

~~introduction of gender studies~~

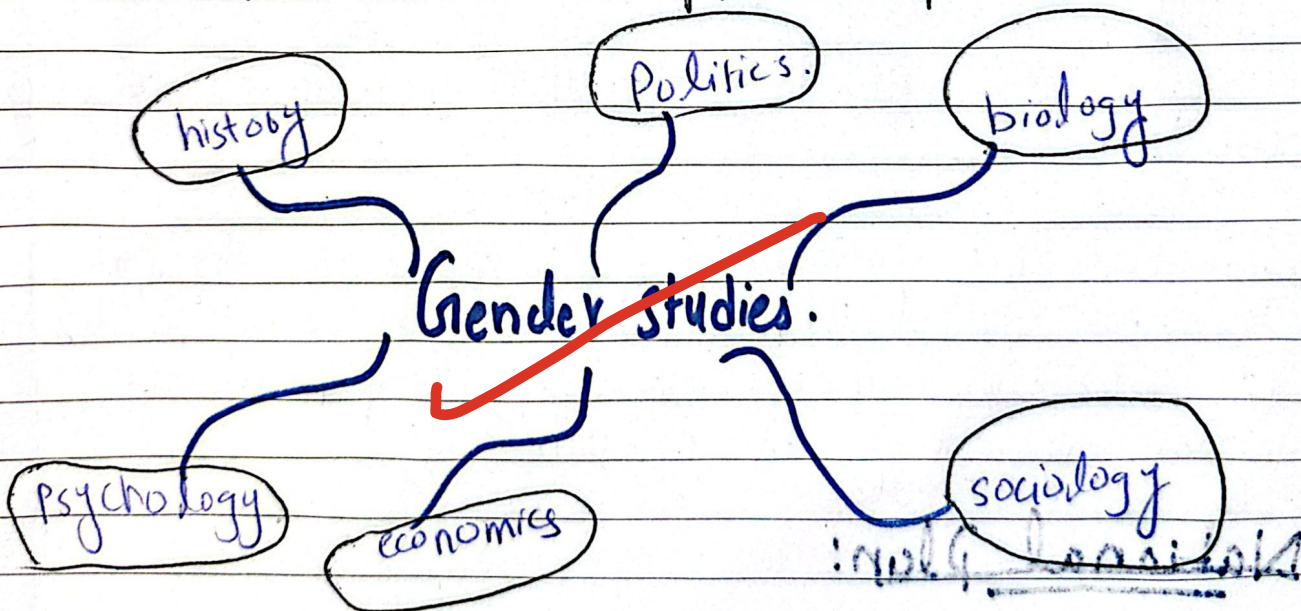
Write a note on gender studies in Pakistan. Your views on autonomy vs integration debate?

Introduction

~~introduction of gender studies~~

Gender studies is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary in nature. Gender studies crosses the boundary of its own discipline and covers several disciplines like economics, politics, biology, history, sociology, and psychology.

"Gender studies is primarily studies of different genders, their respective roles in society, their relationship with each other, their role in socio-economic and political spheres". (colorado.edu).



Status of gender studies in Pakistan:

According to WEF (World Economic Forum) global gender report, 2025, ranked Pakistan 148th out of 158th countries in gender inequality index.

The average opportunities and rights to women are 56.7% compared to men in Pakistan.

Emergence of gender studies in Pakistan:

The Ministry of women development decided in 1989 to establish five universities of centers of excellence for women studies in Pakistan.

The centers are located in:

- i) Lahore
- ii) Islamabad.
- iii) Karachi
- iv) Quetta
- v) Peshawar.

The focus and objective of these centers are following below.

- i) Promote and introduce women studies discipline.
- ii) To enhance and improve research on women studies.
- iii) To critically evaluate the factors responsible for gender inequality in Pakistan.

National Plan:

The National plan for women studies was endorsed

by the government in 1998. The plan recommended to promote gender studies field in public and private sectors and to fund those sectors.

Status of Women Studies in Pakistan:

↳ Research in Allama Iqbal Open University: (1989).

Allama Iqbal Open University introduced the course of MSc in distance learning program in women studies.

↳ Women Research and Resources center at Fatima Jinnah Open University, Rawalpindi: (1999)

F.J.O.U offers various types of courses on women studies including bsc and MSc.

↳ Center of Excellence for women studies program at Karachi University.

In 1994 and 1992 university offered two certificate courses.

In 1996, university offers a two years program in MSc.

