

Gender Studies

Qno:1

Define the discipline of gender studies and differentiate it from women studies.

1. Introduction

Gender studies is an interdisciplinary field that deals with the socially constructed norms of gender subjected to male and female. It deals more with the idea that gender and its norms are more socially constructed rather than biological while women studies is an academic discipline specific to feminism, women rights and issues related with women in our society. But are interdisciplinary fields but differ in their nature and objectives. In simple words, gender studies related to men, women and other genders while women studies is the only study of women related issues.

2. Defining gender studies:

An interdisciplinary field that specifically deals with social construction of gender roles and objectification of male and female on the basis of their gender.

3. Core concept of gender studies

An academic discipline that deals with the understanding of gender, irrespective of societal norms, traditions, culture and sex. Core concept of gender studies lies in the concept that gender is an individual and personal decision without any societal or cultural enforcement. Gender studies roots back to the belief that choosing and living a specific gender is independent choice of every individual. It collectively deals with rights and duties of all the present genders irrespective of their sex.

4. Objectives of gender studies

Gender studies was developed as an independent academic field in 1980s during the third wave of feminism. It raises the slogan for the equal opportunities and rights for all the genders. It protects the rights of all genders by providing them equal share in class, society, culture, academia and career and in decision making.

5. Defining women studies

Women studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that specifically deals with feminism, women's rights, women related issues and working to provide a better environment for all the women around.

6. Core concept of women studies

The nature of this subject is women centric. The core concept of women studies is to liberate the rights of women and their protection as an individual. The subject deals to stand for women as an individual irrespective of the roles assigned by society to women. It educates and awares the society about what it means to be a women in gender-oriented and conservative society.

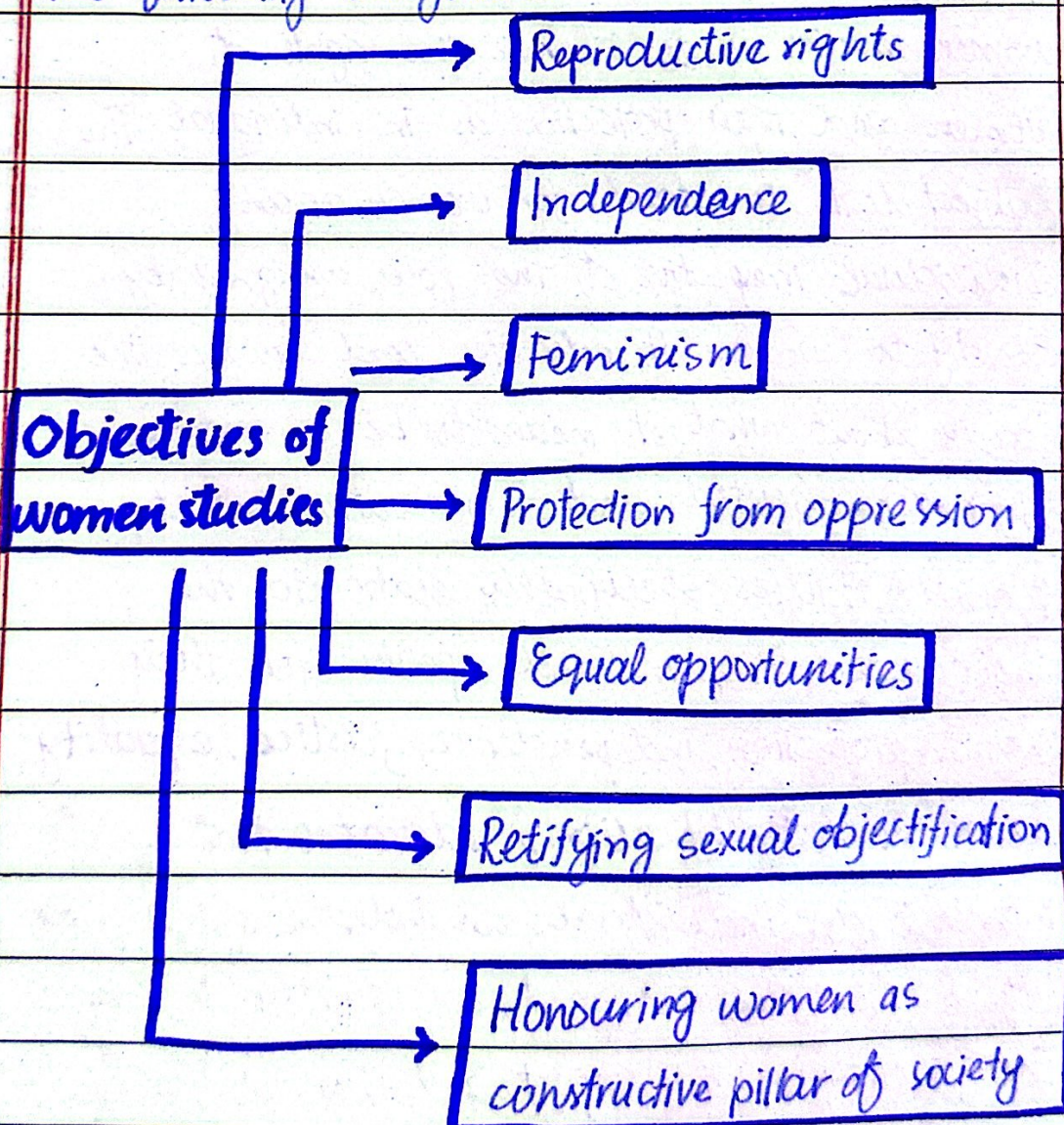
Women studies specifically elaborates the importance of women and speaks for their rights, protection, independence, justice, equality and sexual objectification. It educates that a women is an individual, an independent human before the roles assigned by society to her. The society must respect and honour the women for just being a women irrespective of her socially constructed role.

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7. Objectives of women studies

Women studies was developed as an academic field during the first and second wave of feminism after the destruction of world war-II. It was first offered as a masters degree in 1980s in University of Kent. The objectives of women studies can be understood by the following diagram:



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8. How (women) gender studies differ from women studies?

Gender studies and women studies differ in their nature and objectives. Infact gender studies was developed as a result of women studies during the 3rd wave of feminism. Gender studies deals with social construction of gender roles, women studies and men studies. In contrast to this women studies is only women oriented and deals with the feminism and rights of women. Women studies stand for the social liberty and honour of women while gender studies stand for the liberty of all genders irrespective of their biological sex. Gender studies is an open and liberal domain and accepts all the genders while women studies is specific to only one gender. Gender studies says that gender is assigned by society and not by nature. Thus, every gender has liberty to live an independent and judgement free life while women studies says that women are the honoured part of society and must not be sexually objectified. This is how gender studies differ from women studies.

9. Conclusion

In a retrospect, gender studies and women studies are two completely different fields. Both the disciplines have contrasting nature. Gender studies is a more broader concept and stands for all the genders while women studies is a narrow concept and liberates only the rights of women. Both studies play a crucial role in construction of our studies but must not be considered as one. The history, nature and objectives of both disciplines is different from each other.