

**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 as 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.
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- Scope: Women studies is limited in scope as it focused on women rights only.
- Scope: Gender studies focused on all genders and work for their equality so it is vast in scope.

- History / origin: Women studies is a result of second wave of feminism in (1960 - 1970) It is the predecessor.
- History / origin: Gender studies is a result of third wave of feminism in 1980s, and 1990s. It is the

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of Gender studies successor of women studies.

i) Goal: The goal of women studies is to highlight plight of women and their achievements and contributions. The goal of gender studies is to highlight marginalisation of gender and demand for their equality.

ii) Target: Women studies targetted patriarchy and oppression of women. They emphasize and criticize the on liberty and freedom of women. Target: Gender studies targetted social construction of gender social standards of masculinity and femininity.

iii) <sup>Less</sup> ~~More~~ inclusive: It is less inclusive and more inclusive because it focused only on women. It explores oppression of all gender including male, female, LGBTQ.

iv) Theories: These incorporate theories of feminism and women in development and women theories like queer theory, liberal theory and psychoanalytic

and development? theory.

Women studies is only Gender studies includes related to females and all genders and focuses voted for their liberty on gender equality.

Women is subjugated Because they are socially in all field of life constructed via societal because of her gender norms.

### ⇒ Multidisciplinary nature of gender studies,

Gender studies is a multidisciplinary subject as it emphasizes on all gender and how their roles are incorporated through social construction. Michael S Kibbel defines in her book 'Sex and Gender: The Development of Masculinity and Femininity', that gender is a social constructed 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.

use specific and self explanatory headings.

### 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 then social phenomenon as men and women. In literature, not only male but female writers also constructed gender. Jane Austin in 'Pride and Prejudice' emphasized the idea that, 'Marriage is an ultimate goal of female'. 'The odyssey' explains a woman is irrational because of a girl 'helen of troy' there was a <sup>for</sup> ~~30~~ war 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 <sup>wh</sup> asks for her rights. These works taught women how to behave to be acceptable in society.

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However, in present times literature is contributing and has contributed for changing this social constructs.

Now women is heros 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** leave a line space between headings for neatness.

Gender is linked with psychology because psychology is affected 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 Dreams' (1900), laid the foundation of how our psychology work. Freud gave the concept of 'Phallic envy'. He argued women are jealous of male

and man has right to dominate women. In contrast, the concept of 'womb envy' emerged. It found 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 main-stream mainly during <sup>and</sup> WWI & II. But, it is not a sudden progress but a long journey of centuries.

Women is now working in main-stream 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

NAWAZ CM of Punjab.

### a) 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 basticized those male member who are showing masculine and patriarchal traits. They reinforce subjugation of females.

### Development

Gender studies and women studies are two distinct discipline 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.