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# Gender Studies

## Introduction,

Gender Studies is an academic discipline of studying gender. It differs from Women Studies in its basis of knowledge. Besides, there is a debate of autonomy versus integration debate in Gender Studies. The debate has two contrasting arguments. One of which advocates for studying gender studies as an independent subject. But, the other side supports educating gender studies under other social sciences. Hence, gender studies is a broader field to study every gender in different perspectives.

## Gender Studies vs Women Studies

Gender and Women Studies are the two

academic disciplines. They differ from each other in their basis of knowledge. Their fundamental differences may be discussed as below:

⇒ Subject Matter:

The subject matter of gender studies is all types of gender. It may include man, women, transgender and other possible genders.

However, women studies only focuses upon women. Its subject matter is entirely dependent upon women.

⇒ Studying Queer Theory:

Gender studies include study of Queer theory. The ~~person~~ fundamentals of this theory are very basic to gender studies. In contrast, women studies do not include Queer theory in its discipline.

⇒ Approach.

Gender and Women Studies vary in their approach, Women Studies is narrow in its approach. It only deals with the issues of women. On the other hand, gender studies pertain a broad approach. It encompasses all genders in its domain.

⇒ Research.

In gender studies, research is carried out on the problems of every gender. But, Women Studies has research oriented goal upon women and her issues.

⇒ Feminism

Women Studies is more feminist in its nature. It is the off-shoot of the second feminism. While, gender

Studies pertain a holistic approach to every gender's right. It was originated from the third wave of feminism.

Thus, gender studies and women studies differ from each other in various features.

## Autonomy vs Integration Debate

There is a debate to study gender studies. The debate of autonomy versus integration has two contrast arguments of studying gender studies.

Origin:

This concept was originated in 1980's. It has roots in women studies. In women studies feminists often argue upon the status of women studies. Either it

Should be studied separately or being integrated in other disciplines.

The debate:

Feminists have gotten some debate of studying <sup>Women</sup> gender studies into gender studies. The debate is discussed as below:

Autonomy of Gender Studies:

Studying gender studies as an independent subject is the arguments of supporters of its autonomy. They present their view that if gender studies is kept under other social sciences, its progress would be diminished. Furthermore, it would undermine its capability to generate new knowledge.

Hence, studying gender studies independently would enhance its progress and

development.

## Integration of Gender Studies.

The proponents of this idea supports integration of Gender Studies as a subfield in other social ~~so~~ sciences. They advocates for this idea on the basis of concept that gender is an integral part of an environment.

Gender is in relationship with its society, nature, politics, economy, philosophy and other sciences. Gender does not exist in an isolation. Thus, integration of Gender Studies in other sciences would give a comprehensive knowledge about gender.

## Conclusion:

Gender Studies focus upon studying all gender. However, women studies is limited to subject matter

Women only. Besides, there  
is a debate of autonomy  
and integration of gender.  
These two broader perspectives  
pertain contrasting  
ideas of progress and  
development of Gender  
Studies.

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# Women and Globalization.

## Introduction:

Globalization has affected a lot of things in the world. Women is also one of them. Within the past two decades, globalization has created a number of opportunities for women. In developing countries, it has revolutionized the women's lives. Nevertheless, globalization has set various challenges for women. Thus, addressing such problems, globalization would be able to have progressive impacts upon women.

## Impacts of Globalization on Women.

In universe, almost every entity has experienced the impact of globalization. Women also



See such impacts in their lives. The wave of globalization has changed the status of women in all walks of life. These are discussed as below:

## Social Impacts:

The foremost impact of the globalization is positive changes in the social affairs of women. These impacts are further enumerated as follows:

## Social Identity:

Women has seen crises in her identity due to patriarchal society. In developing nations, women have remained under the mercy of men. Their identity was based upon their men counterparts. It is due to the

fact that globalization trends and its related policies are often thought to be gender-neutral. Thus, due to globalization, society has recognized the role of women and her social identity.

### Employment Opportunities:

Globalization has created numerous job opportunities for women. It has enabled women to work in factories, offices, banking, research and other sectors.

In developing world, almost all odd thing thinkings against women workforce have been broken out. "The globalization has brought greater economic opportunities and autonomy to women".

(Women and Globalization an article by Syed Muhammed Sheh published by Pak institute of International Affairs). Thus, globalization!

# Recognition of women rights and roles.

Due to globalization women have achieved a special status in developing world. It has resulted in an increased role of women in a society. Women work in every sector by carrying out her responsibilities.

## Economic impacts:

Besides, social impacts globalization affects women in terms of economic affairs. Due to globalization, women start to work in different sectors. Moreover, technological advancement has enabled women to work in digital economy. In developing countries, women are seen working in those economies. There is an increased number of women in account ownerships. Thus, globalization has

Eliminated gender discrimination to some extent in developing world.

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# Gender based Violence.

## Introduction:

Gender based violence is any unwanted behaviour against a particular gender. It has various forms ranging from psychological to physical assault. The major forces behind the violence are socio-economic reasons. In Pakistani society domestic violence specifically against women is the most common form of gender based violence. However, with due responsibility and an effective measures it might be minimized.

