

Gender Studies

Q2. Describe Gender Studies as a Discipline. Also trace the background of Gender Studies with special reference to its evolution in Pakistan.

Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that critically examines how gender shapes human experiences, power structures, social relations, institutions and cultural norms. The discipline emerged to challenge the biological determinism that historically defined men and women's roles, arguing instead that gender is socially constructed, and deeply embedded in political, economic and cultural arrangements.

In Pakistan, it began as a project in 1989 with the Ministry of Women's Development, aiming to integrate women into development, and grow into established university programs, offering courses and influencing policy.

Nature and Scope of Gender Studies:

Interdisciplinary Foundations =

Gender Studies draws from multiple disciplines across academia. Such as; sociology, anthropology, political science, psychology, economics, history, philosophy and literature. The multifaceted, interdisciplinary lens helps analyze how gender intersects with class, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexuality and other identity markers that ~~not~~ confine people to only one identity given by their surroundings.

Furthermore, it questions power structure, inequality and representation related to gender and its intersections with race, class, sexuality etc; as documented in Little Flora College's booklet on Gender Studies as a Discipline -

Key Concepts and Objectives:

Gender Studies is vastly different from certain notions that are confused often confused with it. For instance Gender vs. Sex; while sex is biological; you are is either born with male parts or the female part, gender is socially constructed roles, expectations and norms.

Gender Studies is also often confused with women's studies or ~~the~~ Feminism. While ~~the~~ this answer has ~~already~~ ^{an} given our what gender studies is earlier, Feminism is an intellectual and political movement which advocates for equality in rights, opportunities and representation of women in different arenas of life. Gender

Studies also aims to counter centuries old systems embedded in such as; Patriarchy which is a system of male dominance institutionalized not only in culture and social practices but also has laws we made and the kind of health related research happens. Now that the key concepts of

Gender Studies are covered, this answer will discuss its objectives. Gender Studies examine historically entrenched gender inequalities. It critiques social institutions such as; family, state, law, education and economy etc through a gendered lens. It promotes gender justice, women's empowerment and inclusive development and ~~also~~ they do so by highlighting lived experiences of women and marginalized groups of society. They are able to do so by providing analytical tools for policymaking, advocacy and research. In contemporary times, Gender Studies inform critical governance and social policy as they aid in modern debates on labor markets, reproductive rights, representation in politics, digital safety, climate justice and global developmental goals.

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Background and Evolution of Gender Studies:

While Gender Studies is an area of study and feminism is a political movement, the evolution of gender studies is not ~~not~~ separate from the intellectual and political trajectory of global feminist movements. Each ~~of~~ wave of feminism contributed distinct analytical frameworks, shifting the discipline from a narrow focus on

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women's rights with a broad inquiry into power, identity and social structures. From early 20th century to present, there have been different objectives of feminism; from property, suffrage and wife's 2nd legal identity to digital feminism, anti-harassment movements and global activism. Emphasis on industry 2.0/3.0 + rights and gendered implications of technology. In Pakistan, Gender Studies reflect the intersection of political shifts, feminist activism, global commitment and academic reforms. Its evolution is not linear; it mirrors periods of resistance, signs and institutional engagement.

Traditional Social Structures and Limited Academic Engagement

Before the 1970s, academic inquiry into gender was almost absent and Pakistani society operated within; Patrilineal family structures, religious cultural norms defining women primarily as homemakers and minimal female representation in public institutions. It is, however, important to note that early literary voices such as; Qurratulain Haider, Ismat Chughtai, Tahinda Riaz - challenged patrilineal norms and laid cultural groundwork for later feminist scholarship.

However, there was no formal discipline of Women's or Gender Studies, nor systemic academic engagement with gender relations. The tipping point came during General Zia-ul-Haq's Islamization era when catalysts for feminist mobilization were Hudood Ordinances and Law of Evidence which institutionalized gender inequality.

In response, Women's Action Forum (WAF) was formed in 1981 and became the intellectual and activist hub of Pakistani feminism. Scholars, lawyers, and journalists began documenting gender-based injustices, producing early indigenous feminist research. Furthermore, Pakistan's participation in the UN Decade for Women (1975-85) encouraged state and academic institutions to consider gender as a policy and research concern. This period laid the philosophical and political groundwork for institutionalizing Women's Studies.

Mainstreaming Gender in State, Society and Education
With globalization and Pakistan's commitment to Commissions to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women, Beijing Platform for Action, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This led to Gender Studies moving beyond academia into policy and governance. This is reflected in the facts

that degree programs in Gender Studies introduced at multiple universities, gender-based units created in ministries such as, Women's Development Department, establishment of National Commission on the Status of Women and the Emergence of gender-sensitive legislation such as Protection of Women Act 2005, ~~and~~ ^{and} Women's Rights. This kept on expanding such as after the 18th amendment, provinces integrated gender perspectives into local governance structures. Gender Studies department now operate in major public universities across Pakistan. The subjects included in the CSS competitive exam elevated its academic legitimacy. Gender Studies challenges harmful norms such as; honor killings, early and forced marriage, informal restrictions on mobility and exclusion from decision making spaces.

