

Q:- Difference between gender studies and women's studies. Discuss in detail the multidisciplinary nature of gender studies?

1. Introduction:-

Gender studies is a field of that which focuses on gender, identity and gendered representation as central categories of analysis while women's studies are a field that focuses on the roles, experiences, and achievements of women in society.

2. Difference between gender studies and women studies

2.1. Definition:-

2.1.1 Gender studies:- Gender studies involves examination of the complex identities, roles, and construction of gender; explores the intersection of gender with other aspects of an individual's personality. It involves both binary and non-binary individuals.

2.1.2 Women studies:- Women studies focuses only on experiences of women. It examines the social, cultural, political, and economic roles and challenges face by women in societies worldwide.

2-2 Nature of studies.

2.2.1 Gender studies:- Gender studies is a multidisciplinary field that crosses its borders to borrow knowledge from other disciplines of social and other sciences.

2.2.2 Women studies:- Women studies is a interdisciplinary field that focuses only on women.

2-3 Origin of studies.

2.3.1 Gender studies:- Gender studies started between the third wave and second wave of feminism.

2.3.2 Women studies:- Women studies is an offshoot of second wave of feminism. It is older than gender studies, emerging in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

2-4 Theories of gender studies and women studies.

2.4.1 Gender studies:- Gender studies involve theories which examine all genders such as queer theory, postmodern theory, GAD approach.

2.4.2 Women studies:- Women studies involve theories which examine women only.

such as feminist theory, WID and WAD approaches.

2.5 Goals of studies.

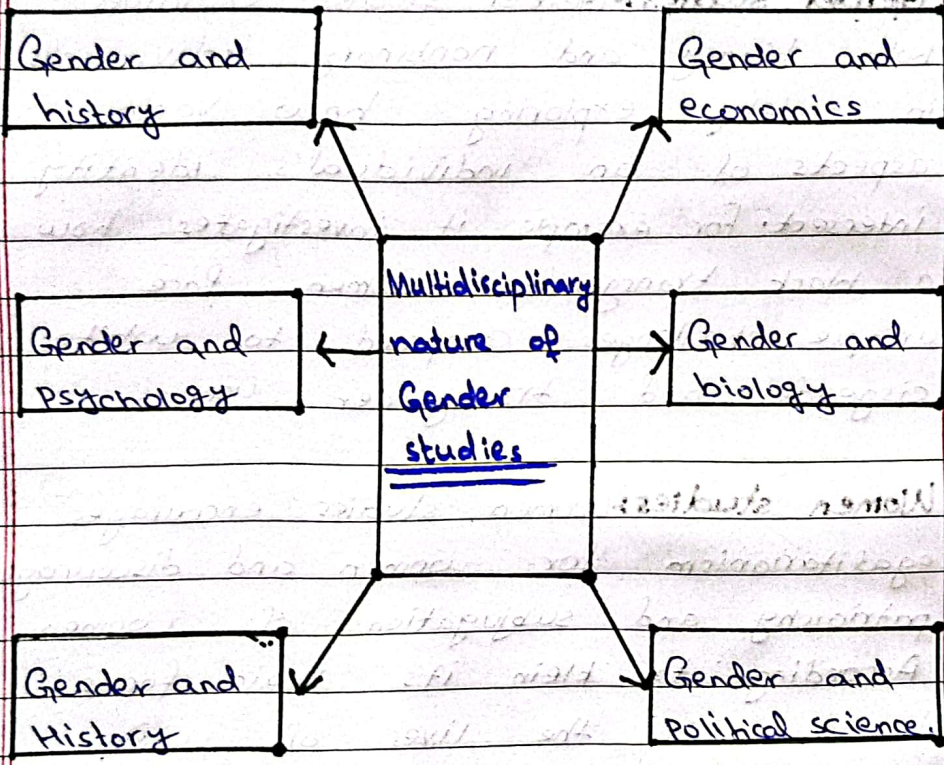
2.5.1 Gender studies: Gender studies examines both binary and nonbinary individuals in society, exploring how various aspects of an individual's identity intersect. For example it investigates how a black transgender woman face unique challenges compared to white cisgender and transgender women.

2.5.2 Women studies: Women studies encourages egalitarianism for women and discourages patriarchy and subjugation of women. According to Klein its main focus is to make the lives of women better. For example researchers may focus on the impacts of MeToo movement and advocate for women's rights in workplace.

3. Multidisciplinary Nature of Gender studies.

"Multidisciplinary means the process whereby the researchers from different disciplines work independently or sequentially, each from a discipline-specific perspective, to address a common problem."

Gender studies is multidisciplinary in nature as seeks to study different disciplines (social sciences, i.e anthropology, economics, politics, sociology and others from the perspective of gender.



3-1 Gender and History: In the Historical realm of gender studies, we investigate how societal norms and historical developments shape our understanding of perceiving different gender roles. Initially history was like men's history there were words like batsmen, chairmen, policemen etc. but now this thing is gradually being reverted. Because of history we have idea how women fought for suffrage.

Gerda Lerner said: Women's history is the primary tool for women's emancipation. To know women's history is to know the future.

3-2 Gender and Economics: In the economic realm of gender studies researchers examine the intersection of gender and economic factors. This includes investigating topics:-

- Gender wage gap
- Unpaid domestic work
- Economic inequalities.

3-3 Gender and Psychology: In psychology there is a field known as psychoanalytical feminism that looks on how sense of being, male, female, both and something in between is connected to the inner thoughts.

Example:

The gender schema of being female might include the proposition "I am a girl, so I play with dolls, not trucks."

3-4 Gender and Biology: In the biological realm of gender studies, we investigate the intricate interplay between gender and biology. The researchers explore topics such as:

- Hormonal influences on sex and behaviour
- Intersex variations challenging binary classification.
- Neurobiological aspects of gender identity.

3-5 Gender and history:

3-5 Gender and political science: Gender and political science delve into the treatment of various genders within countries, the legislative framework designed for them, and the influence different genders exert on the formulation of laws.

⇒ When women participate in politics, it ripples out to the entire society.

Hillary Clinton

4. Conclusion:- Gender studies, although it seems like it is a subject dealing with a narrow scope of things, it is multidisciplinary in nature. Subjects, such as psychology, sociology, political science, economics etc, are engraved somehow in gender studies. Gender studies have become a part of almost every discipline focusing on women and addressing the issues faced by them in various fields. Gender studies is, therefore, an evolving subject and create an understanding that the study of gender shall remain incomplete without probing the psychological, sociological and biological aspects of the life of a human being.