

## Q:2 Gender Studies - a multidisciplinary field

### Introduction

Gender Studies is a discipline which draws from many different disciplines to study gender and how it influences and intersects with other forms of oppression. It draws on disciplines like sociology, anthropology, political science, psychology, philosophy etc. Its multidisciplinary nature makes it practical and multidimensional to understand the gender issues. Due to its multidisciplinary nature it allows for wide areas of study and research. It studies power dynamics and inequalities created by intersection of multiple identities, drawing insights from other disciplines is particularly useful for this.

### GS & intersection of other Disciplines

Gender studies is related to real life of individuals. It is not an ordinary subject that can be studied in isolation. Just like gender is influenced by and exerts influence on other forms of social identities, so is its studies - Gender Studies

which focuses on and intersects with other disciplines to study gender issues and their influences on individuals and societies. It integrates studies from multiple disciplines like sociology, biology, history, political science etc. to view gender from multi-faceted point of view.

## Literature and Gender Studies

Literature and Gender Studies both intersect each other. Literature is reflection of a society. How certain societal norms and roles are evolved in a society, how society views its individuals, what expectation it attaches with certain genders can be, are the questions one can easily answer when one ~~is~~ analyses a piece of literature from a lens of Gender Studies. Scholars in literature analyze representation of genders in a literature and society using lens of Gender Studies. Literature is also a medium that can be used to aware and educate people of gender issues. Virginia Woolf ~~was~~ among those who used literature to highlight issues

Faced by women she writes  
in her "A Room of One's  
Own":

"For majority of history,  
anonymous was woman."

## History and Gender Studies

Gender Studies draws on  
history to reveal how certain  
roles and expectations have  
evolved over history. "How  
identities were formed in  
the course of history?" is a  
question that Gender Studies  
considers. While getting insights  
from history, it also reveals  
that how certain gender  
roles, norms, expectations and  
identities shaped certain historical  
events.

Suffragist movement is an  
example of intersection of history  
and Gender Studies.

Gender Studies Suffragist cannot be  
understood without exploring the  
role of women in it and the  
reasons the women took part  
in it.

## Philosophy and Gender Studies

philosophy has a  
significant role in Gender  
Studies. It gives a framework  
to critically examine the

foundational concepts of gender.  
On fact Gender studies start with a philosophical concept that differentiates between different gender and sex. Feminist theories that make a large considerable part of gender studies as a discipline have philosophical basis.

Simone de Beauvoir's existentialist philosophy is an important contribution to gender studies. "one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman."

- Simone de Beauvoir

## Sociology and Gender Studies

Gender studies draws on sociology to explore how gender intersects with other societal identities such as race, class, ethnicity etc. Gender studies examines the impacts of gender on societies by getting insights from sociology.

For example #MeToo movement got widespread recognition in 2017, sociological theories were used to explore the causes that became reason of harassment at workplace and its impact on societies.

## Political Science and Gender Studies

Political Science and Gender Studies intersect to examine the influence of gender on political processes and institutions. They also explore the effects of gender inequality on politics and governance. Moreover, they examine how good governance and political processes can be used effectively to address gender inequalities and eradicate ensure an inclusive political environment.

**Gender Quota is an outcome of political science and Gender Studies intersection**

## Biology and Gender Studies

Biology and Gender Studies intersection is also very important to understand the difference between sex and gender. Without differentiating between gender and sex, it is impossible to understand the Gender Studies. Scholars draw on Biology to differentiate between gender and sex, and the influence of biological characteristics like hormones,

genitals etc. to gender roles and expectations.

**Biological determinism and Social constructionism** are important debates of biology and Gender Studies both.

## Anthropology and Gender Studies

Anthropology and Gender Studies collaborate to understand the effects of culture on gender roles, identities and expectations attached to gender. Anthropology enables gender studies to account for the reason that gender is not viewed similarly in all the cultures globally.

**Margaret Mead's work "Coming of Age in Samoa"** was a groundbreaking work in the field of anthropology and gender studies.

## Psychology and Gender Studies

Psychology and Gender Studies intersect to account for the cognitive, emotional and psychological foundations of gender. They also examine the way gender influences psychological and mental health of individuals.

Gender Studies gets insights from Psychology to account for the impacts on psychological well-being of gender-based inequalities like violence, oppression etc. on psychological well-being of individuals.

