

## GENDER STUDIES PART II

Q 2. Discuss in detail what the autonomy and integration debate in gender studies have important contribution for the development of the field of knowledge.

### Introduction:

With the evolution of gender studies, another debate started:

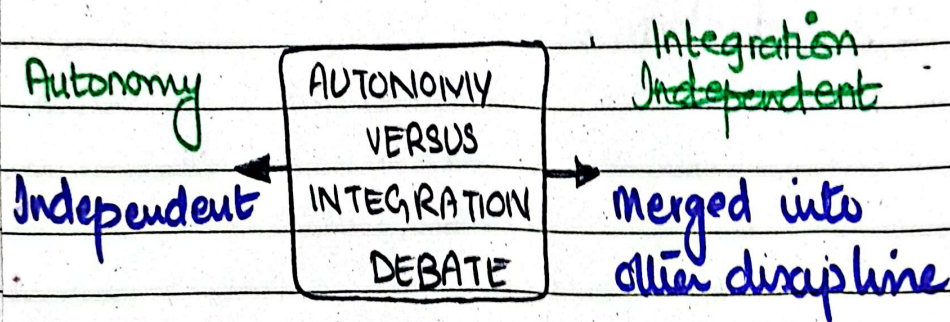
↳ either to integrate women studies into already existing disciplines or to make it a separate and independent discipline. This had highly impacted the development of knowledge and changed the conventional point of view towards women and gender studies.

### Autonomy and Integration debate:

In order to comprehend one must understand the idea of autonomy and integration debate.

The debate led to two schools of thoughts namely: autonomy and integration.

The proponents of the 'autonomy' were of the view that gender studies should remain a separate and independent discipline. Contrarily, the 'proponents' of the 'integration' proposed that the 'gender studies' should be integrated into other subjects. Both of them had their own reasons to the autonomy of the discipline or the integration of it.



## The Debate led to the Contribution in Development of Knowledge:

The autonomy and integration debate thus led to the development of knowledge.

### Justification:

Any discipline, be that integrated into studies or read autonomously, studied leads to the addition in knowledge. However, studying gender studies or

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women studies as a subject can had a major impact on the lives of people.

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The Suppression of women has a very long history and traces back when matriarchal society had been brought to an end. Since then men had dominated women in every walk of life and had thus taken advantage of it.

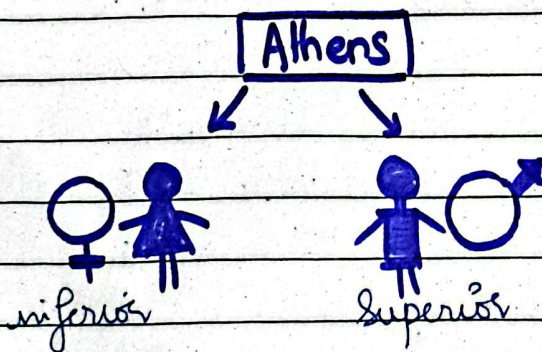
So the addition of Gender studies or Women Studies in course not only <sup>enhanced</sup> added to the knowledge, but also brought awareness about the importance of women. After the studying the ~~set~~ Gender Studies as a course one got to know its historical elements that led to suppression of women and how to tackle elements that leads to subjugation.

This, however, deviated people from the conventional ideas of suppressing women and also informed the men about the dos and donts regarding women and their rights.

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Long ago the intellectuals were of the idea that women were meant to be suppressed. And that they are made to obey men. Such as one of the philosopher once said, "She is a mere incubator of mens seed". This idea widely got rejected and faced criticism when one got to know about the importance of women. Thus the integration of women studies brought awareness and led to the equality of men and women or a to some extent.



Thus the addition of Gender Studies into courses lead to the idea that men and women are equal and shouldn't be both deserve equal value and consideration.

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## Points of Autonomy and Integration debate:

### Points for Autonomy:

- (i) Studying women in isolation for better understanding of issues women face.
- (ii) Autonomously studying women leads to progress of the women.
- (iii) When it is not integrated, it doesn't lose its essence.
- (iv) Studying it in isolation leads to proper explicit understanding to identity and thus develops it.
- (v) New knowledge is added, provided increase in research culture and thus giving it more meaning.

### Points for integration:

- (i) If it is integrated and merged with other discipline, it provides greater outreach of Gender Studies.

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(ii) It helps in grabbing the attention of government and leads to formulation of policy.

(iii) It sensitizes masses about gender related issues, and informs them about its importance.

(iv) Integration would allow its reach to many people and thus will provide greater understanding.

(v) It would inculcate within students the rejection of the idea of suppressing women, even if the student isn't studying the subject in isolation.

