

## Q NO 1

Describe Gender Studies as a discipline. Also trace the background of Gender Studies with special reference to its evolution in Pakistan.

### Gender Studies:

It is a discipline which discusses the many ways in which the gender of people affects / may affect their status in society / how people's health, education, economy, social treatment, and access to resources may vary with their gender.

### Gender Studies as a Discipline:

Gender Studies is a social science with a wide scope. It emerged as a separate discipline out of women's struggle across the globe. Concern for women's rights and the consequent struggle paved way for the development of this discipline. In the 20th century, women were struggling for their rights. Feminist movement was behind this struggle.

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It is an academic discipline that analyzes the construction of gender in society, often with reference to class, race and sexuality. The field emerged out of women's studies in the 1970s and has grown and expanded to include various subfields such as gender, women, sexuality, queer, and feminist studies -

Gender is a social construct that is shaped by various factors such as culture, history and politics. Gender is not binary and is instead a spectrum that includes a wide range of identities. Gender intersects with other social categories such as race, class, sexuality to shape people's experiences and opportunities.

Gender Studies is an ~~inter~~ interdisciplinary field that draws on various disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, history and literature to understand the complexities of gender.

It is a discipline which discusses the many ways in which the gender of people affects / may

affect their status in society, how people's health, education, economy, social treatment and access to resources may vary with their gender. The field is invested in illuminating the structures that naturalize, normalize, and discipline gender across historical and cultural contexts.

Gender and Development Studies is a sub-discipline of Gender Studies that focuses on building the analytical and conceptual skills needed to understand gender concerns across development sectors, exploring the dynamics of gender and development-related research, policy making and implementations.

## Background of Gender Studies with reference to Pakistan

In Pakistan, Gender Studies has been gaining momentum since the 1990s. The discipline has evolved in response to the country's socio-political context, which is characterized by gender inequality, patriarchal norms and violence against women - the first

Gender studies Program was established in 1993 at The Quaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad, followed by other universities across the country. The discipline has played a crucial role in raising awareness about gender issues in Pakistan and has contributed to the development of policies and programs aimed at promoting gender equality and woman's empowerment. However, there are still challenges that need to be addressed, such as, the lack of funding and resources for gender studies programs, the limited number of trained professionals in the field and the resistance to the discipline from conservative elements in society.

### Q NO 6

compare and contrast Liberalism and Radical feminism. Among these two feminism, which one is best applicable to elevate women status in Pakistan?

## Similarities

### ~~Compare~~ Radical and Liberal feminism.

There are some similarities between liberal and Radical feminism.

- Liberal feminist generally support radical feminists views that abortion and other reproductive rights should be granted to women.
- They would also believe that women should have control and autonomy over their own lives and bodies.
- Radical and liberal feminists both work to encourage gender equality in the private as well as public spheres.
- They ~~to~~ have both also achieved legislative change for women's rights and aim to end domestic violence obstacles that stop women from achieving an equal level to men.

## Difference Radical and liberal feminisms.

- | <u>liberal feminism</u>                             | <u>Radical feminism</u>   |
|---|---------------------------|
| • liberal feminism aims to achieve gender equality. | Radical feminism seeks to |

- Through reforming existing societal structure.

fundamentally transform the Patriarchal system by challenging and dismantling its core structure.

- It focus on incremental change.

It seeks radical transformation.

- It emerged during the late 19th and 20th century as women fought for suffrage and legal rights.

It emerged in the 1960s and 1970s as a response to limitations of liberal feminism.

- Liberal feminism view marriage and the family as institutions they should be reformed to ensure gender equality.

Radical feminism often critique the institution of marriage and nuclear family as oppressive and patriarchal.

## Women Status IN PAKISTAN:

Liberal feminism and Radical feminism are two different approaches to women's rights. Liberal feminism is characterized by its focus on individual rights

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and freedoms while Radical feminism is characterised by its focus on systemic change and the elimination of patriarchy.

In Pakistan, liberal feminism is most prominent in leftist & liberal circles and is often supported by left-leaning political parties such as PPP. It is often characterized by liberal values of freedom, liberty, human rights and secularism. It is difficult to say which approach is best applicable to elevate women's status in Pakistan, as both approaches have their own strengths and weaknesses. However, given the current political climate in Pakistan, liberal feminism may be more effective in achieving tangible results for women's rights.

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