

# CSS 2023:-

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

## Introduction:-

Often gender studies are mixed with women's studies; 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 issues 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 the 70's. Gender studies on the other hand studies the relationship between both men & 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, it is a much more diverse type of study than women's studies. Moreover, gender study is a multi-disciplinary subject and has its strands extended into Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Gender history, Politics, Biology. People read the world through gendered glasses, and media institutions and families, social networks,

and many other arenas construct gendered distinctions and norms for "proper" gendered behaviours and appearances.

## Difference Between Women's Studies And Gender Studies:-

Women  
Studies

1. Definition:-

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

Gender  
Studies

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

## 2. History/Origin:-

Women's studies is an offshoot of 2nd wave of feminism. It is older than gender studies and known as its predecessor.

Gender studies are the offshoot of 3rd wave of feminism. It is the successor of women's studies.

## 3. 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.

## 4. Nature of Subject:-

It is an interdisciplinary field and merely

It is a multidisciplinary subject and

Focuses on women.

extended its strands to each other disciplines of social and biological sciences.

5. Goal of Studies:-

It demands equality for women. Its proponents want to end patriarchy.

According to Klein, its main focus is to make the lives of women better.

Gender studies demand equity. It explains the position of all the genders based on class, cast religion ethnicity, and sexual identity.

## 6. Theoretical differences

It involves the theoretical - perspective of feminism. Moreover, it involves WID and WAD approaches.

Gender studies involve Post modern theory, Queer theory and encompass the GAD - approach.

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## 8. Concept of homogeneity :-

It does not involve the concept of homogeneity in

It does involve the concept of homogeneity in its studies

it's studies.

and focuses on the differences between heterogeneous and homogeneous individuals.

## 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 situations.

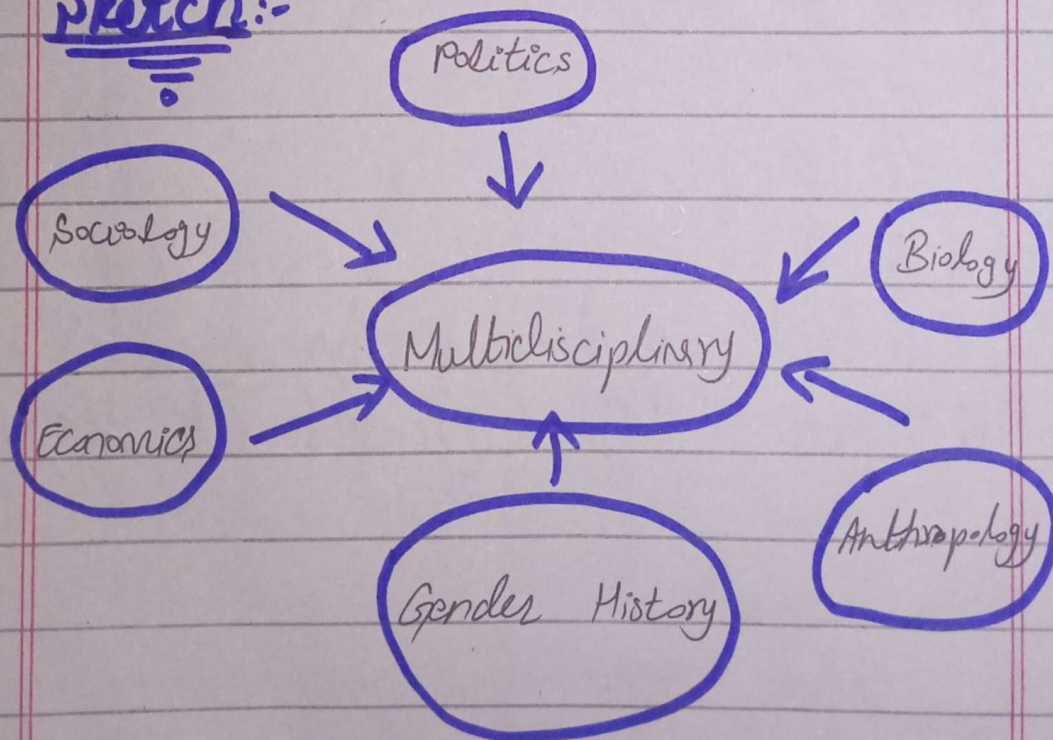
### Multidisciplinary (Approach) Nature of Gender Studies:-

It examines all scopes of life including family, media, culture, education, personal rights, behaviours, non state, 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

Sketch:-





## Sociology in the social construction of Gender:-

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

(Simone de Beauvoir)

Sociology refers to the interaction of women in the society. It imparts a major role in the construction of gender. The term "gender role" was coined by John Money in 1955 paper where he defined it as, "All those things that a person says or does - (socially) to disclose himself or herself as having the status of a boy or man, girl or woman." Feminists within the subfield study a wide range of topics with a variety of research methods, including things like race, class, culture,

religion, and sexuality, among others. It is society that makes women emotional and men rational. This binary division of language is socially constructed and is studied in the social field of gender studies.

### Psychology of identity (Gender psychology):-

The field of psychology deals with the human mind and its functions, especially those affecting their behavior in a given context. One school of thought commonly known as psychoanalyst - feminism focuses on how gender identity describes the individual's psychological perception of being male, female, neither, both, or

somewhere in between. This school of thought has its roots in Sigmund Freud's theory of psychoanalysis and Nancy - Chodorow propends this theory by arguing that gender identity is the result of a complex development that is related to the mental development process.

She believed that mothering promotes gender stereotype behavior.

"The mother is the early caregiver and primary source of identification with the mother."

