

Q What are the fundamental difference between Gender Studies and Women's Studies? Substantiate your argument(s) with examples. Highlight the current status of Women Studies in Pakistan?

Ans: **Introduction**

Most of the time people mixed Gender with Women Studies; however, there are some striking difference between these two disciplines. Women Studies, since its inception in around the mid-20th century, was the study of particular issues about women. It concerned itself with the problems and struggles women used to face. Such studies led to development in the 1970s. Gender studies on the other hand studies the relationship between both men and women, and also their relationships with their societies as a whole. How they are conceived and shaped. Women's Studies in Pakistan is growing and evolving field that aim to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the country.

Difference between Women's Studies and gender Studies

History

Women's Studies is an offshoot of 2nd wave of feminism. It is older than gender studies and known as

its predecessor while Gender Studies are the offshot of 3rd wave of feminism it is the successor of women studies

Focus of Research

Women's Studies merely focus on the problems of women particularly, patriarchy. It demands right for women only. While gender studies are more inclusive. it is the focuses on all the genders constructed by society its primary focus is on gender identity. "one is not born but rather becomes a woman" **Simone de Beauvoir**

Nature of Subject

it is an interdisciplinary field and merely focuses on women. it is a multidisciplinary as well as interdisciplinary subject and extended its strands to other disciplines of social and biological sciences

Goals of Studies

it demands equality for women its proponents want to end patriarchy According to **Klein**, its main focus is to make the lives of women better. Gender studies demand equity it explains the position of all genders based on class, caste, religion, ethnicity, and sexual identity.

Theoretical differences: it involves the

theoretical perspective of feminism. Moreover, it involves WTD and WAN approaches. Gender studies on the other hand involve Postmodern theory, Queer theory and encompass the GAD approach.

concept of homogeneity

It does not involve the concept of homogeneity in its studies. It does involve the concept of homogeneity in its studies and focuses on the differences between heterogeneous and homogenous individuals.

Political Implications

Women's Studies are often associated with feminist activism and advocacy for women's rights and equality. Gender Studies, while also political engaged tends to take a more critical and theoretical approach to understanding the social, cultural, and political dimensions of gender.

Methodology

Women's studies tend to use more qualitative methods, such as ethnography, personal narratives, and case studies to explore the experiences of women. Gender Studies, on the other hand tend to use more quantitative methods such as statistical analysis and surveys, to examine the broader patterns and

trends of gender and society.

Current Status of Women Studies in Pakistan

In Pakistan, universities have been largely mainstays of ideology that legitimized thirty years of military rule. It was in 1970s the women's issues began to receive serious attention. And a number of feminist academics established an institute of women studies in Lahore (1986.)

Creation of Women's Division

One of the result of institute of Women Studies is the creation of Women's Division in Pakistan. In 1989, this Division decided to fund Women's Studies centres at five universities of Pakistan. Notwithstanding, in recent years, women studies, and gender studies courses are now being in almost all universities at postgraduate level in the country.

improvement over the last 30 years

Despite some improvement over the last 30 years, the status of women in Pakistan is appalling. In United Nation Development Programme's Gender development index Pakistan rank 135 of 174 countries.

The Social indicators for women's status

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are the poorest in the region. Female literacy is only 29% as compared to a literacy rate of 55% for men.

instrument of consciousness raising

It evolves a point of view that can change women's perceptions of personal lives as well as change the role of the university in the society.

Report by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan

According to a report, there are only 15 universities in the country that have departments or centers of women studies, and most of them are located in urban areas. The curriculum and research of these departments are often influenced by the dominant patriarchal and religious norms of the society, and face challenges such as lack of funding, resources, faculty, and recognition.

Topics of Women Studies

Some of the topics that women studies in Pakistan cover include women's education, health, economic empowerment, political participation, legal rights, violence against women, and cultural practices. Women studies in Pakistan also aim to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and to challenge the discriminatory social

and cultural norms that affect women's lives and opportunities.

still developing field in Pakistan

Women Studies in Pakistan is a field that is still developing and evolving as it responds to the changing needs and realities of women in the country. It also faces various obstacles and resistance from conservative and patriarchal forces that oppose its goals and values. However, Women Studies in Pakistan also has the potential to contribute to the social transformation and development of the country.

Conclusion

There is overlap between the two fields. Gender Studies takes a broader approach than Women's Studies, focusing on the social construction of gender and its intersection with other social categories. While Women Studies centers on the experiences and struggle of women. Furthermore, Gender Study is a multidisciplinary field that draws on insight from a range of disciplines to understand a complex intersection with social, political and economic systems. As in Pakistan, Women Studies is still developing but has the potential to contribute to the social development.