

Q. Discuss the development of gender studies as an academic discipline. How does it differ from women studies and what is its relevance in the Pakistani context?

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## Introduction :

The discipline of gender studies has been adopted from the liberal world. It advocates for the right of gender devoid of any normativity. This discipline was initially debated to be aligned with women studies. However, the integration could have nullified the very essence of this particular area. In essence, gender studies focus on intersectionality, abolition of gender stereotyping, and normative culture that has become an impediment in women empowerment and advocacy.

## Gender studies and its essence

Gender studies was introduced in Pakistan in 1970s. Before that the concept of women studies existed that only focused on women as gender. Thus, its advent not only became impetus

for women but also other non-binary genders. (LGBT)

## Gender Studies as academic discipline

- Universities offering bachelors education in gender studies:

1) Karachi university

2) Shah Abdul Latif university, Khairpur

3) University of sindh, Jamshoro

4) Quaid e ~~Azam~~ university, Isb.

5) Allama Iqbal university

- Universities offering masters - level education in gender studies:

1) University of peshawar

2) University of Balochistan

3) Bahauddin ~~Zakaria~~ University, Multan.

4) Quaid-e Azam Uni, Isb

• Universities offering PHD - level education in gender studies

1) Shah abdul latif.

2) International Islamic university, Islamabad

3) University of Balochistan

4) University of Punjab

5) University of science and technology, Abbottabad.

All such educational institutes are playing cardinal role in fostering gender education in Pakistan.

Add more arguments in this part

How women studies is different from gender studies ?

# Debate of Autonomy vs Integration

## 1, Holistic v Isolation

It is debated that if women studies is integrated with gender studies it may affect women in individual.

## 2, Self determination

Women studies concept introduced in 1960s has its own idea that revolves around women empowerment and their rights. Thus, autonomy gives a separate recognition.

## 3, Breaking Stereotypes and Silos

Autonomy to women studies will give a separate forum to women to advocate for their suppressed fundamental rights. The suppression is majorly caused by stereotypes and normative behaviour.

Add and highlight references/examples against these arguments

#### 4) Institutional support

If women studies is a separate facet then there may be separate educational subjects related to it that will cater the intrinsic women issues be it menstruation literacy, health issues like pregnancy and etc.

#### • Critiques of Autonomy

##### 1) Individualism

It is criticised that women studies shows bias towards non-binary genders that exist on globe.

Do not use one word headings. They should be elaborate and self explanatory

##### 2) Isolation

Studying a subject in isolation may restrict the understanding of subject and will not provide critical analysis of the same.

#### • Critiques of Integration

##### 1) Compromise on women representation

It is debated that integrating

gender studies with women studies  
will subjugate women representation  
and acknowledgment.

As protection of women act 2006  
was efforts of women studies on  
isolation.

Women action forum established  
in 1981 in the response to  
Islamization of Jid.

## 2) Re-enforcing normativity

When the rights of all  
genders will be advocated  
it is beyond doubt that it  
may foster normativity in  
form of enhancing patriarchal  
behaviour of men against  
women.

## Efforts of civilians in enforcing women rights

- Establishment of National  
commission on status of women  
in 2000.

- Establishment of ministry of women development.
- Establishment of acid survivors organisation
- Establishment of Aurat foundation

Why gender studies is relevant in Pakistan?

• Ensures Intersectionality

To learn and understand the non-binary being not merely a subject but a person acquiring some rights and liberties.

example, supreme court recognised Hijras in 2009.

Moreover, in 2011, Election commission of Pakistan allowed them to vote.

Thus, in 2017 Transgender's protection act, 2017 was enacted.

Improve the references, paper presentation and th headings quality part

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## Conclusion :

In short, gender studies as a academic dissepure as well as a normative act play a huge role in abolishing gender apartheid in Pakostan and promoting Inelusivity and cooperation. However, If women studies to be studied in isolation, It might have created a subtle difference.