

Q Write a note on status of Women's studies in Pakistan and give your views on autonomy vs integration debate in women's studies

### Introduction

Women's studies is a discipline which discuss women problems and finds solution to empower women. It challenges the ~~part~~ patriarchal cultural and norms. Women's studies introduced as subject in second wave of Feminism (1960-1980). Women's studies is the very important subject; it helps to create awareness in the society. It promotes women empowerment and discourage patriarchal society. So a debate started after 1970s, whether women's studies should integrate with other discipline or should remain as a separate discipline. So a mixed approach 'both/and' was adopted so that women issues can be highlighted an

resolved.

## Status of Women's studies in Pakistan.

Women's study as a subject in Pak  
Women's study as a subject  
is studying in different  
universities and colleges in  
Pakistan. Many students are  
getting their education in women's  
studies subject. Universities such  
Quaid-e-Azam University, University  
of Sindh, University of  
Balochistan etc are offering  
the students women's studies  
as a BS, MS or Ph.D programme  
in Pakistan.

### Job opportunities of Women studies graduates.

Those students who study  
women's studies as a discipline  
can get jobs in various fields.  
These student can be employed as  
a teacher, professor, dit  
assistant director in different NGOs.

Women's studies graduates can work with international forums and agencies to promote women empowerment and equity in the world. ~~We~~ These students can also work with gender protection units in police. So it provides different opportunities for job employment.

**Women's Studies as an awareness program in other fields.**

Women studies is also included as a subject in other discipline where students can learn the different problems of women and can also find the solutions to that problems. Women studies is a high scoring subject.

**Status of Women's Studies as a department in Universities.**

Women's studies departments in universities depicts very dismal pictures. Because ~~no~~ more attention is paid on science fields and department and less attention is paid on women's studies department.

So it is a marginalized department in different universities.

## AUTONOMY VS INTEGRATION

### DEBATE IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

#### Autonomy

- 1) Study as a separate subject.
- 2) Women's issues will not be addressed.
- 3) Separate department in university.
- 4) New knowledge will be produced.
- 5) This is the best way to address women's problems.
- 6) Can be studied as a separate field.

#### Integration

- 1) Should integrate with other fields.
- 2) Easy to make policies.
- 3) It will become a marginalized department.
- 4) Should study with other subjects.
- 5) Integration is an easier way to address women's problems.
- 6) Cannot be studied as a separate field.

ONE IS NOT BORN BUT RATHER  
BECOMES A WOMEN

(SIMON DE)

Autonomy Approach In Gender Studies.

i) Study as a separate field.

Autonomy proponents favour women studies as a separate subject.

They said that women studies should be taught as a separate subject because if it will included or merge with other subject then it will lost its originality.

Their objectives would not be achieved.

ii) As a separate department in university.

Women There must be a separate department for women's studies. It will provide the power to department to take decision, announced scholarships.

So this department will be more independent in taking their decisions.

iii) **New Knowledge will produce.**

Autonomous scholars believed that women's studies should be studied as a separate field. Women's studies researchers will collaborate with each other to produce more knowledge.

They will be more focused and will conduct researches. In this way, women's studies will be propelled enhanced.

iv) **Integration leads to dilution.**

Women's studies will be diluted if it is integrate with other subjects. For example, when we study political science, we don't merge it with other subjects. We study it as a subject. If we merge <sup>political science</sup> women's studies with other subjects then it <sup>will</sup> ~~lost~~ will lose its originality. Its knowledge will be diluted. That's way we should study it as a separate field.

## ~~Integration Approach Approach~~

### Integration Approach in Women's Studies.

#### i) integrate with other disciplines.

Women's studies should integrate with other disciplines. In this way, more population will know the real problems of women. Integration of women studies will address women problems in a true manner.

#### ii) produce

#### ii) policy makers will produce.

Integration of women studies in other disciplines will help us to produce policy makers who will be aware of women's problems. So these policy makers will try to enhance problems. Such as FPSC has introduced gender studies as an optional subject in competitive exams so that gender problems must be addressed.

iii) Separate departments will be marginalized.

Separate women's studies departments will be marginalized because patriarchy society prevails. So less attention will be paid on it. There will be problems related to funds and scholarships. So women's studies separate department should not be created.

iv) Cannot be studied as a separate subject discipline.

Integration approach focus on integration of women studies in other disciplines. Because it is a young subject. There is need of work and research on this subject. So it should not be studied as a separate subject. It must be integrated with other subjects.

**Both / And strategy**

The end result was that women's studies should be both integrate and studied as a separate subject.



because in this way it will address women's problems in a true manner.

### Conclusion:

Women's Studies subject is still a young subject in Pakistan. However it helps to create awareness in people. Many universities are offering women's studies BS, MS and Ph.D programmes.

There In 1970s Integration vs autonomy debate started. Some researchers want to integrate women studies with other disciplines but some researchers want to study this subject as a separate discipline. However both/and ~~str~~ strategy is adopted so that women's problems can be addressed in a true manner.