

Compare and contrast the evolution of Gender Studies and Women Studies. Discuss their different approaches, scales, successes, and advocacies.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

Question 06:

Answer:

## Gender Studies and Women Studies

### Evolution

#### 1. Introduction:

Gender studies and women studies are interdisciplinary fields. Both study and examine gender as a social construct and its impact on society, culture, and politics. These fields seek to understand the social and cultural constructions of gender roles, identities, and relationships. Furthermore, both fields try to understand the power dynamics and inequalities that are created by gender. Women studies focus specifically on the study of women's experiences and perspectives. It is the early precursor to gender studies. These fields examine issues which are gender-based.

## 2. Brief Overview of Gender Studies and Women Studies:

Gender studies emerged as a field of study in 1990s. It is associated with the third wave of feminism. It examines social and cultural construction of gender. On the other hand, women studies is linked to first and second wave of feminism, which emerged in 1960s - 1980s. It focuses on the experiences, contributions, and challenges of women.

## 3. Similarities between Gender Studies and Women Studies:

Women Studies

Gender Studies

### Interdisciplinary Nature

Women Studies is an interdisciplinary field. It is the study of women and gender in every field.

Gender studies is interdisciplinary too as it studies differences between women and men.



## Feminist Waves

Women Studies' work in support of women with regard to first and second wave of feminism.

Gender studies is another form of third wave feminism.

## Academic Scope

Women's studies include feminist theory, women's history, women's fiction, women's health.

Within gender studies there is a recognition that men and women do not exist in isolation from their social positions and roles.

## Educational Strategy

Women's studies is the educational strategy of a breakthrough in consciousness and knowledge.

It studies women and men difference on the basis of their socially constructed roles.

## Diversity of Components

It is diverse as its components

A woman is not only a woman but

include class, ethnic bias, sexism, and racism.

she has a certain class, caste, religion, identity, and social identity.

### Impact of Disciplines

The rise of women's studies led to feminism leaving impacts on multiple disciplines for research in humanities and social sciences.

It examines how the world is gendered, for instance clothing, accessories, and titles have set patterns for men and women.

## 4. Difference between Gender and Women Studies:

**Women Studies**

**Gender Studies**

### Visibility and Focus

It makes women visible.

It shifts focus from man as dominant to women and legitimate.



## Historical Roots

It owes to the movement for liberation of women.

Gender studies shape women's lives ~~for~~ in relation to gender differences among men and women.

## Freedom and Norms

Freedom from sexism by necessity must include a commitment to freedom from patriarchal norms.

It breaks stereotypes.

## 5. Successes and Advocacies

### of Gender and Women Studies:

#### a. Gender Studies success and advocacy:

It expanded understanding of gender as a social construct.

It developed theories to understand

intersection of gender with other forms.

It challenged the essentialist notion of masculinity and femininity.

It advocated for social justice for all genders.

LGBTQ+ awareness increased because of it.

## b. Women Studies Success and Advocacies:

It increased visibility of women's contribution.

It developed a framework to analyze gender inequalities and oppression.

It established academic programs for research and study. And these programs are also offered in Pakistani universities.

It challenged marginalization of women.

It promoted gender equity and also

empowerment.

## 6. Conclusion:

Gender studies and women studies are two different fields. Gender study focuses on gender identities, gender roles, and experiences. On the other hand, women study focuses on women roles, their experiences and achievements. Both are interdisciplinary fields which draws insight and methodologies from different social sciences fields.