

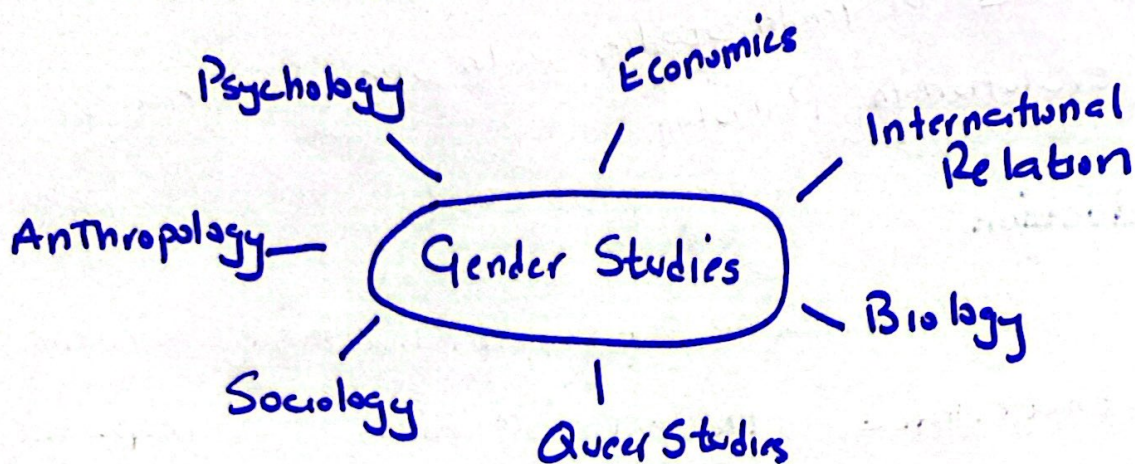
Describe Gender studies as a discipline. Also trace the background of Gender Studies with special references to its evolution in Pakistan.

1. Introduction

Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary academic discipline that emerged in the mid-20th century as a response to the need for a comprehensive understanding of the complex and multifaceted role of gender in the society. The feminist movement in the 19th and 20th century laid the foundation for Gender Studies. During the second wave of feminism which expanded the feminist agenda to encompass broader range of issues like reproductive rights, work place harassment, equal political rights and socially constructed gender roles led to the debate of autonomy vs integration, from there the subject of gender studies emerged as a subject. Gender related issues have been part of academic discussion in Pakistan but the formal discipline of Gender studies gained recognition in late 1980s and 1990.

2. Interdisciplinary Nature of Gender Studies as a subject

iii) Biology



i) Gender Studies in International Relation

Gender Studies and International Relations, are interconnected as women are trying to make their way into politics and decision making. The feminist theory in IR state that IR is male dominated and is constructed around male dominant policies in International Politics.

ii) Developmental Studies

It is a multi disciplinary subject that focuses on the evolution of nations from political, culture, geographical and socio-economic perspective. Gender and development consider aspects such as job creation, inflation, high employment which aims to control the economic well being of the individual.

iii) Biology

Biology does influence gender development. As gender is socially constructed the difference between boys and girls can be explained by the effect of genes on sex chromosomes. For instance, high level of testosterone in men, makes them more aggressive and power dominant.

iv) Health

Gender and health examines various perspectives and issues related to the health care of women and men across the lifespan.

It includes topics of sexuality, birth control methods, violence, rape.

3. Multi disciplinary of Gender Studies as a subject

i) Sociology

Roots of gender studies can be traced in social sciences. Gender Studies seeks to study disciplines like social sciences,

anthropology, economics and other perspectives of gender when they integrate into the society. Sociology examines

how gender examines the society and how the influence of

socially constructed masculinity and femininity impacts the society.

ii) Anthropology

Gender studies deal with cultural norms that dictate the lives of people belonging to masculinity or feminist type. Moreover, culture norms exist that how each gender should behave in the society.

iii) Education

Education is the biggest tool that defines the gender role in the society. Gender roles seek to improve the overall perception of gender development through academic arena.

Male literacy rate in Pakistan 72.1.

Women literacy rate 52.1.

22 million children are out of schools in Pakistan.

Source: World Bank Report.

iv) Law

Gender equality is achieved when both the sexes enjoy the same rights and opportunities across the society. The laws regarding reproductive discrimination led gender studies to gain momentum for a discipline.

4. The autonomy vs integration debate in gender studies

The autonomy vs integrated debate gained momentum after the 3rd wave of feminism that women studies should be merged into gender studies. The autonomy school of thought argued ^{against} in this favor while the integrated school of thought aligned with the merge of women studies with gender studies. Therefore this debate laid the foundation for gender studies as an academic discipline.

5. Tracing the background of gender studies in Pakistan

The status of women is divided into 4 phases.

- i) After Partition
- ii) During The regime of Zia- Hudaood Ordinance
- iii) After Zia
- iv) After 2008.

During the 1st phase

During partition many victims were badly effected. 75000 women were abducted.

Fatimah Jinnah laid the foundation of Women Relief Committee. Begum Rana Liaqat Ali Khan helped the women by designing nursing courses for them.

During The 2nd phase

A new wave of Islamization started under the rule of Military Rule Zia. Reforms were made on Adultery but criticism was made on Hudaood Ordinance.

During The 3rd phase

Benazir Bhutto was the 1st PM female of the country. founding of police station women was made. Women Action Forum was formed in 1981.

2008 onwards

Advent of media channels and social media gave women a chance to raise their voices. Aurat March which

is held in different cities gained momentum and increase the political, economic representation of women in the society.

6. Center of Excellence for Gender Studies

It was established in 1989 by The Ministry of Women Development.

First MA in Women Studies in Pakistan began in 1996 in University of Karachi.

In 2002. Mphil and PhD programs were started.

In 2007 - A four year course was introduced at Bachelors level.

7. Formation of PAWS

PAWS was formed in 1991 to bring women empowerment

Objectives of PAWS

Provide a platform to women

Forum for interaction and coordination in teaching

Built solidarity with women

Strengthen capabilities of women through research

Organize conference, seminars, workshops on women studies and gender studies

8. Role of government for gender development

MOWD at federal and provincial level acted as a institutional framework for women development.

The key measures was gender mainstreaming at all sections for national development.

9. Nawaz Sharif endorsed NAP in 1998

It was prepared by MOWD suggesting laws for women rights children, education and healthcare

10. Conclusion

The formation of gender studies as a subject roots back from second waves of feminism when feminism movement laid the foundation for equal representation in the society. Moreover the approach from WID to

GAID also encouraged to develop Gender studies as a subject as it will help to discuss all sexes problems, that are male, female and transgender. The autonomy Vs Integration debate laid the foundation for interdisciplinary subject of Gender Studies.

