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Question Differentiate between gender studies and women's studies. Discuss in detail the multidisciplinary nature of gender studies.

Introduction

Gender studies and women's studies are often mixed with each other; however, there are some striking differences between these two disciplines. Women's studies, since its inception in around the mid-20th century, was the study of particular studies about women. It concerned itself with the problems and struggles women used to face. Such studies led to development programs like women in development (WID) in 70's. Gender studies on the other hand studies the relationship between both men and women, and also their relationships with their societies as a whole, how they are conceived and shaped, how they presume their identity, and their roles within those identities. Gender studies is much more wider than women's studies. Moreover, gender studies is a multidisciplinary subject and has its strands extended into sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Economics, Political science, Social work, literature, law, Biology, Gender History, and Communication studies. Since, gender studies talks about differences between individuals based on their social upbringing, genetic background as well as psychological inclinations, therefore, it is interrelated to these disciplines.

- Difference between Women's studies and Gender Studies

Women's Studies, Gender Studies Definition

Women's studies is an interdisciplinary field that focuses on the role, experiences, and achievements of women in society.

Gender studies are the social, political and economic roles, rights, and responsibilities of male, female, and LGBT.

History / Origin

Women's studies is an offshoot of wave of feminism. It is older than gender studies and known as its predecessor.

Gender studies is an offshoot of wave of feminism. It is the successor of women's studies.

Focus of Research

Women's studies merely focus on the problems of women particularly patriarchy. It demands rights for women only.

Gender studies are more inclusive. It focuses on all the genders constructed by society. Its primary focus is on gender identity.

Nature of Subject

It is interdisciplinary field and merely focuses on women.

It is a multidisciplinary as well as interdisciplinary and extended its strands to other disciplines of social and biological sciences.

Goal of Studies:

It demands equality for women and end of patriarchy. According to Klein, its main focus is to improve the lives of women.	It demands equity. It explains the position of all genders based on class, caste, religion ethnicity, and sexual identity.
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Theoretical differences

It involves the theoretical perspective of feminism. Moreover, it involves WID and WAD approaches.	It involves postmodern theory, Queer theory and encompass the CGAD approach.
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Concept of Homogeneity

It does not have the concept of homogeneity.	It has the concept of homogeneity. It focuses on the differences between heterogeneous and homogenous individuals.
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- Definition of Multidisciplinary Approach

A multidisciplinary approach involves multiple disciplines to redefine problems outside of normal boundaries and reach solutions based on a new understanding of complex solutions. It is the process in which researchers work independently yet at the same time, from a different disciplinary perspective to address a common problem.

- Gender Studies: A Multidisciplinary Subject

It examines all scopes of life including family, media, culture, education, personal rights, behaviors, non-state actors, and government. Gender studies offer to learn about various contemporary issues of society:

- 1 Sexual orientation
- 2 Gender roles in the society
- 3 The psychology of identity
- 4 Representation of gender in literature, pop culture, art, and music
- 5 Human reproduction and social constraints

Psychology and G.S

Biology and G.S

Economics and G.S

Gender History

Literature and G.S

Multidisciplinary nature of gender studies and its relation with other disciplines

Sociology and Gender

Anthropology and G.S

Law and G.S

Communication Studies and G.S

Political Science and G.S

Social work and G.S

- Sociology and Gender Studies

"One is not born but rather becomes a woman."

(Simone de Beauvoir)

Sociology is the study of society and social interaction. It imparts a major role in the construction of gender. The sociology of gender studies examines how society influences the social construction of gender as well as the difference between masculinity and femininity.

Example: Women are considered intellectually and physically as compared to men. This socially constructed perception of gender, therefore, impedes the decision-making roles of women.

- Anthropology and Gender Studies

Anthropology is the scientific study of humanity, concerned with human behaviour, biology, cultures, and societies in both past and present. Gender studies is the branch of cultural anthropology that deals with cultural norms that dictate the lives of people belonging to masculine and feminine gender. The gender norms that are prevalent in society shape the culture of women.

Example: Divorce is considered a taboo and a stain on womanhood. This is a gendered norm that applies to women just because of patriarchal mindset.

- Psychology and Gender Studies

"The mother is the early caregiver and primary source of identification for all children... A daughter continues to identify with the mother."

(Nancy Chodorow)

Psychology is the scientific study of human minds, and its functions especially by studying those human behaviours that are affecting their minds. Gender psychology, deals with the psychological and social impact of sex differences as well as the role and development of gender identity on behavior. Sigmund's Freud's psychoanalytical theory of feminism is an epic example of psychological behavior linked with gender inequality. Nancy Chodorow propounds this theory by arguing that gender identity is the result of a complex development that is related to the mental development process.

- Economics and Gender Studies

"When women do better, economics do better."

(Christine Lagarde)

Economics is a social science subject that deals with the production, distribution, and consumption of goods. It also involves individuals, businesses, government, and other sectors in making decisions about resource relocation. GS is closely linked with economics and talks about economic equality for women.

