

Q. No. 2:

Define and discuss the discipline of gender studies and also differentiate between women studies and gender studies.

Answer:

Gender studies is an interdisciplinary academic field, which includes critical analysis of gender, sexuality and identity as a social, political and cultural construct. It explores norms, roles and expectations assigned to individuals based on their gender and finds their intersectionality with race, class, ethnicity, age and nationality.

ie- Historical Background:

The field was emerged in 1960s and 1970s, mainly driven by the second-wave of

Give the main heading first and relate your headings to the qs statement

feminism, which challenged the traditional gender roles and advocate for rights of women.

ii- Key Concepts:

Gender studies explores roles, norms and expectations assigned to individuals based on their gender and identifies intersection with race, class, ethnicity, age and nationality. A study of (American Psychological Association, 2022) shows that within women, the women of black color are to face more discrimination in USA.

iii- Interdisciplinary Nature:

Gender studies draw theories and methodologies from literature, history, political science, philosophy, anthropology, psychology, economics and other disciplines. Interdisciplinary

Relate your headings to the qs statement

nature with political science shows (Inter Parliamentary Union, 2022) that only 23.1% parliamentary seats are held by women globally.

IV- Major Theories:

Major theories include the feminist theories, queer theory and intersectionality theory to analyze power dynamics, social inequalities and cultural experiences. In U.S. 7.1% of adult are identified as LGBTQ+ (Gallup, 2023). Judith Butler's queer theory is foundation of LGBTQ+.

V- Applications and Impacts:

Gender studies helps the policy makers to make informed decisions. In Pakistan, 70% people supports efforts against violence against women (Gallup, 2020)

In Pakistan, "Protection of Women Against Violence Act, 2016" is an example of it.

vi- Current Trends:

Contemporary gender studies focuses on non-binary and transgender identities, their inclusion and rights at local and global levels. Globally 44% of transgenders are to face healthcare discrimination (Human Rights Campaign, 2023). Movements like "Trans Rights are Human Rights" are highlighting their issues.

vii- Global Perspective:

The field addresses issues at global level as well, especially in marginalized and conflict zones. In conflict zones 70% women are to face violence (UN Women, 2022).

Protests by LGBTQ+ community and voices of feminist writers and proponents have highlighted issues of women in conflict zones like Gaza and Ukraine.

Differentiate Between Women's studies and Gender Studies

Women and gender studies are closely related fields, whereas women's studies focuses on women while gender studies no doubt consider women's issues but ~~in~~ in addition to it includes: non-binary and trans-gender identities as well. Some key differences are discussed in upcoming paragraphs.

i- Focus:

Women's studies focuses on

oppression and inequalities faced by women and champions the cause of women rights and empowerment. While gender studies acknowledges women's issues, and broadens focus by including masculinity and non-binary identities.

ii- Scope:

Add and highlight references/examples against these arguments

Women's study focuses on experiences and struggles of women, and how traditional norms and societal structures which badly impacts women. On the other hand gender studies focuses how femininity masculinity along other gender identities shape interactions with social systems. Suicide rate among men is higher than that of women in Pakistan (WHO, 2021). Men's study explores societal norms & their impact on men's mental health.

iii- Intersectionality:

Women's studies highlights how race, class, ethnicity, age and nationality intersects with gender to further marginalize women. While gender studies in broader way checks how all gender identities experience inequalities. "Black Lives Matter" highlights intersection of race and class of black men irrespective of men and women.

iv- Critical Analysis of Patriarchy:

Women's studies criticises patriarchal norms which affect women and make them subordinate. Whereas, gender studies studies more broadly including men's along women's. The "ME TOO" movement challenges patriarchal power structures.

V- Transformative Potential:

Women's studies wants to empower women by challenging existing traditional gender roles that limit women's agency and equality. While gender studies challenges all traditional gender roles for all identities, it champions the cause of inclusivity and rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. The "Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2018" represents progress from gender studies in Pakistan.

VI- Academic Structure & Curriculum:

Women's studies includes topics focusing solely on women's history, experiences and roles in society, while in gender studies curriculum is more inclusive, covers all gender identities, masculinity, non-binary and LGBTQ+ issues.

In Pakistan, (HEC, 2023) gender studies program is being offered in 13 universities.

vii- Approach to Gender Norms:

Women's studies focuses on critique of gender norms that limit women's potential freedom.

Gender studies critiques entire

gender binary and promotes acceptance of a spectrum of gender studies.

Conclusion:

In conclusion women's studies focuses on oppression and empowerment of women, while gender studies refers broader analysis of all gender identities. Gender studies is more inclusive and intersectional, exploring how various identities interact with societal structures. Both fields play important role in challenging gender norms and advocating for equality and social justice.

Improve the structure of the answer