

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

Exordium

Gender studies is a multidisciplinary subject incorporating all gender and demanding for their rights. Gender studies and women studies are often confused in their meaning but these are different in their scope. 'Women studies' is predecessor of 'Gender studies'. This concept is well defined by Catherine Orr in her work, 'Rethinking Women and Gender studies'. Gender studies can not be understood in isolation it is a vast subject and multidisciplinary in nature.

⇒ Difference between women studies and gender studies.

Gender studies investigate the actual (physical and biological) differences among two genders, male

and female and critically examining how these differences are translated into socio-cultural context. Whereas, women studies include the studies of feminism, women, gender and politics. Women studies refer to the practice and theory of women study and teaching in academy.

Women studies

Gender studies

Women studies focus on the achievement, sufferings and contribution of women in history.

Gender studies focus on the gender roles, gender rights and gender equality.

1) Scope: Women studies is limited in scope as it focused on women rights only.

Scope: Gender studies focused on all genders and vote for their equality so it is vast in scope.

2) History / origin: Women studies is a result of second wave of feminism in (1960-1980). It is the predecessor

History / origin: Gender studies is a result of third wave of feminism in 1980s and 1990s. It is the

of Gender studies

successor of women studies.

1) Goal: The goal of women studies is to highlight plight of women and their achievements and contributions.

Goal: The goal of gender studies is to highlight marginalization of gender and demand for their equality.

2) Target: Women studies targetted patriarchy and suppression of women. They emphasize on liberty and freedom of women.

Target: Gender studies targetted social construction of gender and criticize the social standards of masculinity and femininity.

3) ~~More~~ Less inclusive: It is less inclusive and focused only women

More inclusive: It is more inclusive because explore oppression of all gender including male, female, LGBTQ.

4) Theories: These incorporate theories of feminism and 'women in development' and women

Theories: It incorporates theories like Queer theory, liberal theory and psychoanalytic

and development?

Women studies is only related to females and votes for their liberty.

Women is subjugated in all field of life because of her gender

theory.

Gender studies includes all genders and focuses on gender equality.

Because they are socially constructed via societal norms.

⇒ Multidisciplinary nature of gender studies

Gender studies is a multidisciplinary subject as it emphasises on all gender and how their roles are incorporated through social construction.

Michael S Kimmel defines in her book 'Sex and Gender: The Development of Masculinity and Femininity', that gender is a social construct with masculinity and femininity traits.

Gender studies is a social subject and deals with real life so it is linked with most of the practical subjects. Gender studies have relation with biology, sociology,

psychology, history and political science.

a) Gender in Literature:

Literature has played the most vital role in establishing gender and blurring the biological construct of male and female. Literature made them social phenomena as men and women. In literature, not only male but female writers also constructed gender. Jane Austen in 'Pride and Prejudice' emphasised the idea that, 'Marriage is an ultimate goal of female'. 'The Odyssey' expounds a woman as irrational as because of a girl 'Helen of Troy' there was a ~~3~~^{war} ^{for} years. Virgil in 'Aeneid' also depicted women standard of acceptability. In this work, hero chooses a girl which is confirmative and did not choose the one who asked for her rights. These works taught women how to behave to be acceptable in society.

However, in present times literature is contributing and has contributed for changing this social constructs. Now women is heroes in many works. The feminism ⁱⁿ literature has been started by 'Nora' who slapped the door of patriarchy in 'A Doll's House' by Henrik Ibsen. Moreover, now women know their worth as Maya Angelou writes 'Phenomenal woman. That's me.'

b) Psychology

Gender is linked with psychology because psychology is defected with wrong interpretation of gender. The psychology of male and female is constructed in a way the woman must be subjugated by male members. Sigmund Freud in 'The Interpretation of Dream' (1900), laid the foundation of how our psychology work. Freud gave the concept of 'Phallus envy'. He argued women are jealous of men.

and man has right to dominate women. In contrast, the concept of 'womb envy' emerged. It focused that males are jealous of female power to give birth to new human being.

c) Political science:

Through out the history women is mentioned very rarely in history. In recorded history from city-states of 'Athens', only male had the right to vote. The contributions of females are always ignored. Women came into mainstream mainly during WWI^{and} II. But, it is not a sudden progress but a long journey of centuries. Women is now working in mainstream in politics. The most powerful and influential female leaders of today are, Georgia Meloni PM of Italy, Tsai Ing-wen President of Taiwan and Maryam

navaz CM of Punjab.

1) Gender in Media

Media further engraved the social construction of gender.

There is always a pretty female in advertisement to reinforce the idea that women are only for pleasure of males. Dramas, Movies, and series even glorified those male member who are showing masculine and patriarchal traits. They reinforce subjugation of females.

Denouement

Gender studies and women studies are two distinct disciplines but there is need to add these disciplines with other subjects. Gender studies is multidisciplinary in nature and it must be added in outline of other subjects to make them aware of gender equality. In a nutshell, gender studies is different from women studies but multidisciplinary in nature.