Participation of women in the labour force, wage differences and an unequal number of opportunities in various sectors of state are all addressed by eqs from an economic point of view. Similarly, Marxist feminism is a huge supporter of economic inequality for women and blames patriarchy and power relations for gender inequality. Also, it calls out men as oppressors who use women, both in the public and private spheres to generate income yet deprive them of equal opportunities. Furthermore, today's capitalism is exploiting women of all colors and races which needs a serious transformation of the gender-inclusive economic structure.

- Political Science and Gender Studies

"When women participate in politics, it ripples out to the entire society."

(Hillary Clinton)

Political science is a social science field and a scientific study of politics. It deals with the structure of government, power and politics. It also involves political thoughts, behaviour, constitution and laws. Gender studies intake political science as a discipline and talk about political equality and women rights. It says that certain legislations are discriminatory and tend to satisfy patriarchal norms only. Moreover, the political representation of women in

Third-world countries is the least as per UN Women. After the French Revolution, voting rights were given to privileged white men only. Susan B. Anthony in the Trial of Susan B. Anthony challenged it. As a result women got voting rights in 1920 as a result of second wave of feminism. This field of study has focused on gender regimes and the welfare states, state feminism, the formation and implementation of women-friendly policies, and the influence of women's movements on policy debates.

- Social Work and Gender

Social work deals with the basic needs of communities, vulnerable and oppressed people, especially those living in poverty. Social work also discussed the violence, slavery and other oppressive things done by men to women via the gendered lens.

Radical feminists were of the view that it is men who are responsible for forcing women into stuffs like prostitution, pornography and setting artificial beauty standards. Therefore social work in a gender perspective deals with such oppressive acts done by men to women, thus relating gender studies and social work.

- Literature and Gender Studies

Literature is specifically related to books, ^{work of} and prominent authors, sometimes in the form of plays, drama, autobiography, prose and poetry, fiction, journalistic literature etc. Gender and literature are closely related because literature promotes women's writings of famous women authors depicting social problems of society.

Example: 'Chothi ka jora' by feminist writer Ismat Chughtai sheds light upon early women's marriages and the financial crunch a widow faces in male-dominant society.

Similarly, Tehmina Durrani, in her book 'My Feudal Lord' discussed social problems such as the alienation of women by the elite and feudal of the country. Such writings clearly show that gender is a social construction and not a biological one.

- Law and Gender Studies

Gender equality is achieved when both sexes are given equal rights and opportunities via a legal framework. Laws, which are made to facilitate people, are unable to protect women's rights. The laws against rape, harassment, etc., are just on paper and lack affirmative implementation. GS persuade people and

especially the legislators to make gender-equal laws for men, women and transgender. G.S itself discusses issues such as domestic abuse, marital rape etc., which are a serious problem. Despite having laws, all these issues are still unaddressed and just limited to paper. Work is being done to introduce women's protection laws. However, implementation is required in true spirit.

Laws for Women's Protection

- The protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act 2010
It provides legal protection to women against harassment at the workplace in Pakistan.
- The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2004
It provides protection to women against the crime of honour killing.
- Domestic Violence (Prevention and protection) Act, ²⁰¹²
It offers protection against domestic, sexual, mental and emotional abuse to women.

- Communication Studies and G.S

Communication studies is an academic discipline that deals with the process of human communication and behaviour, patterns of communication, interpersonal relations, interactions and communication in various cultures. The field strives to make people

talk differently to make the environment more humane and peaceful. Similarly, Q.S and communication work collectively to focus on how verbal and non-verbal communication is affected by gender.

Gender communication, to be specific, is the field that changes the way we talk about people through a gendered lens.

Example: The term 'LGBTQIA' is used ^{now} for those who are not straight instead of 'Queer'. Similarly, communication studies and gender have replaced the word 'Slut' with ~~Sex~~ sex workers.

Thus, communication can address many gender-related issues.

- Biology and Gender Studies

Gender identity is a multifactorial complex trait with a heritable polygenic component. This field of study determines the biological differences existing between male and female.

The biological diversity underlying gender identity development is relevant to all domains of social, medical, and neuroscience research and foundational for reducing health disparities and promoting human-rights protection for gender minorities.

- Gender History

It is a sub field of history and Q.S.

Initially, women were absent from social life.

They were only considered in child-bearing.

This discipline considers in what ways historical events impact women differently from men.

Conclusion

Gender studies and women studies are two different disciplines dealing with various subjects and areas of concern. Women's studies is a narrow approach and merely deals with the issues of women while G.S are more inclusive and encompasses all genders. Additionally, gender studies is a multidisciplinary subject that has its own identity while dealing with various other disciplines irrespective of their nature. Other disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, psychology, biology, social work, political science, economics etc., have their roots in gender studies. G.S have become a part of almost every discipline focusing on women and addressing the issues faced by them in various fields. It is impossible to deal with these disciplines comprehensively while ignoring the perspective of gender. G.S therefore, an evolving subject, it creates an understanding that the study of gender shall remain incomplete without probing the psychological, sociological, and biological aspects of the life of a human being. Hence, G.S is a multidisciplinary approach which deals with other disciplines while maintaining its own identity.