

Q What is autonomy Vs Intregation debate is Gender studies (Brief). Discuss in detail the significance of autonomy and intregation.

Answer:

Introduction:

Autonomy:- Freedom, Independent
 Intregation:- To merge, incorporate

The debate of autonomy Vs intregation is that wether women studies should be treated as a seprate dicipline or should it be merged with an already existing dicipline. This debate is on the cards since the first **national womenis studies confrence in 1970**, Scholars of women studies have been debating questions of interdisciplinory and autonomy. The autonomy pros have some arguments like empowerment, self representation of economic, social welfare and empowerment. However, the intregationist have arguments of cost saving, equality of all representatives and collaborating efforts.

Historical perspective:
 National women studies

association (NWSA) had a discussion in 1982 about women studies that should it be at higher education.

Debate was divided into two groups:-

1) Autonomist:-

They were in favour of a separate women studies program.

2) Intregationist:-

They wanted an intregation of women studies into an existing discipline, to coorporate feminist perspectives into traditional diciplines. (Debate was concerned to allocate limited time & funding to main stream OR autonomo^us women studies.

Significance of Autonomy:-

1) Legitimacy Rights:-

One of the pros according to the autonomist was the awariness of their rights and to increased legitimacy for interdisciplinary work.

2) Self Lead and Representation:-

During the 2nd wave of feminism some men supported the campaigns of feminism, but women found their presence disruptive in 1997. As a result they developed

an autonomous women movement.
(Campbell, 1987).

3) Empowerment & Betterment:-

They believed in empowerment to reduce sexist beliefs, attitudes towards women. They wanted betterment in self assumed obligations, entailing social relations, and responsibility.

4) Equality:-

By autonomous approach they will highlight the legal and moral capacity to make decisions to where their interests lies, which social role they prefer and identity they will choose to emphasize.

5) Member of particular Sex truly can represent their issues:-

"We reject the idea that man can be feminist, because we argue what is essential to be a feminist is the possession of 'Feminist Consciousness' is rooted to concrete every day of being treated as a women" (Rubin 1993).

6) Specific sex based approach needed to solve issues:-

Men show women oppression, and tend to exercise great power and influence which can be in a mixed gender context. So, autonomy will give ease in this regard (Glick and Fiske 1999).

7) Independence in leadership, Attention to race, ethnicity class differences.

Autonomy will not only provide a separate platform for leadership but it will also address the question of race, class and ethnic lines

- a) Independent struggle for the status of individual
- b) Individual struggle for every colour of individual.

Intregation's Significance:-

1) Cost Saving:-

When women studies was initially formed, it was an emerging discipline and hence it required a lot of financial and time investment. So, it was argued that it should be merged with an already existing discipline, it will save a lot of money.

2) Collaborating efforts:-

Integrationist believed that participation of other entities especially men to empower women can be an effective collaborating effort to ensure required results.

"It is crucial that men get active in feminist campaigns and the gender equality initiatives specially targets men. The very future of feminism depends on this contact." (Walter 1999, Banyard 2010).

3) Representatives of all entities, Sexes:-

The exclusion of men went against the feminist principle of equality, it will only highlight that prospective. Feminist is one who acts in concert with feminist ideals.

4) Stimulated to other academic fields:-

In 1990s the study of gender and of race were added to the study of women. Other disciplines can also be merged like, cultural studies, men and

masculinity, disability studies, peace studies, Queer studies.

5) Representation of all Classes, Colors:-

The integration pros is that the merged discipline will act as a single entity and will represent all classes, colours and ethnicities without any vested interests.

6) Educational reforms:

Educational reforms and social movement for both male and female will be proceeded in integration.

Conclusion:-

The autonomy-integration debate fired up in 1970, with pros of both, the argument of both concepts are dominating. Autonomy emphasizes selfrepresentation, legitimacy rights, empowerment and betterment, while, integration supports an incorporation with existing discipline which will be cost saving, representation of all entities/Sexes, Stimulation, those arguments left a significant impact on the autonomy VS integration debate.