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Differentiate between gender studies and women's studies. Discuss in detail the multi-disciplinary nature of gender studies.

Ans

### Introduction:

Gender studies and women's studies, both subjects are a mean to common end. Both demand rights for their subjects, the difference between them is defined below:

#### Gender Studies

1. Emerged out of women's studies and women movements in 1995.

2. A subject for all genders, it studies the variety of subjects related with LGBTQ+

3. Conscious Raising and related programs are not part of this discipline.

4. Wide spread support due to its variety of disciplines and subjects in all races and genders.

5. Overshadowed the importance of women's studies.

#### Women's Studies

Result of women's rights movement and 2nd wave of feminism in late 1960's.

Concerns only women matters, and focus of this discipline is to promote rights of women only.

Conscious Raising is an integral part of women studies.

Only women oriented NGOs and agencies support this program.

After, Gender Studies the women's studies graph has dwindled as a discipline.

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Other than the differences enumerated above, both subjects share common origin and scholars as well as journey.

## Emergence and expansion of women's studies:

### 1. Emergence of women's studies:

The 1960's, played an important role in the creation of women's study as discipline. The second wave of feminism with Radical feminism and Marxist feminism initiated a debate of social miseries of women. Prior to 1970's even Sociology, the subject which is dedicated to human studies was not discussing women.

### 2. Women studies as discipline:

First course of women's studies course was started by Cornell University in 1969 and first Degree program by San Diego University in 1970. Then it got its masters status in 1980 with announcement of M.A program at Kent University. In Pakistan it was taught as a result of CEDAW (Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against women) in 1975. In 1989 first 5 years program was started and Masters, MPhil and PhD programs in ensuing years.

### 3. Gender Studies out of women's studies:

In 1995, the debate about gender mainstreaming took rise, and it was the fear that Gender Studies as an independent subject was introduced. In Pakistan

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Gender Studies was first introduced by University of Punjab, and slowly gradually, it became part of all universities and now in almost all public universities, Gender Studies is taught as proper discipline and a subsidiary course.

### Need of Gender Studies:

As we discussed earlier in difference section, both subjects share a common origin, the only women approach of women's studies led a demand for a comprehensive subject that may promote their collective rights. Gender Studies was the only such option that could provide such facility.

### Role of Conscious Raising:

Conscious Raising and related activities were designed to aware people about the subjection of women, their objectification and rights violation. This approach is the part of women's studies as such an activity is not found in gender studies.

### Widespread support of Gender Studies:

Gender studies as incorporate a variety of support system for variety of people. It raises voices of all genders and their sufferings, from LGBTQIA+ to fixed genders, gender studies speaks for the rights of all genders and that is the reason it has more support than women's studies.

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## Multidisciplinary nature of gender studies:

Gender studies, like other social sciences, share a common bond of lineage with different subjects. It almost touches the essence of every subject and therefore shows multi-disciplinary nature. Connection of gender studies with some subjects is as follows:

### 1- Sociology:

Sociology, being a parent subject shares common bond with gender studies. The social construct and gender concepts are the part of sociology and gender studies is strong critic of such gender roles.

### 2- Literature:

Literature is essence of human life. The mode of literature and material of literature play an important role in construction of society. The literature is the mirror of society as in Doll's House Henrik Ibsen, a Norwegian playwright has showed the miseries of women in society. Moreover the literary work of Titus is also an evident example of role of literature and its connection with Gender studies.

### 3- Psychology:

Psychology, unfolds the mental capabilities and finds the result for a social change. It helps gender studies in finding

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out the source of problem. As gender performativity theory of Judith Butler provides that gender is not fixed, but fluid. Her theory solely relies on the dynamics of psychology.

#### 4. Political Sciences:

Political science provides support to the movements of suffrage and political rights. Karl Marx, a social scientist and political philosopher, in his writings raised the argument of oppressors and oppressed, this ideology provided the legitimacy to the movements of gender studies.

#### 5. Laws and Legal Discipline:

Law is the backbone of any state. The legal provisions provide safety and security to the people. Gender studies demand rights for all genders and it is only possible through the laws of land. Therefore the two subjects play an important role in human life.

#### 6. Mass media and filmography:

Mass media and Movies Studies (Film's Studies) are the mirror of society. In modern age, they have enormous importance in society. Media has highlighted social issue of torture and discriminatory actions against through trans genders and women through movies such as, Bol (Pakistani movie) Lajja, Gangubai Kathiawadi etc.

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## 7. Criminology:

Criminology plays an important role in studying the trends of domestic violence and gender based violence. The causes leading to such crimes.

## Conclusion:

There are minor differences between the two disciplines that have their significance in addressing the issues of their subjects. The multi-disciplinary approach of gender studies has made its arguments and stances sound and strong. Every subject plays its role to the fullest. Gender studies and women's studies both subjects are of fundamental importance for human social life, the issues highlighted by this subject and the movements for rights of women and other genders are, indeed a significant step towards the era of equality.

