the roles of society in shaping the choices and decisions of women. It examines how society influences our understandings of differences between masculinity and (what society deems appropriate behavior for a 'man') and femininity (what society deems appropriate behavior for a 'woman').

ii- Anthropology and Gender Studies:

Anthropology is the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behavior, biology, cultures and societies in both past and present. Gender studies is the branch of cultural anthropology that deals with cultural norms that dictate the lives of people belonging to the masculine and feminine gender.

⇒ For instance, divorce is considered nothing more than a taboo and a stain on womanhood. This is a norm, or to be specifically, a gendered norm that applies to woman just because of a patriarchal mindset.

iii- Economics and Gender Studies:

Economics is a social science concerned with the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services. Gender studies also explains the economic role played by women at both the household and national levels. Participation of women in the labour force, wage differences and an unequal number of opportunities are addressed by gender studies. It also emphasized the importance of women in economy. As doctor Zafar Mirza says writes:

"Achieving gender equality in Pakistan may possibly result in significant 30% rise in country's GDP."

iv- Psychology and Gender Studies:

The scientific study of the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting behavior in a given context is called psychology. The response to gendered stimuli such as the appropriate language, dress code and modes of recreation can be easily studied through the psychological lens analysis. A research by American School of psychology states that:

"Depression is about 50% higher or more common in women."

v- Political Science and Gender Studies :

Political science is a social science dealing with system of governance and power, and the analysis of political activities, political thoughts and associated constitution. Gender studies analyses the emerging role from a feminist perspective that have made women 'majority minority' or 'silenced majority'. Julieta Kirkwood, a Chilean political scientist describe the importance of women in politics as:

"There is no political stability and democracy without feminism."

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vi- Law and Gender Studies:

Gender equality is achieved when both sexes have equal rights and opportunities, via a legal framework. The laws, which are made to facilitate people are unable to protect women's rights. The laws against rape, harassment, etc. are just on paper and lack of affirmative implementation. AS Dean Pound describe the situation:

"There is, therefore a vast difference between laws in books and laws in action"

vii- Social Work and Gender studies:

Social work deals with the violence, slavery and other oppressive things done by men to women via the gendered lens. Radical feminists were of the view that it is men who are responsible for forcing women into stuff like prostitution and pornography. 'Andrea Dworkin' in her book 'Men Processing Women' depicts this situation as

"Pornography is celebration of rape and injustice to women, induced by men."

viii- Literature and Gender Studies:

Gender and literature examines the ways in which women writers address the particular circumstances of women lives during particular decades. It traces the construction of gender as depicted in literature and other cultural productions. Women in previous times used male pseudonyms to increase their chances of success in a man's world. Although there are many examples, but few famous examples are following.

- ⇒ "Mill on the Floss" - A novel by 'Mary Ann Evans' published under the name 'George Eliot'
- ⇒ "Jane Eyre" - by 'Charlotte Bronte' published under the name 'Currer Bell'.

ix- Communication Studies and Gendered Studies:

Gender and communication is an area of study in the communication discipline in which the focus is on how verbal and nonverbal communication affect and are affected by gender. Language is gendered and is biased towards males. While referring to a group or a class of people we often use male pronouns or male-centered language. For example, we say Policeman, Businessman, Congressman etc. It excludes women in that particular sphere and focuses on man.

x- History and Gender Studies:

Gender history looks at the past from the perspective of gender. It is in many ways, an outgrowth of ^{women's} human history. Gender historians are also interested in how gender difference has been perceived and configured at different times and places, usually with the assumption that such differences are socially constructed. For example, in an influential article in 1977, "Did Women have a Renaissance?", "Joan Kelly" questioned whether the notion of a renaissance was relevant to woman.

Conclusion:

Conclusively, one may say that gender studies, although it seems like it is a subject dealing with a narrow scope of things, it is multidisciplinary in nature. Gender Studies are reflected in all the above mentioned disciplines irrespective of their nature. Many other subjects are also engraved somehow in gender studies. It has become a part of almost every discipline focusing on women and addressing their issues faced by them in various fields.

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