Definition:

It is a violence that is ~~ind~~ directed at an individual on the basis of his or her gender identity. It includes physical, verbal, psychological, economic or social abuse of any gender. (Definition of gender-based violence by womenforwomen.org)

Thus, gender based violence is an inappropriate behaviours against any gender.

### Forms of Gender based Violence.

There are various forms of gender-based violence. These are,

#### Physical Violence

The violence against a gender which affects him/her physically is called a physical violence.

It include beating, burning, kicking, genital mutilation, punching or choking. Thus, physical violence arises from aggression results in injury or other harm to a specific gender.

### Economic Violence

The violence in which a gender is deprived of his or her economic rights is called an economic violence. It includes, denying of inheritance, employment, ownership of property and so on.

### Psychological Violence

The violence which affects mental health of a person due to his gender is known as psychological gender based violence. It includes bullying, shame, verbal abuse, threats and controlling the emotions of .

a gender.

## Domestic Violence

It is a violence carried out in homes. It may include other forms of violence against gender. It mainly affects women in her domestic lives.

## Sexual Violence

The violence which adversely impacts upon sexual lives of a gender is known as sexual violence. It includes harassment, rape, forced prostitution, unprotected sex and forced marriage.

## Gender - based Violence in Pakistan.

Gender - based violence is a common practice in Pakistan. It is mainly carried out against women. Thus, domestic violence prevails in the Pakistanis.



Society.

## Statistics

It is the most prevailing form of violence in Pakistan. The most affected of this form is women. A study by the United Nations Population Fund found that 70% of married women in Pakistan have experienced some form of physical or sexual violence from their husbands. It shows that domestic violence against women from their intimate partner is most occurring violence in Pakistan.

Moreover, another study by a Reuters Foundation has termed Pakistan the 5th worst in terms of domestic violence practices.

## Causes

The domestic violence against women is carried out due to poverty,

Lack of awareness, high illiteracy rates of women and other socio-cultural norms. Thus, gender based violence in the form of domestic violence has high rates in Pakistan.

### Way Forward

#### Provision of Education

Through an education, woman would know her rights and roles. She will be familiar of basis of violence and other ill-practices against her. Thus, educating women would enable them in pursuing her decisions against the violence.

#### Social Awareness

In most rural societies of Pakistan, women do not consider any assault against her as a violence. Due to patriarchy, men is taken as superior having right to do right or wrong

with women. Thus, public awareness is an important tool to minimize domestic violence. Women must be given knowledge of legal, policing and other matters related to domestic violence.

### Implementation of Laws

In Pakistan, there are laws against domestic violence. These laws are present at both federal and provincial levels. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2020 aims towards curbing societal tolerance of domestic abuse. However, the implementation is lacking due to lack of infrastructure and political will. Thus, an effective implementation of related laws would help in addressing domestic violence against women in Pakistan.

## Conclusion:

In a nutshell, gender based violence is a harsh behaviour against any gender. In Pakistan, its form i.e domestic violence against women is commonly experienced. Taking effective measures would address domestic violence against women in Pakistan.

## 6- Women's political participation.

### Introduction:

Political participation of women is important for not only gender equality but also democracy. Women have actively participated in politics. Their increased role has shattered down means of gender inequality in most societies. They have advocated for their rights through political platforms. They have achieved certain milestones in this cause. Besides, this increased role has also strengthened democracy in societies. However, their participation would be increased by various interventions.

### Women in politics:

Women are actively participating in politics.

Their political role begins with their voting rights. Women succeeded in their suffrage in the 18th century. At least 20 nations before the United States of America granted women their voting rights. However, they grabbed this right in the United States in 1920.

Later on, women advocated for their enhanced political rights. Through various movements they succeeded in achieving positions in law making process. This increased role of women in politics has positive impacts upon gender equality and democracy.

### Impacts upon Gender Equality.

Women legislators have successfully identified the loop holes in the gender equality. They addressed the reasons behind gender

gap. Through politics, women have become able to gain right to health, education and work.

They have identified gender discrimination at work places. Women are usually paid less than their male counterparts.

It is evident from The Equal Pay Act of 1963 in the United States of America. It protects all individual with bonuses, pays and other allowances.

In Pakistan, women politicians have succeeded in achieving milestones of gender equality. There are multiple legislations passed in favour of women. The Women (Protection of Rights) bill, 2020 is one of them. This piece of legislation protects rights of women in different spheres. Besides,

Women are given right to education, politics and work in Pakistan. There are reserved seats for women in the parliament, provincial assemblies as well as local councils of Pakistan. Thus, political participation of women makes them equal to other genders.

### Impacts upon Democracy.

The role of women in politics have significant impacts upon democracy. Women make up about 50% of the global population. It implies that woman has sufficient strength to play a constructive role for democracy. They are actively participating in political participation world wide.

There is a gender gap in political ideology. Women tend to identify as more liberal and more



democratic than men". (Condon and Wichowsky, 2015). It means women are more likely to vote for democratic candidate.

Moreover, women themselves have remained democratic leaders. They include, Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan, Hillary Clinton in the America, Jacinda Arden in New Zealand, Margaret Thatcher in the United Kingdom and others.

Thus, women perform a constructive role for progress and development of democracy.

### Conclusion:

In short, women's political participation results in identification of gender equality. In addition, women in politics have increased femininity of democracy.