

## = Discipline Of Gender Studies:

2017

Define and explain - the Discipline of Gender Studies and differentiate b/w Gender Studies and women Studies.

## Introduction:

Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that critically examines the roles, experiences and identities of Gender in Society. It studies how men, women and other gender identities experience life differently because of the roles and expectations society places on them. The subject takes ideas from different areas like Sociology, psychology and History to study how gender affects social systems, power and personal experiences.

While the Gender Studies and women's Studies are related, they are different in focus. Women's Studies is about women's issues and experiences while Gender Studies looks at the experiences of all genders, including men, women and non-binary people.

## - Defining the Gender Studies:

Gender Studies examines the roles and behaviours that people are expected to follow based on their gender.

For example, in many cultures men are seen stronger and leaders while women are expected to be caring and take care of the home. Gender Studies challenges these ideas and looks at how they shape people's lives. It also studies how other factors like race, class and religion mix with gender.

For example, a poor woman may face more difficulties than a wealthy woman because of her financial situation. In Pakistan, gender studies helps us understand why women face challenges like lower education rates, fewer job opportunities compared to men. In many areas of Pakistan, traditional ideas about gender lead to fewer

opportunities for women. These ideas also affect men provider for their families, even if they want to take on different roles. People who don't fit into the traditional ideas of being either a man or a woman such as "transgender". In Pakistan, the "Khwaja Sira" community has long been marginalized. However, due to increase awareness people has made some progress like allowing transgender people to identify as a third gender on national ID cards, but they still faces alot of discrimination, social exclusion and violence. In 2023, transgender activists continued to raise awareness about the lack of proper healthcare facilities and employment, making it an important issue for gender studies. **Case of Alisha**, a transgender activist from Peshawar who was shot in 2016 and later died due to delayed medical care, is often cited in

in discussions about how gender identity affects access to health-care and basic human rights.

Gender studies examines the basic challenges of women. According to recent reports, women's participation in the labour force remains low due to cultural barriers, lack of safe working environment. **"Kamyab Jawan**

**Program"** in Pakistan and many other initiatives are designated to provide financial support and training for women. The **Aurat March** held annually on International women's day (8<sup>th</sup> March) is a significant event in Pakistan that brings attention to women's rights.

= Girls faces barriers in Every field of Life in our Society:

Education for girls remain a significant issue in Pakistan. In some

Parts of Pakistan, -there are lacks of schools and safety concerns. The case of "Malala Yousafzai" who was shoted by Taliban in 2012 for advocating girls education, we have many other harrameinl cases in our history. In 2020, the case of Meesha Shafi, a singer who accused fellow singer Ali Zafar of harrameinl become high profile example of how difficult it can be for women in Every field to speak out against harrameinl. Gender studies explores these societal barriers and pushes for change that protects the gender rights.

### - Gender-base violence:

It continues to be a major issue. with cases of domestic violence, honor killings and acid attacks making headlines. In 2021, the brutal murder of Noor Mukadam, the daughter of former diplomat, shocked the nation.

While discussing around the gender, often focuses on women's issues, gender studies also looks at how gender norms affect men. The traditional ideas of masculinity such as the expectation that men should be strong and not show emotions have negatively impacted men's mental health.

In 2022-23, mental health organization in Pakistan, like **Taskeen** began focusing on men's mental health, particularly breaking the stigma around seeking help.

### Gender Stud

### Women's Studies

- ① It explores how gender influences social roles, relationships and power dynamics.
- ② It examines the differences & inequalities b/w genders like male, female, non-binary.

- ① It focuses on the experiences, contributions and challenges of women throughout history.
- ② It examines the gender inequality.

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| ③ It is multi-disciplinary in nature.                   | ③ It is inter-disciplinary in nature. |
| ④ It is emerged out of women's studies.                 | ④ It began in the late 1960's.        |
| ⑤ Not feminist activism, it is based on gender studies. | ⑤ Interwined with -feminist activism. |

### = Conclusion:

Gender Studies is an important subject that helps us understand how gender affects our lives and society. It challenges traditional ideas about how men and women should act and encourages us to think about how we can create a fairer and more equal society. It helps us highlight the challenges faced by women, men and other gender identities. Pushing for change in areas like the education, employment and social rights. From political

representations to workplace harassment, education, transgender rights, and gender based violence, the field helps shed light on how the societal expectations and cultural norms shape experiences of all genders. By studying these, we can work towards creating a more just and equal society for everyone regardless of gender.