**Psychoanalytical Feminism** is an important example of multi-disciplinary nature of Gender Studies.

### **Law and Gender Studies**

Gender Studies intersects with the discipline of Law to examine the influence of gender on legal processes and vice versa. It explores the intersection of law and gender by using frameworks drawn from law discipline. It studies the way gender inequality accounts for discriminatory legal processes and how legal reforms can foster gender equality.

There are multiple legal reforms that were introduced worldwide after studying gender and law intersection.

"The Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act 2010" is an important example

## Conclusion

Gender Studies is a multidisciplinary discipline that cannot be studied in isolation. It draws insights from every discipline to contribute for well-being of individuals. It collaborates with literature, history, psychology, philosophy, biology, political science, law etc. to make groundbreaking revelations about issues and influences of gender.





## Q.4 Waves of Feminism

### 1- Introduction

Feminism movement is a movement that is aimed at addressing gender inequalities and focuses on the well-being of marginalized gender communities. In order to better understand it scholars divide feminist movements in three waves. All of these waves focused on the issues and inequalities faced by all marginalized genders and especially women. They demanded basic rights for women, such as right to education, vote, employment, inheritance etc. These movements contributed to the total transformation of gender roles and norms in the West because they were the ~~most~~ strongest in the West. A part from West they influenced the whole world and changed patriarchal norms around the world.

### 2- Waves of Feminism

In order to better understand the feminism movement it is broken down into three waves. During these three waves different feminist ideologies originated but to fight for women cause remained the main focus of all the waves.

1st Wave  $\Rightarrow$  Late 19th and early 20th century

2nd Wave  $\Rightarrow$  1960s and 1970s

3rd Wave  $\Rightarrow$  After 1990s

There is a division of opinion about Third wave of feminism. According to one view it ended in 2010 and a new and fourth wave started. The other view states that the Third wave still continues.

### 3- First Wave of Feminism

According to feminist scholars first wave of feminism started with the ~~first~~ Convention on Seneca Falls in 1848. It was a formal start, however, many people contributed to the idea of feminism before the Convention of Seneca Falls in 1848 in USA.

#### Mary Wollstonecraft

Mary Wollstonecraft is considered first ever writer to write about women rights. Her work "Vindication of the Rights of Women" (1792) is considered first work about women rights. In that work, she advocated for women's right to education. She claimed that educated women

can bring up their children well and can be good companions of their husbands. However, feminists of 20th and 21st century do not consider her a real feminist but a proto-feminist because she did not talk about equality of women and men.

## Charles Fourier

Charles Fourier was the person who first coined the term "feminism". After that Oxford Dictionary added the word "feminism" in 1852 and "feminist" in 1895.

Fourier argued that:

"The expansion of privileges to women is the general principal of all social progress"

## Frederick Engels

Frederick Engels was associated with Marxist ideas. He co-authored "The Communist Manifesto" with Karl Marx. His work "Origin of the Family" accounts for the origin of patriarchy. He considers the private property as a sole reason of origin of patriarchy in human societies. He called patriarchy a "historic defeat" for

Women.

" This was the historic  
defeat of the women  
sex - Engles

## Seneca Falls Convention

In 1848, 300 abolitionist gathered in Seneca Falls, New York to discuss about women rights. They were invited by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. The participants of that convention agreed that women are autonomous beings and deserve the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. It was formal beginning of first wave in the west.

### Notable figures

Other notable figures of first wave were Emmeline Pankhurst, Susan B. Anthony, Clara Zetkin, Alexandra Kollantai etc.

### Impacts on Pakistan

The first wave of feminism started before the inception of Pakistan; however, it influenced many women who took part in Pakistan movement. After the creation of Pakistan those women worked hard to get basic rights for women like

right to education and suffrage which were the main focus of first wave of feminism.

**All Pakistan Women Association (APWA)** was an organization for women started by Begum Ra'ana Liaquat Khan that struggled for women education and basic rights. It was created in 1949, during the time span of first wave of feminism and was influenced by it.

#### 4- Second Wave of Feminism

Second wave of feminism refers to the time period of 1960s and 1970s. It was the time when most of the Western countries have accepted the women's rights of suffrage. Second wave feminist advanced for more rights for women. They rose against objectification of women. Even the Radical Feminism started during second wave.

#### The Feminine Mystique (1963)

The "Feminine Mystique" by Betty Friedan in 1963 ignited the second wave of feminism. She claimed that the concept perpetuated by men that

how wives are happier than working women is not true. In fact, housewives are suffering from sadness and unhappiness because they do not find their work challenging. They are trapped and their psychological and intellectual level is very low.

