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Q: Write a comprehensive note on autonomy vs. Integration debate in gender studies?

INTRODUCTION:-

The concept of "Autonomy V/S Integration" arose while contemplating the status of women and ~~their~~ the field of Women's Studies. Autonomy V/S Integration debate is basically a debate about two schools of thought, with "Autonomy" being of the view that Gender Studies & Women's Studies ought to be given the status of a separate academic discipline and "Integration" supporting the viewpoint of incorporating the issues faced by women into other subjects of social sciences.

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:-

The debate of Autonomy V/S Integration first originated in 1980's when Women's Studies took its place, feminists argued whether it should be studied ~~as~~ as a separate discipline or incorporated with other fields of study. ~~This~~ This debated had been formally discussed on the forums ~~of~~ like "National Women Suffrage Association" (NSWA) and in the "Women's Status Quarterly" in the year of 1982.

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STANCE OF THE "SEPARATISTS":-

The advocates of the autonomy debate are often called separatist. They believe the need to establish Gender Studies as a separate field of study.

1) WOMEN-ORIENTED ~~STUDY~~ STUDY:-

According to the debate put forward by the ~~best~~ supporters of autonomy, making Gender Studies a separate subject of study would enhance ~~more~~ focus on the problems and issues of women.

2) FREE FROM THE INFLUENCE OF OTHER SUBJECTS:-

As per the advocates of autonomy, the study of Women and gender should be free from incorporation of other subjects in order to progress and make the voice of women heard.

3) DEVELOPMENT OF PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY:-

The proponents of Autonomy believe that creating a ~~diff.~~ separate discipline will enable students to have a professional identity and make them able to make independent decisions, which will help in legitimising feminist scholarships and guaranteeing the future of gender studies.

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4) ENABLE ONE TO UNDERSTAND ALL GENDERS:-

As a separate field of study, the advocates of autonomy believe that the student of Gender Studies would ~~not~~ be able to understand the problems of all genders, as ^{the} focus would ~~be~~ solely be on their ~~particular~~ issues.

5) INCREASE RESEARCH:-

As a separate field, it would encourage ~~more~~ the participants to ~~thereby~~ acquire more knowledge about the history ~~of~~, experiences and issues faced by women, thereby encouraging research in solving those problems.

6) INTEGRATION WILL PUT A CONSTRAINT ON EQUALITY:-

Incorporating with other fields will hinder equality, that lead to the ~~of~~ very base of this subject. The basis of this subject was put forward in the wake of 2nd Wave of Feminism, therefore it remains very close to the sentiments of activists. The advocates of "separation" believe that equality will thrive if the issue is given autonomous ~~of~~ status.

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VIEWPOINT OF THE "INTEGRATIONISTS":-

The belief of the integrationists is to integrate the field of gender studies in other subjects, rather than a separate subject.

1) GREATER OUTREACH:-

The proponents of integration debate put forward a point that integrating ~~the~~ gender studies into another field of study will make it easier for other people to access and understand the problems faced by women & minorities.

2) BEST WAY TO COMPEL POLICYMAKERS:-

Best way to convince ~~polym~~ policymakers to ~~keep~~ keep gender studies in mind while formulating laws is to incorporate the subject with other major disciplines, is an oft-argument by the proponents of integration debate.

3) HELP STUDENTS CHOOSE G.S FOR HIGHER STUDIES

Studying gender studies along with other subjects will help students to pursue it further to do a Masters, M.Phil or PhD in the subject.

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4) PAVES WAY FOR BIG CHANGES:-

By integrating gender studies with other major disciplines, more awareness can be brought about, thereby making big changes in the field of gender studies and gender-related issues.

5) INTEGRATING MEANS INTEGRATING INTO THE SOCIAL FABRIC :-

Integrating ~~gender~~ women in school in the spheres of social, cultural, economical, political fields means treating them as ~~sex~~ entities in the society, thereby integrating them, not only at the level of study but in society too.

6) SENSITISING MASSES ABOUT GENDER DISCRIMINATION:-

Due to long history of denial of women's rights ~~and~~ and dichotomising men and women into gender roles, most people have become desensitised to gender-bias. Integrating gender studies with fields might bring out the solution to that.

CONCLUSION:-

The debates put forward by both the streams of thought present stray points. It should be studied from the ground up in order to help eliminate the issues faced by women in society. It can not only

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be ~~studied~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~separate~~ ~~subject~~ ^{disappears} but also as a subject-incorporated with other major fields. - The need of the hour is to incorporate as well as introduce it as ~~an~~ an optional subject ~~to~~ to enhance the status of women.

2) INTEGRATING MEAN! INTEGRATING INTO THE

SOCIAL & POLITICAL