CONCLUSION:-

The evolution of Gender Studies from legal equality movement to a broad intersected discipline reflects a global shift in understanding gender as a system of power rather than merely a biological category. Today, it stands as a vital discipline that not only explores structural inequalities but also offers practical tools for social justice, including gender and equitable development.

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Gender Studies:

CSS 2018: What are the fundamental differences b/w gender studies and women studies? Substantiate your arguments w/ examples. highlight the current status of women studies in Pakistan.

I INTRODUCTION:

Gender studies is a multidisciplinary inclusive sphere of focus ~~which~~ which consists of analysis of how ~~gender~~ every gender should be treated equally and that any disparity is a result of socialization, and pre-conceived notions of how a particular person ~~should be treated~~ based on their looks, how they look even if they don't identify as such. Its focal point resonates that gender plays a pivotal role in constructing social interactions, identities and institutions.

II. WHAT Is GENDER? Donor raise a question

Gender is often confused with sex, it is variable and changes under the influence of time, geographical and socio-cultural settings. It can be changed because it hinges upon the perception of society one is a part of. ~~that gender roles used to be~~ Gender roles are very different from what they used to be. Inhere as sex is a universal term and difficult to change since a person is born either a male or a female as opposed to -ve spectrum ones. Gender is a part of. To add onto gender roles, a ~~person~~ woman was

expected to only look after the household tasks, take care of kids and husband. While as today we see women taking on multi-dimensional roles in professional fields and are not limited to being housewives only.

DEFINING GENDER STUDIES & WOMEN STUDIES:

While gender studies is a broader, more inclusive field that analyzes how ^{all} genders are socially constructed and interact w/ other social factors like race, class and sexuality, women's studies focuses specially on women's experiences, roles, and rights emerging from early feminist movements to address issues of ~~and~~ patriarchy and inequality that centers around women and ~~other~~ minorities marginalized members of society. Its foundation is laid on the fact that women, due to their gender have historically faced societal disparity, and often been treated as dispensable or second class citizens.

DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES:

Women's studies developed during the second wave of feminism, it brought about a new dawn of political action, rising from the academic critique that traditional disciplines ignored women's experiences and perspectives. It set a criteria and method

of assessing women's status which further bloomed into proper teaching and research on women's issues to break down hierarchies. It opened up arenas for women's participation in men's trade.

Coming to the specifics; first course developed in late 1960s; USA. San Diego State University in 1969.

This course was based on a 54 pages work called "A Changing Political Economy as it affects women" created by Mary Ritter Beard in 1934. This then eventually led to Women's Studies first MA in University of Kent, UK, 1980 and the a PhD programme in Emory University in Georgia a decade later. In the modern world, Women's studies focus on a post-modern approach, i.e., focusing on the intersection with race, class, ethnicity, sexualisation, religion, age, power structures, language, subjectivity and social hegemony. However, it still firmly believes that all of these are social constructs, not intrinsic values.

DEVELOPMENT OF GENDER STUDIES

Gender Studies came about during the 3rd wave of feminism. It covered not only women but also men and other genders across the spectrum, however it is pertinent to note that it does focus more on queer theory and women's studies. It also includes cross culture studies of gender and aids

addressing of

in T. overcoming social as well as sex differences and focuses on freedom in sexual orientation.

VI

COMPARE AND CONTRAST B/W GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES:
While women's studies focuses specially on women's experiences, role and rights, Gender Studies on the other hand is broader, more inclusive field that analyzes how all genders are socially constructed and interact with other social factors like race, class and sexuality. Women's study centers around and draw their framework from feminist theory and different woman centered approaches (WID/WAD) whereas, Gender study draw their framework from postmodern theory, queer theory, gender and Development approach (GAD).

VII

SIMILARITIES B/W GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES::

While Gender Studies and Women's Studies are interdisciplinary fields that use feminist theory as their base to analyze power structures, promote social equality and address inequalities related to gender. They share a common base that both stem from women's rights movements and both examine social, cultural and political issues. They both focus on how social hierarchies and power imbalances are constructed and maintained.

III ACADEMIC STATUS OF WOMEN'S STUDIES IN PAKISTAN:

Academic Status of Women's Studies in Pakistan encapsulates a ^{rich} history of how it was developed first in 1986 by Nighat Said Khan in the form of Institute of Women's Studies Lahore (IWSL) which aimed at closing the gap between theory and practice in political and social movements. Furthermore, in 1989 five departments were established in five universities under Ministry of Woman Empowerment (MOWD); Quaid-e-Azam University - Women Studies Centre, Fatima Jinnah Women University - Women's Research and Resource Centre, Alama Iqbal Open University - Women Studies Department, Karachi University - The Centre of Excellence for Women's Studies and University of Sindh - The faculty of Institute of Women Development Studies.

