

Gender Studies

(Question)

Write a note on Status of Gender Studies in Pakistan. Give your views on autonomy versus integration debate in gender studies.

(Answer)

1. Introduction

Gender Studies explores how gender shapes identities, social roles, and power relations in society. It examines the intersections of gender with class, race, sexuality, and culture to understand inequality and social change. Besides, the status of gender studies in Pakistan to introduce gender studies to make women visible and protect their rights in society. Moreover, status of gender studies in Pakistan create alternative concept, approaches and strategies for national developments and an active participation of women.

2. Status of gender Studies in Pakistan

Social Studies in Pakistan

as a social discipline within women's movement and feminist struggles regard across the globe over the last two centuries.

Women got their rights through different movement and participation in educational and working departments. There are different institutions in Pakistan which are serving for the women education.

(i) Establishment of Center of Excellence for Gender Studies (CEWS)

To introduce the discipline in the country "Establishment of Center of Excellence for Gender Studies" was established as a project in 1989 by the ministry of women development. This project included educational development in gender studies like first M.A Gender Studies and Women Studies began in 1996 at the University of Karachi.

(ii) Ministry of Women Development (MOWD)

MOWD is committed to the overall development of women including their education. The aims and objective to enhance women's literacy rates, improve attainment level of women at all educational levels, to reduce gender gap.

(iii) National Commission On the Status of Women (NCSW)

NCSW also aims to encouraging the generation of information, analysis and studies relating to women and gender issues. This institution has thus integrally related the status of women studies as a discipline and has a strong base in activism and implementation.

3. Status of Gender Studies in education

After the waves of

feminism, Some countries Successfully got their gender rights. In 1989, the Ministry of women's Development established women Studies centers in five universities initially as a five year project. These establishments such as Women's Studies Department at Allama Iqbal Open University, Women's Research and Resource Center at the Fatima jinnah Women University Rawalpindi. They work for the reorientation of existing curricula to include knowledge on women and contributions for female writers.

4- Research and publications on gender Studies in Pakistan

Research and publications on gender Studies in Pakistan work for the rights and issues on women in Society. Such as Alam-e-Niswan publish research on local gender issues. It is contributing to the body of knowledge and raising awareness. Besides, the (CEWS) at Karachi Universities also completed many major and

minor studies on socio-economic, legal, health and environment issues.

5. Professional Associations of gender Studies in Pakistan

The idea of first setting up a Pakistan women's Studies Association conceived by Sabheeha Hafeez in 1987.

The aim of this institution to provide the rights of women in policy making, programmers, and NGO's teachers. In 1992

"Pakistan women Studies Association" was set up by the Tahira Aftab, Professor of history and Director of CEWS of Karachi University.

6. Current Status of gender Studies in Pakistan

The current status of gender studies in Pakistan in different institution and association providing knowledge and their vision in different

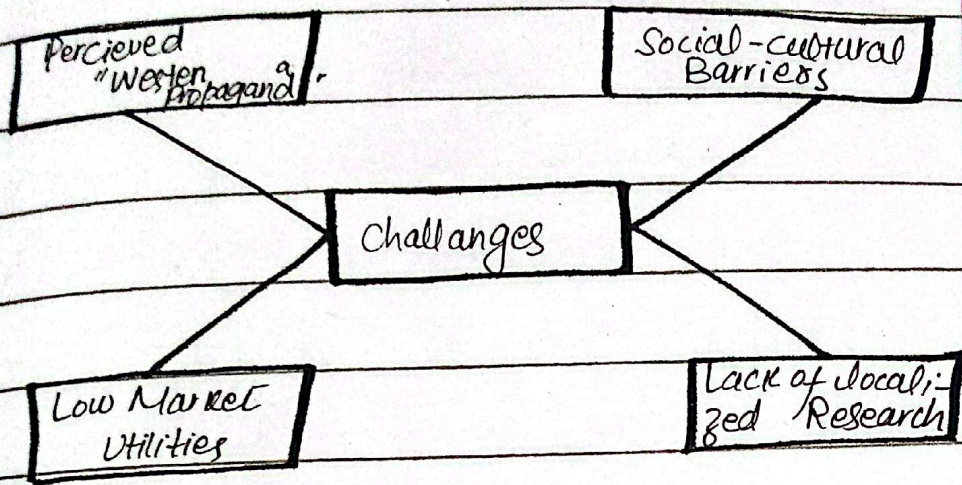
way. Gender Studies has moved from a five-year project to a well-established discipline offered at various national universities. And now most of the universities offering PhD programmes in Gender Studies. Moreover, The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and government bodies have historically supported the field and also provide the gender studies subject as an optional in "civil services" exams.

7 Challenges in the way of gender Studies Status in Pakistan

Gender Studies in Pakistan has evolved into an established academic discipline since its formal introduction as a project in 1989, though it continues to face significant challenges related to socio-economic norms, funding, lack of local research. These challenges facing several hurdles in the progress of Gender Studies.

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M T W T F S



Autonomy vs Integration

Autonomy refers the ability of individuals or group to make decisions independently, govern themselves, and act according to their own choices. On the other hand, integration efforts for women ability to have control over their bodies, choices, lives and identities.

Autonomy vs Integration in Gender Studies

Scholars of women Studies have been debating questions of

inter-disciplinary and autonomy vs integration
Since at least the first national women's
studies association conference of 1979. This
debate have significant bearing on
questions about the efficacy and pur-
pose also value of electoral women
degree to the field and to the intent
and normative directive of the field
more broadly

(i) France Howe "Integration"

France Howe wrot^e
that women's studies now has two strategies.
with integration the ultimate one. women
is not ready for integration into "mainstre^m"
department. because it is too focus on
white, middle class, heterosexual etc.

(ii) Renate Duelli Klein "Autonomy"

Renate Duelli Klein
argue for maintaining and independent
of women in gender studies discipline:
into preserve a feminist perspective

ensure focused research, and foster activism where autonomy helps maintain a strong connection between women and theory with real world activism for social change.

Conclusion

Gender Studies in Pakistan

works for the vision and role of women.

It is growing through dedication of university departments, research centers and activism.

The autonomy vs integration debate^s question whether gender studies should exist as an independent discipline or be embedded across all fields for broader impact.

A balanced view suggests maintaining autonomous spaces for critical scholarship while integrating gender perspective across discipline to ensure wider societal transformation.