### Germaine Greer

Germaine Greer was another notable figure who contributed to the beginning of second wave. She, in her articles, exposed playboy culture. Playboy was a restaurant where women <sup>waiters</sup> had to objectify themselves for the male customers. She revealed that women waiters were not happy with that.

### Nature Vs Nurture

Second wave feminism is also related to nature vs nurture debate. It was during that time that philosophers started considering sex and gender as separate identities.

### Margaret Mead's 'Coming of Age in Samoa'

Coming of Age in Samoa revealed that culture plays role in the development of gender roles. Gender roles are not objective or universal.

but vary from culture to culture.

## The Second Sex

"The Second Sex" by Simone de Beauvoir also contributed to the nature vs nurture debate. She claimed that gender is not born but it is created by social practices.

"One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman."

- Simone de Beauvoir

## Radical Feminists

During the second wave of feminism, radical feminists were on rise. They broke their heels, stopped applying lipsticks, cut their hair short and burnt their brassieres.

They were against women objectification, pornography and even sexual relationship between men and women. For them, sexual relationship was an oppression of woman.

"All sex is rape."

All men are rapists"

- Andrea Dworkin

## Impact on Pakistan

Second wave feminism influenced Pakistani women to protest against the discriminatory laws of Zia regime. During Zia regime in 1979 Hudood

ordinance was passed which obscured the difference between rape and adultery, and denied women to participate in sports and other outdoor activities.

## WAF (1980)

To protest against discriminatory Hudood ordinance (1979) women activists of Shirkat Gah and laid foundation of Women Action Forum (WAF).

They protested for discriminatory laws of Zia regime in Mall road Lahore in 1983 and burnt their dupattas.

## 5. Third Wave of Feminism

Third wave of feminism started in 1990s. According to some feminists it still continues. Others argue that with the start of #MeToo movement a fourth wave started. However, the theory that is foundation of #MeToo movement was developed between 1980s and 2010.

## Anita Hill Case

Third wave of feminism was started with the case of Anita Hill. Anita Hill was an African American Pinalogist who accused an African American



Supreme Court judge of USA to sexually harass her. The decision of the US Senate was in favour of the judge. Feminists supported Anita Hill and protested against sexual harassment which marked the beginning of third wave of feminism.

"Third wave" term was used by Alice Walker

"I'm not a post-feminism feminist, I am the third wave"

- Rebecca Walker

## Black Feminists and idea of Intersectionality

During the third wave, the African American were very active. The second wave feminism was called as white middle class feminism. The Black Feminists like Kimberle Crenshaw gave the idea of intersectionality. Intersection of different social identities like gender, race, sexuality determine the experiences, challenges and privileges of an individual.

Feminists like Audre Lorde, Bell Hooks supported the idea that African American women have to suffer from compound oppression: oppression of race

and gender

## Questioned Objectivity

3rd wave Feminists questioned objective realities.

They claimed that science and objectivity are made as men wanted. They named their characteristics as rational, objective and free unlike those of women as "irrational and unscientific". They challenged the objectivity and gave importance to subjectivity.

## Micro politics

Third wave feminist claimed that power dynamics are not influenced by macro level structures but also by micro-level everyday structures.

## Sex positive Feminists

They were not against pornography and sex-work unlike second wave feminism. They supported it if women's agency was involved. They claimed for inclusivity of everyone like sex-workers and LGBTQ+ members.

## Impacts on Pakistan

Third wave feminism had widespread impacts on Pakistan. Activists in Pakistan asked for inclusivity and intersectionality.

The movements seen for women rights gained momentum in Pakistan too. Feminist activists became very vocal for women and transgender rights in Pakistan.

## Legal Reforms

Twenty first century, influenced by third wave feminism brought many legal reforms in Pakistan.

- i- Women Protection Bill 2006
- ii- Anti-Honor Killing Act
- iii- Protection Against Women Harassment at Workplace Act 2010

## #MeToo Movement

#MeToo movement started in Pakistan. Women exposed their harassers and shared their experiences on twitter. They supported each other and advocated for women agency and empowerment.

## Aurat March

Feminists arrange an annual march on March 8th, Women's day, for the awareness of women. They raise their voice against gender discrimination and advocated for women and marginalized communities' rights in Pakistan.

## 6- Conclusion

Feminist movement formally started in late 19th and early

20<sup>th</sup> century centers in West. They started with advocating for right to education and suffrage and continued to expand. In current time period they demand equal rights for all the marginalized gender communities and strive for inclusive societies. They exerted considerable influence around the globe and on Pakistan too. They influenced many legal reforms, local organizations and people to strive for equal rights.