(Nancy Chodorow)

**Gender And Economics  
(Economics in dealing with  
the division of labour):-**

"When women do better,  
economies do better."

(Christine Lagarde)

Economics is the social science that studies the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Unfortunately, the gender problems has remained unexplored. In the process of gender equality, economists need to admit that their discipline has a serious sex problems. Today's capitalism is exploiting women of all colors and races which needs a serious transformation of the gender-inclusive economic structure.

### Political Science In Understanding The Gender Politics:-

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

(Hillary Clinton)

Political science is the scientific study of politics and systems of governance. In 1976, Peter Merkel - observed that the field of comparative politics had been woefully deficient concerning the study of women. More 40 years ~~of~~ later, the study of women, and more broadly gender, in comparative - politics has flourished, becoming an important area of research. Contemporary statistics from ILO show that only 26 women are working as heads of the state. This field of study has focused on gender regimes and welfare state, state feminism, the formation and implementation of women friendly policies, and the influence of women's -

movements on policy debates.

Biology to find out the fundamental anatomical differences between - different sexes:

The study of living organisms is based on their anatomy, physiology, behavior, origin, and distribution. Gender identity is a multifactorial complex trait with a heritable polygenic component. This field of study determines what 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 protections for gender minorities.

## Gender History:-

Gender history is a sub-field of history and gender studies, which looks at the past from the perspective of gender. Initially, History was seen as "HIS STORY" and women were absent from social life. They were either considered in child-rearing or were absent from the literature. This discipline considers in what ways historical events and periodization 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 gender studies are more inclusive and encompass all genders. Additionally, gender study is a multidisciplinary subject that has its own identity while dealing with various with disciplines. The disciplines of sociology, psychology, economics, biology and history have their roots in gender studies. It is impossible to deal with these subjects comprehensively while ignoring the perspective of gender. Hence, gender studies is a multidisciplinary approach which deals with other subjects while maintaining its own identity.



## Question # 368 (2023)

Q. Write a note on status on gender studies in Pakistan. Give your views on the autonomy verses integration debate in gender studies?

### Status of Gender-Studies In Pakistan:-

Gender studies in Pakistan has gained importance, driven by increasing awareness of gender inequality and the influence of global feminist movements. According to Bowler and Klein, (Theories of Women's Studies), gender studies should challenge patriarchal structures and seek to transform societal norms. In Pakistan, this framework

has led to both development of autonomous programs and the integration of gender perspectives across disciplines

## 1. Education:-

Female literacy is at 63%, but only 48% in rural areas.

(Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, 2024)

## 2. Employment:-

Women's labour force participation is at 22.5%, limited by societal norms.

(World Bank, 2024)

## 3. Health:-

Maternal mortality is 173 per 100,000 live births, showing inadequate healthcare access.

(WHO, 2024)

## 4. Violence:-

Over 4,000 cases of violence against women were reported

in 2023.

(Aust Foundation, 2024)

## 5. Political Representation:-

Women hold 22% of National Assembly seats.

## 6. Legal Rights:-

Laws like the 2010 Harassment Act exist but are often inconsistently enforced.

## 7. Social Norms:-

Traditional gender roles continue to restrict women's freedoms.

## 8. Economy Dependency:-

About 55% of women rely financially on male family members.

(PBS, 2024)

## 9. Civic Engagement:-

Increased participation in NGOs is notable, contributing to advocacy efforts.

## 10. Media Representation:-

Women still face negative stereotypes, although progress is being made

### Differentiation

#### Autonomy

Bowles and Klein define autonomy in gender studies as the establishment of specialized programs that focuses on women's issues, allowing for in depth analysis and targeted advocacy against patriarchal structures.

#### Integration

Bowles and Klein define integration as incorporating gender perspectives across academic disciplines to enhance understanding of social issues and promote collaborative solutions for

	gender (studies) equality
1. Independence	Inter-dependence
2. Separationist (Lesbians wants isolation)	Integrationist
3. Revolutionary	Evolutionary
4. Moral (Political, social, economic, religious)	Collective - standards (Morality, Politics, Society, economy & religious)
5. Radical feminism	Liberal + post modern feminism
6. Can not change academia.	Can bring changes in academia.
7. Can not approach main stream - people.	Can approach main stream people.
8. Legal rights cannot be achieved	Legal rights can be achieved

9. 2nd Wave (Sexual, Dialectic of sex)	1st, 3rd Wave (Mary - Wollstonecraft)
10. Extremist + Disastrous + No mass - awareness	Moderate + Reformist + Mass awareness

## Authentic Examples And Case Studies:-

### 1. Mukhtar Mai Case (2002)

A landmark case that exposed systematic failures in the legal system and highlighted the need for focused gender studies.

### 2. Acid Survivors Foundation:-

Provides support for survivors of acid attacks, showcasing the necessity of gender specific -

advocacy.

### 3. Domestic Violence Bill (2020)

Legislative progress reveals the gap between policy and practice in protecting women's rights.

### 4. Bacha Bosh Phenomenon:-

A cultural practice that raises critical questions about gender identity and societal norms.

### 5. Fozia Vigar's Role:-

Her advocacy emphasizes the importance of both - autonomous and interested approaches in promoting gender equality.

## Conclusion:-

The status of gender studies in Pakistan is evolving, influenced by theories from Bowles and

Klein. The autonomy versus integration debate is crucial for shaping the field's future. Autonomous programs enable targeted research and advocacy, while integration ensures that gender issues permeate broader academic disciplines. Both approaches are essential for advancing gender equality and fostering societal change in Pakistan.