### Conclusion:

The autonomy and integration debate has played a huge role in contributing to the development of knowledge, and provides the advantages of studying it independently or in integrated form.

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## Q2. Write a detailed note on the colonial and capitalist perspective of gender?

### Introduction:

The intersection of colonialism and capitalism has profoundly impacted gender dynamics globally. Both structures have perpetuated dynamic patriarchal structures, reinforcing women's subordination and exploitation. This note explores the colonial and capitalist perspectives on gender, highlighting key points and intersections.

### Colonial Perspective on Gender:

#### 1) Imposition of western values:

Colonizers imposed their own patriarchal values on colonized societies, disrupting existing gender dynamics.

#### 2) Reinforcement of patriarchy:

Colonial powers strengthened patriarchal systems, limiting women's rights and freedoms.

#### 3) Categorization of 'civilized' and 'uncivilized':

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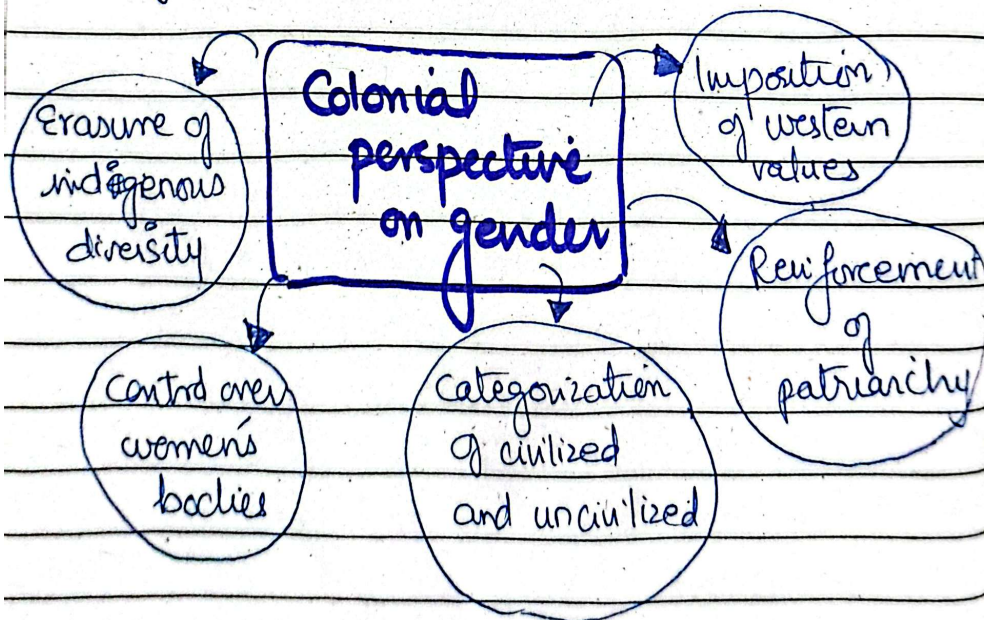
Colonizers labeled colonized people and societies as 'uncivilized' based on their perceived treatments of women, justifying colonial intervention.

#### 4) Control over women's bodies:

Colonizers exercised control over women's bodies, reproductive rights, and sexuality.

#### 5) Erasure of indigenous gender diversity:

Colonialism erased and suppressed diverse gender identities and expressions existing in indigenous cultures.





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## Capitalist perspective on Gender:

- 1) Exploitation of women's labor:  
Capitalism exploits women's labor, particularly in low-wage, precarious jobs.
- 2) Reinforcement of Gender roles  
Capitalism reinforces traditional gender roles, assigning women to caregiving and domestic work.
- 3) Commodification of women's bodies:  
Capitalism commodifies women's bodies, objectifying them in advertising, media, and the sex industry.
- 4) Pink tax and Gender consumption:  
Capitalism perpetuates the "pink tax", charging women more for products and services, and promotes gender consumption patterns.
- 5) Disproportionate impact on women:  
Capitalist crises, such as austerity measures and economic downturns, disproportionately impact women.

## Intersections and Interactions:

### Colonialism and capitalism as intertwined systems:

Colonialism and capitalism are interconnected, with colonialism laying the groundwork for capitalist exploitation.

### Impact on women of colour and indigenous women:

women of colour and indigenous women face compounded oppressions, as they are affected by both colonialism and capitalism.

### Resistance and activism:

women have resisted and challenged colonial and capital systems, advocating for their rights and liberation.

### Conclusion:

The colonial and capitalist perspective on gender have perpetuated systems of oppression, exploitation, and marginalization. Understanding

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these intersections is crucial for developing effective strategies to challenge and dismantle these systems. By recognizing complex relationships between colonialism and capitalism, and gender, we can work together towards creating a more just and equitable world for all.