

Q:- Discuss in detail autonomy and integration debate in gender studies has an important contribution to development of field of knowledge.

### Introduction

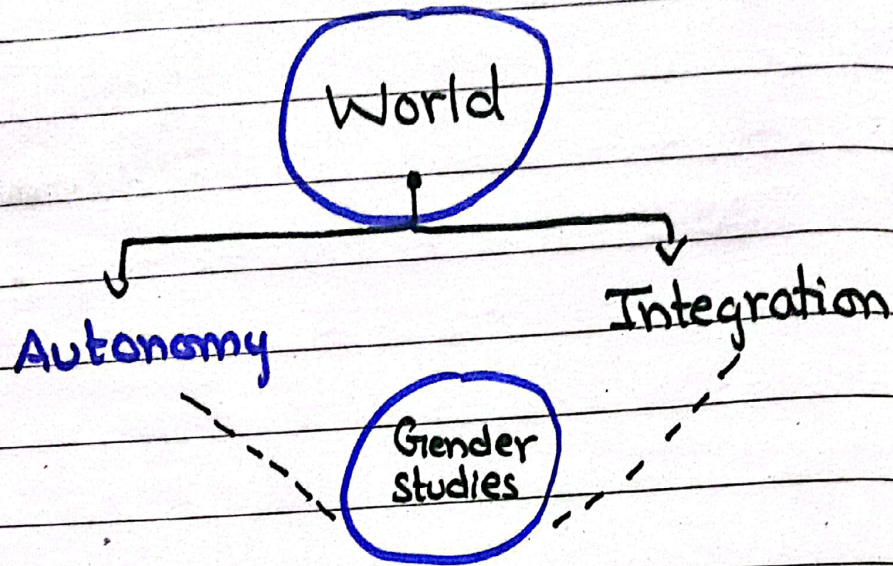
The autonomy and integration debate in gender studies has a long history. It began in 1980's from USA and then spread across the world. As, gender studies is multi-disciplinary in nature which sparks the debate of either introducing gender studies as a separate subject or incorporated it into other disciplines of knowledge.

**Max O Bar** said that "Gender studies is interdisciplinary as well as multidisciplinary."

This ongoing debate has played a crucial role in the development of the field of knowledge related to gender studies and created awareness among the people regarding the vast importance of gender studies in the world. Some people are in favour of autonomy of gender studies, while others support integration



of it into other disciplines like economics, sociology, psychology, law, anthropology, political science etc.



## Arguments in favour of Autonomy of Gender Studies

- 1) **Indepth Understanding of different:**  
Proponents argue that if gender studies is introduced as separate discipline, it will help in better understanding of different sexes. People can explore how social construction of gender impact men, women and inter sex. Their physical as well as mental conditions can be betterly evaluated that modifies their behaviour in

socially



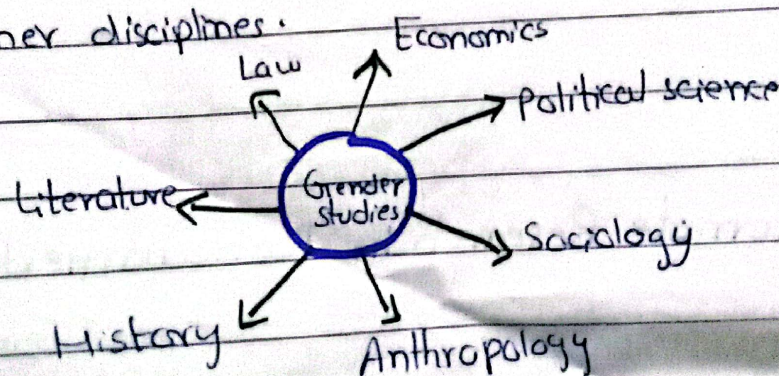
## 1) Only way for the Progress

Moreover, it is argued that as a separate discipline, gender studies can progress.

As, if it is embedded in any other discipline, it's will loss it's significance and true essence.

## 2) Development of Critical lens towards other Disciplines

Studying gender studies also helps in developing a critical lens for analyzing other disciplines. It can be found why women are paid less than men, how society and culture construct gender, why law doesnot provide appropriate legal cover to end domestic violence, what impedes women to enter and lead in political domain, why literature portrays women as weak segment of society etc. It will become easy for people to analyze other disciplines.





## 1) Foster Expertise in field

As an autonomous discipline, it can pave the way for promoting expertise in the field. People can do bachelors, masters or even Ph.D in the gender studies which will enhance the knowledge regarding different genders and their sufferings. More and more experts will be produced that can bring revolution in world through their thoughts, ideas and innovation in this field.

## 2) Enhance Public Engagement

Moreover, proponents argue that gender studies can enhance public engagement over the issues, impediments and bottlenecks that hinder societal progress. It can be done through seminars, trainings, public speeches, documentaries etc highlighting gender based issues imbedded deep in societal structure.

## 3) Promote Research in Particular field

As an autonomous discipline, research



Researches can be conducted on social construction of gender, wage gap, gender discrimination, consequences of gender inequality, causes of women suppression etc. It will laid the foundation of knowledge for future generation.

## Arguments in favour of Integration Approach

### 1) Insights from other Disciplines

Introducing gender studies as part of other discipline can help to draw insights from other disciplines in it. It can make gender studies easy to understand. As in economics, it is studied that how wealth is produced, consumed and distributed. It helps in understanding the differences in man, woman participation in economic activities, as well as the reasons which compel people to pay less to woman than man.

In anthropology, human being and influence of different cultures on them are studied.

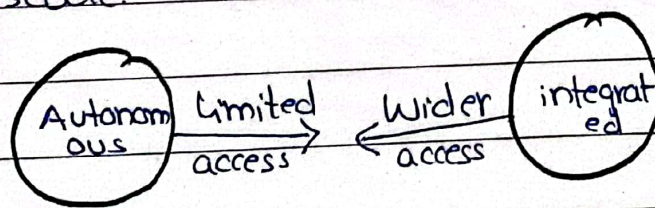
It helps in gender studies in analyzing



different perspectives of genders in various cultures. As in Pakistan, inter sex marriage is prohibited but allowed in European countries. In this way, gender studies will flourish through insights from other disciplines.

### •) Greater Outreach of Gender Studies

As an integrated subject, its access to students can be increased. As whatever subject, students chose, they will get the knowledge of gender studies. It will enhance knowledge about gender related issues on a wider scale.



### •) Develops Problem Solving Oriented Approach

As an integrated discipline, when more and more people come across the problems related to genders, they can easily take steps in resolving them by applying knowledge of their main fields.



## Give rise to Critical Thinking

It will promote critical thinking in people which helps them in future.

As if law student is aware of gender based issues like discrimination, domestic violence, limited freedom to women etc, then they can be able to defend the right

person in field of law.

## Gender Studies - Related to Human Beings - Difficult to Study Separately

As gender studies is related to the behaviours, perceptions, attitudes etc of human beings. So, studying it separately from other disciplines will not be beneficial. As, human behaviour is influenced by economic, social, political, cultural, historical etc factors. These factors shape individual mindsets and perceptions. So, if it is integrated into other disciplines, it will become



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easy to understand it in a befitting manner.

## Conclusion

The debate of autonomy and integration of gender studies has led to the development of this field of knowledge.

Proponents of both sides advocate their stances for defending their perspective.

In this quest, world has become more familiar with gender studies, its essence and foundation. This

debate has no end but has done best for development of gender studies across the world.