

Part 2

Q. No. 2

"Answer"

Status of gender
Studies In Pakistan.

A Historic View

In Pakistan, women's issues got much attention in the 1970s due to the sincere efforts of some committed feminists of that time. To introduce the discipline in the country, the Center of Excellence for Gender Studies was established as a project in 1989 by the (Country) Ministry of women's

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Development. The ministry of women's studies and development in Pakistan is committed to the overall development of women, including their education. The ministry includes the particular aims and object of enhancing the status of women through efforts in the field of gender studies.

Core Aims And objectives.

- (1) To enhance women's literacy rate.
- (2) To reduce the gender gap by re-orienting the curricula and making them gender sensitive.
- (3) Encouraging the generation of information.
- (4) Improving the analysis and studies related to women and gender issue.
- (5) Generating awareness among the masses about the real concept of equality.

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- (6) Critical examination of all the factors which are responsible for rendering women invisible in Meritful investigation and development.
- (7) creating awareness of women's issues.
- (8) Development of introductory courses for the students of the universities.

Investing in the Plan of Action to Promote Gender Studies As a Subject

The Plan of action was endorsed by the government of Pakistan. In 1989, the women's development division issued a 5-year plan to make gender studies a possible academic subject under this initiative. In this plan, it was laid that gender studies will be a

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Studies in the field of

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but

Proper subject in academic bio that women can be made more visible.

Initiative under the Curriculum Revision

Committee: The curriculum revision committee was established to provide a number of recommendations through which way (study) gender studies is added as a subject in academic studies. Its recommendations include.

- 1- Addition of gender studies in competitive exams such as the civil services exam.
- 2) Active collaboration b/w different departments.
- 3) Under translation of the available materials on the gender studies.

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gender

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(4) The higher education Commission should create a special fund.

Centre of excellence for Women Studies:

The women's studies centres in Pakistan can be divided into the public sector, which is funded by the government, and the private sector, which is funded by international donors and other. In 1989, the ministry of women's development established women studies centres in numerous universities, initially as a five-year project. centres of excellence for women's studies were at the top of the list. It was established in 1989 at the University of Karachi with the aim of focusing on women's studies. The first MA programme in women's studies in Pakistan began in 1996 at the University of Karachi. In 2002, centres

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initiated MPhil and Ph.D Programs. In 2004, the discipline of Women Studies was introduced as a subsidiary course at the first year (hons) level.

Alam-e-Niswā - The
Cornerstone to gender
equality. Alam-e-Niswā is a research journal dedicated to raising awareness about women's issues and problems. It was first issued in 1994, and since then it has been published twice a year. Alam-e-Niswā demonstrates to be one of the cornerstones for making gender studies a subject available in Pakistani universities.

Efforts by Pakistan

Association for women's

Studies (PAWS)

The Pakistan Women's Association has also been working actively since its inception in 1891. Currently in Pakistan, at the university and doctoral level, women's and gender studies are flourishing swiftly. Many (local) local and government universities are offering gender studies to let people know about the problem of other genders and figure out the solution. Some of the universities that offer gender studies as a subject include -

- (1) Allama Iqbal open university
- (2) Fatima Jinnah university,
Rawalpindi
- (3) Quaid-e-Azam university,
Islamabad
- (4) University of Sindh

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Jamshoro

(5) University of Baluchistan

(6) University of Punjab.

"we realized the importance
of our voice when we are
silenced"

Malala Yousafzai

Autonomy Versus

Integration = Understanding

The Debate In Real

Meanings:

While dedicating how
to deal with women's
problem and the question of
the subordinate position of
women in society, two
streams of thought emerged
in society. These are the
concepts of autonomy.

versus integration. The thoughts had opposing views on how to approach studying women's issues. It was an important discussion about whether women's studies organizations should be independent units at university or whether they should be incorporated into the conventional discipline.

Opening the Debate on the Concept of Autonomy of the Gender Studies:

Autonomy in gender studies means keeping the discipline an independent field of study in universities and academia. The proponents of autonomy present staunch arguments for keeping gender studies in the autonomous field of study.

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Study women in Isolation

The advocates of the autonomous school of thought focused entirely and solely on the study of women. They believe that by studying just women, and bringing their problems to light, they will be more successful in empowering women. For them, studying women's issues through the lens of already existing norms and values is to diminish the importance of the predicaments faced by women.

The Only way to Progress

According to the proponents of gender studies, autonomy basically fosters the concept of separatism.

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They are of the stance that
"we can progress only if
we keep the field autonomous
and free of other (dis) disciplines".
They think that
by being free from the
influence of other subjects,
they will progress in a
better way.

The way Toward Radical tendencies:

The proponents of the
autonomous school of thought
have the perspective to harbor
radical tendencies in their
arguments. This is because
the autonomy perspective calls
for the complete isolation of
women's problems and a
complete end to patriarchal
norms. They demand a
complete change in the way
society operates.

One would better Examine The Problems of all genders:

Proponents of the autonomy debate argue that by studying genders for all years, one would be able to observe all genders step and daily life routine. This one would better examine the problems and difficulties associated with all genders.

Development of Professional Identity:

The autonomy of gender studies will create a professional identity for the students. They will be able to make independent decisions. An independent decision-making body is thought to be

important for legitimizing feminist scholarship and guaranteeing its future.

Women Studies - Treated

As a Separate discipline

Since the autonomy perspective wants to focus solely on women, they endorsed the discipline of women's studies. They believe that by studying history, history and society through the lens of discrimination against women, they will be able to help elevate the status of women. Women's studies programs are free to focus all of their energies on teaching and scholarship about women.

Opening the debate on

The Concept of the Integrative

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of the Gender Studies

Integration means incorporating. It means combining gender studies as an equivalent subject along with other subject. Proponents of gender integration studies present several arguments to make their stance strong.

(Gender) Outreach

of the Gender Studies:

The Proponent believe that by integrating the subject the subject will have gender outreach. A wide range of students (with) will read it, and students from various academic fields will be exposed to gender issues.

Incorporation of more means the incorporation

of big changes:

According to the proponents of integration, there is a need to bring about big changes in society related to gender and gender-based issues. These changes can only be brought about by integrating gender studies into other major disciplines.

Understanding of the Gender Issues by A Number of People:

The inculcation of gender studies in all the disciplines would let a lot of people study the problems of a different gender, they would come to know the problems associated with different genders, living, earning etc.

Best way to Compel the

Policy makers: Interactionists also argue that the incorporation of gender studies in any other major discipline is the only way to compel Policy makers to keep in mind gender while formulating a policy.

- also debate of
- Integration means intergration into the Social Fabric
 - Sensitize the masses about gender-discriminating Practices
 - will pave the way for students to do higher studies in gender

Point of Critique

At Present, most contend that autonomy and integration can coexist. Many other disciplines are studied as separate disciplines as well as in conjunction with other discipline. It will be difficult for students to decide whether to study it as a complete discipline or just to get through it,

but they will learn about the
major issues confronting all
genders in society

"It is both a discipline and
interdisciplinary field"

-Jan Fain O'Ba