↳ The gender and development studies department at LCU: (2004)

Inculcating awareness, assertiveness, and self-confidence

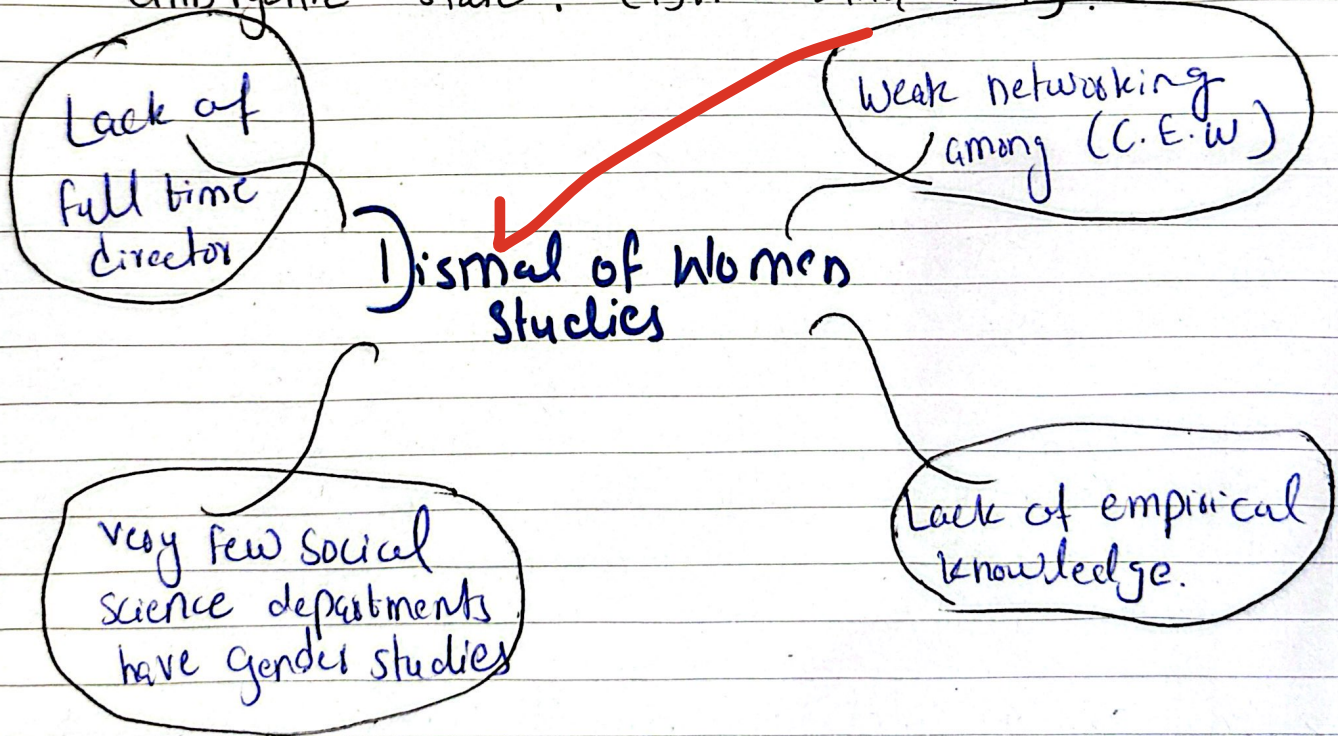
in the students.

The university offers courses in BSc, MSc, MPhil and PhD.

"Women studies can be instrumental in improving ~~the~~ understanding of ~~what?~~ gender inequalities in context of Pakistan". (Dr. Farzana Bari).

Dismal State of Women studies in Pakistan:

"Despite some endeavours in different sectors to establish women studies as a learning discipline, women studies is still in its embryonic state". (Dr. Farzana Bari).



Autonomy Vs Integration debate:

Introduction: single introduction is enough for a single qs

The autonomy vs integration debate was a central flashpoint in the history of gender studies, embarked in 1980s. The folks on autonomy side argues that women studies should segregate from other disciplines, whereas folks on integration side wants women studies to be merged with other discipline for holistic understanding of women studies.

Autonomy perspective:

The autonomist asserts that women studies should be independent discipline, as if it is taught with other discipline it loses its importance.

The other point, they stress on is that if same minded people are in the same room, they can generate different ideas to help promote the discipline.

"Women's role in society cannot be fully understood without taking other social variables into account. The role of men in society, culture, and religion influence the role of women in society, culture, and religion. (Opponents of autonomy).

discuss these parts in more detail by giving multiple subheadings.

Integration perspective: interdisciplinary vs multidisciplinary

The integrationist calls for merging different ~~interdisciplinary~~ discipline into women studies, as it provides the holistic view of Women studies.

According to integrationist perspective, if women studies is taught as a separate discipline it undermines its importance. Because it only focus on women related problems.

"Women studies had two strategies, integration being the ultimate one". (Howe).

My views on Autonomy vs Integration debate:

In my opinion, integration of Women studies is the best approach, as it is helpful in understanding different genders as well. Therefore, embedding women studies with other discipline can contribute significantly in field of gender studies.

