

## PAST PAPER QUESTION 2021

Discuss in detail what the debate between gender autonomy and integration have important contribution in the field of knowledge.

**ANSWER:-**

**INTRODUCTION :-**

In late 1960's the women studies began to appear at colleges and universities after the second wave of feminism. In 1970, in United States San Diego State College and SUNY - Buffalo university formally offered first degree program in women studies. Later on masters and phd degree were being awarded in the discipline 1980 and 1990 respectively. Women studies began to expand as a global educational phenomenon. Later, ~~in~~ <sup>during</sup> late 1980's and 1990s a debate sparked for integration of women studies with other gender studies and other subject of social sciences. The debate sparked after postmodern and post-structural critique, who questioned



about essential criteria for men and women. The debate was also influenced by Men's studies which also started in late 1980s and 1990s-

## **AUTONOMY VS INTEGRATION DEBATE::**

**AUTONOMY:** Autonomy is a separatist approach of feminist for developing women studies as separate discipline from other disciplines like Men's studies or LGBT e.t.c.

### **ADVOCATES ARGUMENTS::**

**FOCUS ON WOMEN ISSUES:** Advocates of autonomy were of the view that giving autonomous status to women studies will preserve feminist theories and ensure that women issues are address properly without any dilution.

**AVOID MARGINALIZATION:** Autonomous program will 'create distinct identity for women studies enabling the teaching and research of the feminist ideas without the interference of any other discipline which could marginalize it if integrated with other disciplines.



**INTEGRATION:-** Integration is a moderate strategy. It is incorporation of various academic disciplines and fields of study promoting a comprehensive understanding of how gender intersects with other social identities.

**ADVOCATES ARGUMENTS:-**

**HOLISTIC APPROACH:-** Women studies is inherently related to the social issues or society so it is impossible to study it in isolation. By integration of women study with other disciplines it will be a holistic approach and will help to research comprehensively on how different social identities affect women.

**INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF SOCIETY AND WOMEN.**

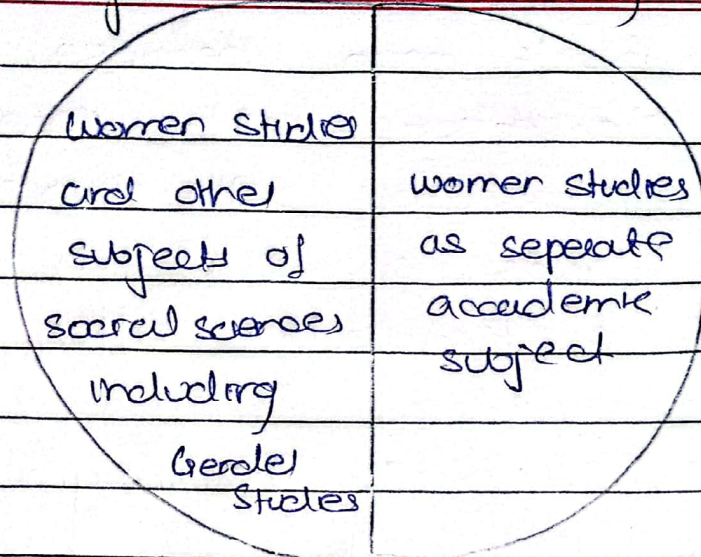
Women and society are interdependent so integrating it with other disciplines give a more broader view of women issues. As according to Professor Kimbesele the men and women are factual realities and are created to live together so they cannot be separated in any way.



Integration

Autonomy

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### CONTRIBUTIONS OF DEBATE IN THE FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE

The autonomy vs integration debate within gender studies has contributed significantly to the evolution of the field with each perspective offering distinct advantages and challenges that have shaped scholarly approaches and educational frameworks.

**CONCEPT OF INTERSECTIONALITY :-** The debate, autonomy vs integration led to the concept of intersectionality by Kimberle Crenshaw. She worked on how gender intersect with other social identities e.g. race, (colour), ethnicity, sexuality etc. All these factors affect a woman e.g. a Black woman will face different challenges than a white woman.



and a Black man because of gender intersection with race and gender intersection with other-gender. So, this was a vital contribution in field of knowledge after the debate.

**CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT:** The integration perspective has influenced the curriculum by promoting interdisciplinary approaches. This ensured that feminist perspectives were not limited to women-specific courses but became integral to diverse academic fields. As a result, scholars and students could explore gender relations within the broader contexts of politics, economics and history etc.

**DEVELOPMENT OF UNIQUE THEORIES:** The autonomous status of Gender Studies led to the development of different theories like Queer theory, feminism theory - and concept of intersectionality. This was a crucial contribution of debate to the field of knowledge.



**RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY:** Autonomy allows researchers to study gender on its own, leading to methods that look specifically at gendered experience like feminist standpoint theory. This way researchers can highlight how gender shapes people's lives. Similarly, integration helped researchers understand how all these parts like sociology, psychology, biology etc work together in people's lives and leading to methods according to it.

### **CONCLUSION:**

In a nutshell, the autonomy provides the necessary focus on gender specific issues while integration brings broader and more inclusive perspective. So a debate started between the two concepts. ~~that~~ ~~whether~~ ~~was~~ The debate however made several contributions in field of knowledge including development of new theories, curriculum development and research methodologies.