The Centre of Excellence for Women's Studies in Karachi University conducted two certificate courses in 1992 and 1994 in order to introduce the discipline of Women Studies in Pakistan. They began the first year MA in Women's Studies in Pakistan began in 1986 when students were enrolled. In 2002, the Centre initiated M.Phil / Ph.D program. After from 2004 onwards the discipline of Women's Studies was introduced as a subsidiary course at first

IX: (others.) Level: 1st from January 2007

BS (Hons.) 4 years program was launched and
From January 2010 M.A. (Economics) program has also
started with 100 seats for BBA in 2011

Winters (2011) started with 100 seats for BBA in 2011

POLITICAL INITIATIVES FOR GENDER ROLES:

The idea for the Pakistan Association for Women's
Studies (PAWS) was founded in 1991 at the

National Workshop on Women studies in Karachi

It was a formal inclusion of women and
helped increase representation through measures
like reserved seats, alongside persistent challenges
that limit women's actual decision-making power
and full participation. While quotas have improved
the number of women in politics, barriers such as
patriarchal cultural norms, political gatekeeping, etc.

X CONCLUSION:

Women Studies and Gender Studies in Pakistan
have some fundamental differences but stem from
the same root which focuses on advancing
women's rights and their role in the society.

In Pakistan, this has been a heads on arena
where academic institutions work towards
a more tolerant society by educating masses
and reforming the system.

In what is feminism? In what way liberal feminism is different from psychoanalytical feminism?

INTRODUCTION:

Feminism is the belief in social, economic and political inequality of the sexes. It encompasses a range of socio-political movements and ideologies aimed at establishing this equality, addressing issues such as women's rights, reproductive freedom and equal pay. Feminism also critiques the patriarchal structures in modern societies that prioritize male perspectives and often lead to the unjust treatment of women. It originated largely in the West, but has continued to manifest worldwide and is represented by various institutions committed to acting on behalf of women's rights and interests. Feminism can be classified into several categories which came in numerous waves throughout the years.

WAVES OF FEMINISM:

"You educate a man, you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation." - Brigham Young. The first wave of feminism emerged in 19th and early 20th century, but before any of this happened; Islam gave women right to property, trade, custody inheritance and more, 1400 years ago. Whereas the first wave focused on women's suffrage (right to

Right to own property, access to education and legal recognition as individuals - because women were deliberately left out of citizenship and voting rights during the French and American revolutions. However, it ignored peer and worship. Class women focused on voting only and success was mostly legal, which meant the unlike hours charged to the society's mindset about women remained unequal for a long time. Second Wave Feminism started in the 1960s and continued till the 1980s spreading across the world. Unlike the first wave, this wave focused more on social, cultural, economic, and personal equality for women. Its main slogan was "the personal is political" - meaning that matters like marriage, family life, reproduction and sexuality are not just personal choices but also connected to power and patriarchy in society. They demanded workplace rights, reproductive rights, talked about recognition of marital rape as a crime, even domestic/ spousal violence as a crime. It argued that patriarchy reduces women to passive roles and the criticized the idealization of women as only wives and mothers. They further raised the argument that women's domestic labour is undervalued and invisible. Second wave's major achievement includes; workplace equality, reproductive rights and also lead to impact on Global South which includes formation

of Women's Action Forum (WAF, 1981) against discriminatory Hindu Ordinances. However, it has been criticised for exclusivity of 'Race and Class' - dominated by middle class, Western women.

Third Wave of Feminism began between 1980 and 1990 and is referred to as postmodern feminism. It originated as a backlash to critical deficiencies perceived throughout the era of Second Wave feminism.

III. HOW LIBERAL FEMINISM CAME INTO BEING AND ITS RELEVANCE TODAY

Liberal feminism finds its roots in the first wave feminism which sought to secure women's suffrage and access to education, as discussed in detail earlier. Influenced by Enlightenment thinkers, liberal feminists argue that the oppression of women arises from their lack of political and civil rights - Mary Wollstonecraft is a key figure in this movement, who advocated for women's rights in her work, 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman'.¹⁰

Their primary goal is to integrate women into the political and social mainstream which includes advocating for laws that promote gender equality such as the right to vote, equal pay, and protection against discrimination. Although liberal feminists have made significant progress in securing these rights, they continue to address issues like the gender pay gap and underrepresentation in leadership roles.

In 21st century, liberal feminism has evolved to include

an intersectional approach, recognizing the diverse experiences of women based on race, class and sexual orientation. They advocate for LGBTQ rights and emphasize the importance of collaboration with governmental institutions to promote gender equality. They aim to see a more equitable role in society. Despite its achievements, liberal feminism has faced criticism for being overly optimistic about the progress made and for not addressing the root cause of women's oppression. Particularly radical and Marxist feminist scholars argue that legal reforms alone are insufficient to achieve true equality as they do not challenge the underlying patriarchal structures of society.

PSYCHOANALYTICAL FEMINISM AND ITS RELEVANCE TODAY.

Compared to liberal feminism - psychoanalytical feminism gained traction in the 1970s during the second wave of feminism in which focus was more on women's sexual agency and challenged traditional gender roles. Figures like Helene Deutsch expanded upon Freud's work to address female sexual development. Key concepts of psychoanalytical feminism include critiques of Freudian theory, an exploration of gender development and analytical reinterpretation of sexuality - all of which this answer will discuss in turn.

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