"The integration of gender perspective across all discipline and policies, remains the most effective approach to promote equality". (UN, Economic and social council).

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages.

end the answer with conclusion.

Q2: attempt and upload a single qs for evaluation at a time.

Write note on following.

- i) Is Sex Socially constructed too?
- ii) Radical feminism.

a) Is Sex Socially constructed?

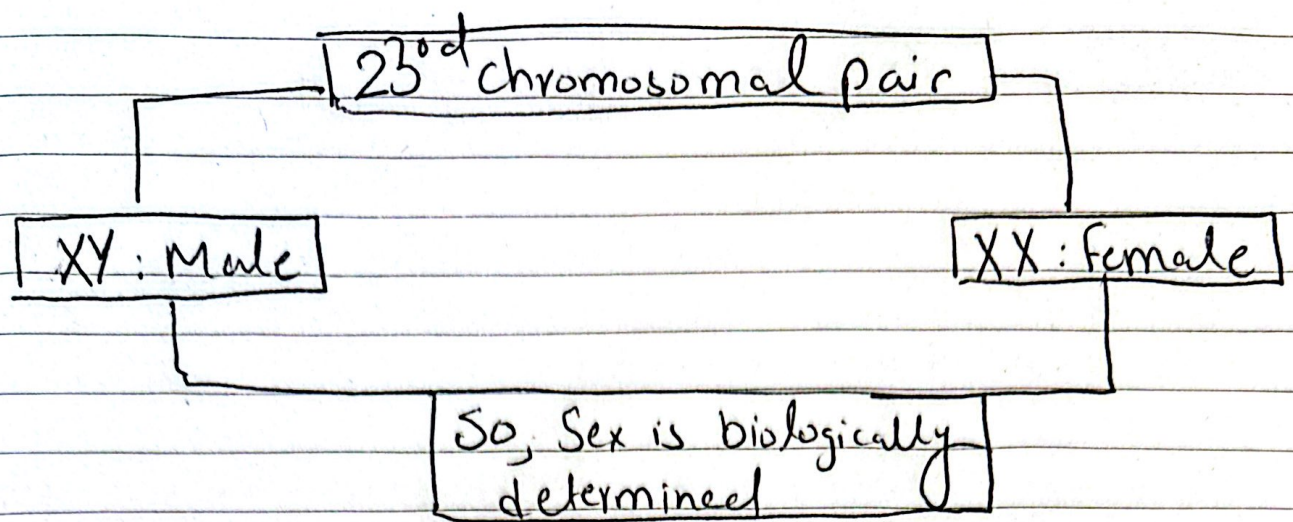
Introduction:

A commonly held notions says that "Gender is social and sex is biological". Generally, the answer of question, is sex also socially constructed is no. But, if we review this, in light of gender studies, then the answer may be as even yes.

"Even biological sex categories are shaped by social and biological/scientific processes". (Fausto-Sterling, 2000).

Biological Basis for Sex:

People who believes that sex is solely determined by biological basis, contend that sex is solely determined by the pairing of 23rd chromosomal pair. The situation is illustrated in flow chart below.



How Sex is Socially determined?

- i) Nutrition and Exercise play a vital role in effecting Psychological changes:

It is widely accepted that nutrition plays a crucial role in shaping psychological amenities in human. Women, owing to patriarchy and gender inequality, do not have access to adequate nutrition. The lack of food leads to their smaller sizes.

"Uniformity in muscular shape, size, and strength within sex categories is not stem entirely by biological factors".
(Stanford.org).

- ii) Sexual characteristic are not clear-cut:

"Around 17% of the population failed to fall within the usual sex categories, possessing various combination of different sex". (Sterling).

She grouped inter sexual individuals into following classifications:

