

Q:- Write a detailed note
of status of Gender
Studies in Pakistan.

Answer.

Status of Gender Studies in Pakistan.

Outline :

- Introduction.
- Ministry of Women development.
- Curriculum Revision Committee.
- Investing in the national action plan.
- Alam-e-Niswah (A cornerstone of gender studies)
- Centre of excellence of women studies.
- Efforts by Pakistan association for Women studies (PAWS).
- Departments of gender/women studies in Pakistani universities.
- Comparison of Pa Status of gender studies in Pakistan vs in other countries.
- Hurdles in the status of

department studies

- gender studies in Pakistan.
- "Kingship = Patriarchal Structures and women's bargaining with patriarchy in rural sindh" by Nadia Agha.
 - Global gender Gap report 2023

Introduction: -

In Pakistan, women issues got much attention since it's independence due to the sincere efforts of some feminists but properly it's status started in 1989 when centre of excellence of women studies was started by ministry of women development. If we talk about globally then Rubina saigol wrote in her book "The state of development of gender studies in Pakistan" that women started to resist against patriarchy since

18th century but the way of protesting was different. Because they were protesting in singing, in writing. Their gender equality ideas were also boost up by the enlightenment era. As, at that time women has no right to vote. So, with respect to time. women started to protest and voices of gender equality arose up in different countries. But in particularly Pakistan, the ideas of gender studies are as old when ministry of women development was established in 1989.

Ministry of women development:-

Ministry of women developed was established in 1989 and it was

The sincere effort by the government of Pakistan to promote of women rights. The core objectives of ministry of women development were.

- 1- Equal rights for women also.
- 2- Research on the main issues that are the main reasons of invisibility of women in different field specially in education & research field and in technical fields.
- 3- To improve women literacy rate.
- 4- Analysis of the women issues in patriarchal society.
- 5- Efforts for of safe environment for women in work places.
- 6- Awareness of women issues through starting

various program in
universities

Curriculum Revision Committee:-

Then, Curriculum revision committee was established in 1989 by ministry of women development. The main purpose of this committee was to enhance the scope of gender studies in Pakistan. It mainly focused on the need translation of the present content related to gender studies and women studies. This committee proposed various proposal to add gender studies and women studies related subjects in academia. And, we can say that it was also the effort of

curriculum revision
committee that gender
biased language was
changed in academies
different universities
offered gender studies
program and the
big achievement was
that in 2016,
Gender studies was
introduced as an
subject in Civil service
exam.

National action plan: -

National action plan
was started in 1998
by Govt of Pakistan
and it focused on
multidisciplinary nature
of gender studies
and gave a proper
5 years plan regarding
gender studies - It
mainly focused on the
proper funding for
women studies programs

It was said that women studies and gender studies should be a proper subject in academia to make women presence more visible.

Alam - e - Niswan :-

Alam - e - Niswan was a journal that was started in 1994 and since then it has been published twice a year. It mainly focused on raising awareness regarding women issues and due to it universities started gender studies programs in academia. So, we can say it was a corner stone in the development of gender studies.

Centre of excellence
of women studies :-

The women studies centres in Pakistan can be divided into Public sectors and Private sectors. Public sectors are those which are being funded by govt institutions and private sectors are those which are usually funded by private institutions and international donors. The centre of excellence was emerged in Karachi university under the ministry of women developed and it started five years national action plan regarding gender studies and for the first time gender studies was introduced as a subject in 1989 in University of Karachi and in 1996, UOK started MA program in gender studies. And in 2002, women

studies programs spreaded to
Mphil and P.Hd level
in Karachi univerty.
And all this was due
to the efforts of
centre of excellence of
women studies.

Efforts of Pakistan association for women studies :-

The Pakistan women
association has been
working for women
issues since it's emer-
gence in 1991 - Currently
in Pakistan under the
supervision of Pakistan
association for women
studies, gender studies
and women studies
are flourishing swiftly
in universities of Pakistan.
Due to PAWS, various
universities started gender
studies and women studies
programs.

→ In 1997, AIOU started women studies

- In 1999, research centre for women studies was established in Fatima Jinnah women university.
- In 1989, ~~was~~ centre of excellence for women studies program started at Karachi university.
- In 2001, PU Punjab University started program.
- In 2004 gender and women studies department was established in LCNU.

Comparison of Status

of gender studies

in Pakistan and other countries.

If we look at upon the short comparison b/w Pakistan and other countries on gender studies and women studies

then we can say that other countries like UK, USA, Canada and Norway and many more countries are more focusing on gender equalities.

And ~~the~~ currently, the uprising ^{movements} of rights of LGBTQ in different countries are the main examples of it.

While in Pakistan, these concept of gender studies are not so much promoted due to some ethical issues.

Hurdles in status of gender studies in Pakistan:-

- 1- Conservative minds of people are the main problem in the flourishing of gender studies in Pakistan because mostly people

countries,

perceive it as western
idea of gender equality
and they perceived
it against islamic
norms. Because of patriar-
cial nature of our
society, gender studies
is not so much
flourishing in our
country. ✓

→ LGBTQ movements
also make it
controversial in Pakistani
society.

→ Moreover, the syllabus
of gender studies is
also outdated in
Pakistan, we need to
explore new aspects
of it.

→ And there is need
of more dialogue
between different
stake holders in gender
studies such as academics,
researchers, activist, policy makers

donors and media

Kingship by Nadia Agha: -

"Kingship: Patriarchal structures and women's bargaining with patriarchy in rural sindh," was written by Nadia agha a senior sociologist - She basically focused on the status of women in rural Sindh - ~~as~~ she interviewed more than 45 ~~women~~ of sindh and she came to this result that basically the condition of women status in rural sindh is not satisfactory because they are just bargaining with patriarchal norms to raise their standards of life. So

we should focused
on this area to
arise women standard
in rural areas
specially.

→ Global gender Gap
report 2023.

Instead of some
hurdles in uprising
status of all genders
of Pakistan - Pakistan
has secured 142 rank
out of 146 in
global gender Gap
report 2023, becau
and it was 145/146
in 2022. So, Pakistan's
rank improved due to
the programs and
efforts which I have
mentioned.

Conclusion: —

Although, the status of
gender studies in Pakistan

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in low as compared to
other countries but
it is getting better
day by day due
to emergence of
optimistic approach
in Pakistani society
and global gender
gap report about
Pakistan is the best
example of it that
things are getting
better day by day

“Gender equality
is the goal that
will help abolish
poverty that will
create more equal
economics, fairer societies
and happier men,
women & children”.

Graca Machel