

Time taken = 40 minutes

References = 02 only

Quote = 01 only

Heading = 06

## QUESTION

Discuss in detail what the autonomy and integration debate in gender studies have important contribution for the development of the field of knowledge.

## INTRODUCTION

The debate whether Gender Studies is an autonomous subject or an integrated one dates back to 1980s. The debate was initially started by Renate Klein. Two veteran writer Bowles and R. Klein wrote a book Introduction: Theories of Women Studies and The Integration or Autonomous Debate in Theories of Women Studies, which highlighted the debate. This debate still alive and becomes even more popular after the proper introduction of Gender Studies. Both Autonomy and Integration approach asserted their respective effects on the field of knowledge. However, the key differences remain.

## Contribution of Autonomy

### ■ What is Autonomy in Gender Studies?

Autonomy in Gender studies means that this subject should be taught separately at the institutes. It should have its own separate

administration, faculty and resources. The proponents of autonomous dislike the assimilation of gender studies with other subjects.

### ■ Autonomy brings Improvement:

The proponents of autonomy say that the separate individuality of Gender Studies will focus the subject matters better and will bring the change.

### ■ Autonomy prevents the Invisibility:

The autonomy of Gender studies will prevent the invisibility of the subject. It believes that assimilation with already established subject would dilute the separate identity of the Gender Studies.

### ■ Autonomy breeds the True Feminism

The believers in autonomy of Gender studies believe that autonomy will produce the true feminists all over the globe.

Pre-requisite of Feminism by Autonomous Approach:

(i) A true feminist understands the rights of

women

- (ii) It gives the better road map of action.
- (iii) Autonomous approach brings the intrinsic role of students forward.

### ■ Autonomous believes in Quality Syllabus:

The proponents of autonomous claim that their separate identity would bring the better syllabus work forward. It criticizes that amalgamation would lower the standard of gender studies.

### ■ Gender Studies Should grow like other subjects:

The believers of autonomous critically say that no other subject, like History, Political Science, Philosophy, is suggested to lose their identity in the amalgamation process.

### ■ Autonomy would protect Gender Studies from Patriarchy:

The proponents of autonomy consider other subjects as flag bearers of patriarchy and autonomy would protect Gender Studies

## Contribution of Integration

### ■ What is Integration of Gender Studies:

Integration of gender studies believes that gender studies, instead of establishing itself as separate entity should assimilate itself in already established courses of the academia. They believe the prosperity of concepts of gender studies in this way.

### ■ Integration protects Gender Studies from Academic Ghettoization.

To understand this concept, one has to understand the term.

- **Academic Ghettoization:** It is the alienation of the course. If one course believes in segregation and does not interact, it will alienate from the rest of course.

Therefore, integration of gender studies wants to protect gender studies from it.

### ■ Integration has potential to spread the message of Gender Studies better than Autonomy:

Integration can spread the message of gender studies far away. Because assimilation of subject in other courses would

attract big audience. The students of other courses would also learn it.

■ Integration of Gender Studies preserve the cost:

Integration of gender studies in already established courses will preserve the cost. To establish a new course needs excessive money for buildings, faculty and other.

■ Integration of Gender Studies in already established courses would be fruit-ful.

Integration of Gender Studies would be fruit-ful as it is far-reaching and it will have opinions from different school of thoughts.

■ Integration of Gender Studies would seek attention of everyone; especially men.

Integration of gender studies would attract men of the society. Their cooperation is the need of hour, as they occupy the most of resources. To bring any change, Gender studies requires the support of men.

## Key Differences between Autonomy and Integration of Gender Studies

### Autonomy

- Radical feminism
- Revolutionary process
- Separate Identity
- Focus on Women
- Separate Syllabus
- Prevents Invisibility
- Involvement of more women

### Integration

- Liberal Feminism
- Evolutionary process
- Assimilation
- Focus on all genders
- Seek knowledge from other courses
- Prevents Shadow Character
- Involvement of all genders

## ~~CONCLUSION~~

### Both or AND Strategy

Gender studies is both a discipline and an inter-disciplinary field.

— Jean Fox O'Barr

Some scholars believe in the both or and strategy. They believe in the establishment of Gender studies as a separate course in academia. They & simultaneously believe that Gender studies should be taught in the other fields of knowledge, as gender studies is meant for improvement

## CONCLUSION

Gender studies is a social subject which encompasses the wide range of knowledge in it. Both of its approach exert some specific effects on its contributory aspect in the field of knowledge. Autonomy has many advantages as it preserves the pure form, but integration approach is widely appreciated. Florence Howe clarified this debate and calls integration approach as the ultimate end.