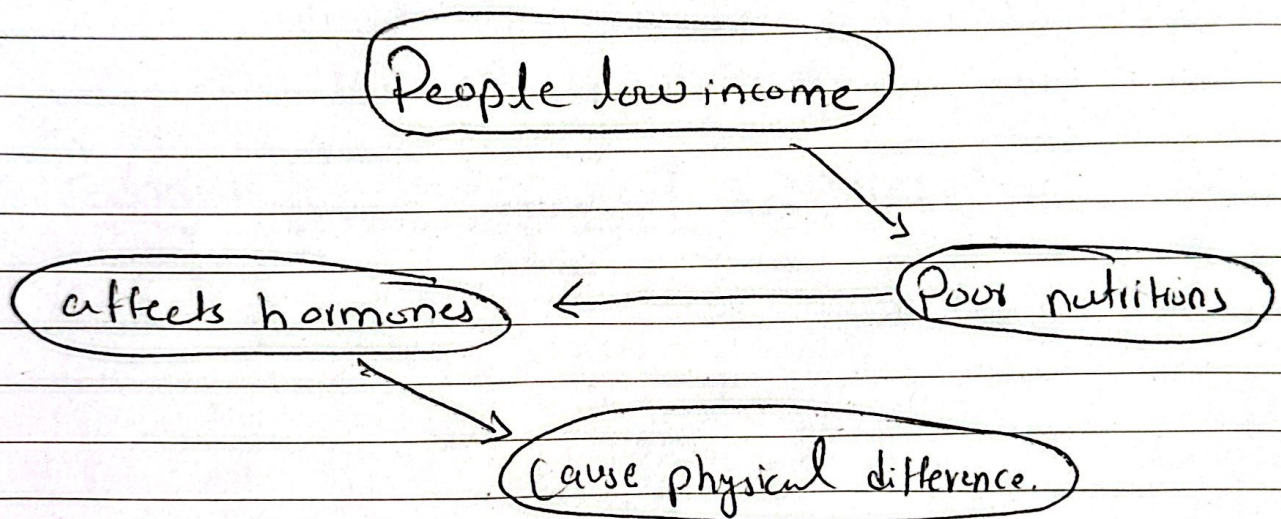
Hermes: One testis one ovary.

Merms: have testies and some female traits.

Ferms: have ovaries and some male traits.

iii) Socio-Economic factors:

Socio-Economic factors plays vital role in shaping physical characteristics. Dearth of medical resources may induce female physical characteristics in men.



Case studies:

Dr. Sara Gill: (Pakistan's first transgender doctor)

She completed her Mbbs from Jinnah medical college, karachi. But faced massive discrimination and rejection during her education tenure, because of her gender identity. (BBC, 2022).

Radical Feminism:

Introduction:

Radical feminism argues that patriarchy is the root cause for women's oppression.

"The threat of violence and rape, is the way patriarchy controls women". (Judith Lorber).

According to Lorber, patriarchy is very difficult to eradicate, because of its roots, that women are inferior to men are profoundly embedded in most men's consciousness.

Patriarchy and social spheres:

Patriarchy exist in every social spheres of life:

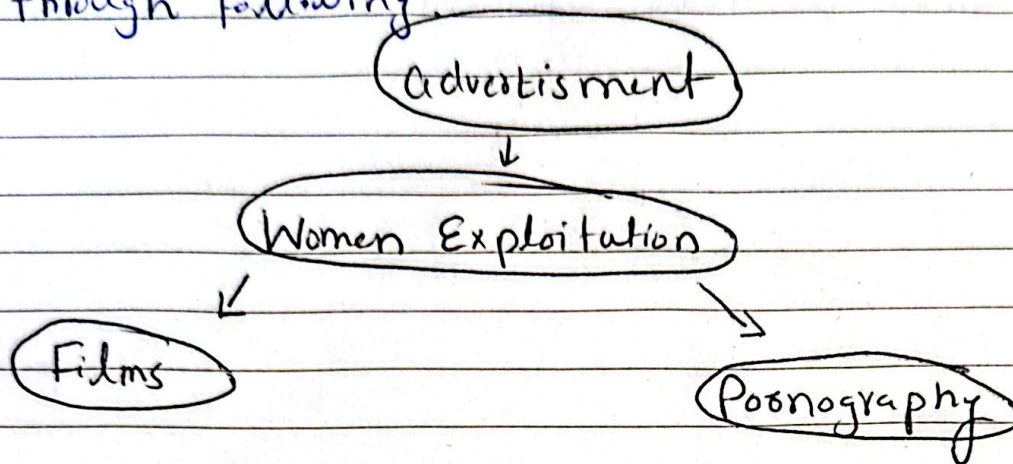
- Society.
- Family.
- Culture.
- Religion.

Men employ violence and psychological control to maintain their dominance.

For instance, women changes her titles from 'Miss' to 'Mrs' after her marriage, that creates an image for women that, they are inferior and they need someone to depend on for rest of their life.

Patriarchy and Economic Exploitation:

Radical feminist argues that women's should be completely segregated by men's influence. They propose that women are exploited through following.



Radical feminist thoughts that women are forced to be put into prostitution for men's profit.

Solutions for Women Emancipation:

- i) There should be formation of non-hierarchical women-only spaces.
- ii) Build health and support centers for women, who are victims of rape.
- iii) Obliterate pornography, prostitution, and other exploitative practices.

Success of Radical feminism:

Radical feminism plays a vital role in success of women in socio-economic and political spheres of life. Due to radical feminism, following are the actions undertaken:

Contributions of Radical feminism

- i) Formation of women only consciousness groups.
- ii) Radical feminism leads to development of women studies programs in universities.
- iii) Radical feminism spread awareness and built unity among women's oppression.

Solution for women's empowerment:

Success of Radical feminism: