

## PART-II

Q.NO. 01:

How is Gender Studies Different  
from Women Studies?

Gender studies is often misinterpreted as women studies, which is not the case in fact. Despite being remarkably similar, the disciplines carry a striking difference amongst each other. Women's studies dealt with issues of 20<sup>th</sup> century. The study led to the development of programmes such as Women in Development (WID) in 1970s. Meanwhile, gender studies deals with the relationship of men and women with each other as well as with societies.

Gender studies is a result of the third wave of feminism and much more inclusive as compared to women studies. Gender studies is also a multidisciplinary subject. Its strands extend to sociology, anthropology, psychology, gender history, biology and politics.

II-1949

## Key Differences Between

### Gender Studies and Women

Studies are:

#### Definition

Women's studies is an interdisciplinary field that focuses on the role, experiences and achievements of women in society.

Gender studies is the social, political, and economic roles, rights and responsibilities of male, females and LGBTQ.

#### Women Studies

#### Gender Studies

#### History and Origin

Women's study is an offshoot of the second wave of feminism. It is older than gender studies and is often known as its predecessor.

Gender studies are the offshoot of the third wave of feminism. It is the successor of the women's studies.

## Focus of Research

Its complete focus is the problems of women, especially patriarchy.

It is more inclusive. Its focus are all the genders constructed by the society. Its primary focus is gender identity.

## Nature of the Subject.

It is an interdisciplinary subject and merely focuses on women.

It is a multi as well as interdisciplinary field of study. Its scope extends to other disciplines of social and biological sciences.

## Goal of the Study.

Its main focus is equality for women and making their lives better.

It demands equity for all genders. It explains the position of all genders based on class, caste, religion, ethnicity and sexual identity.

## Theoretical Differences

Women in Development and Women and Development approaches.

Post-modern theory, Queer theory and encompasses Gender and Development approach.

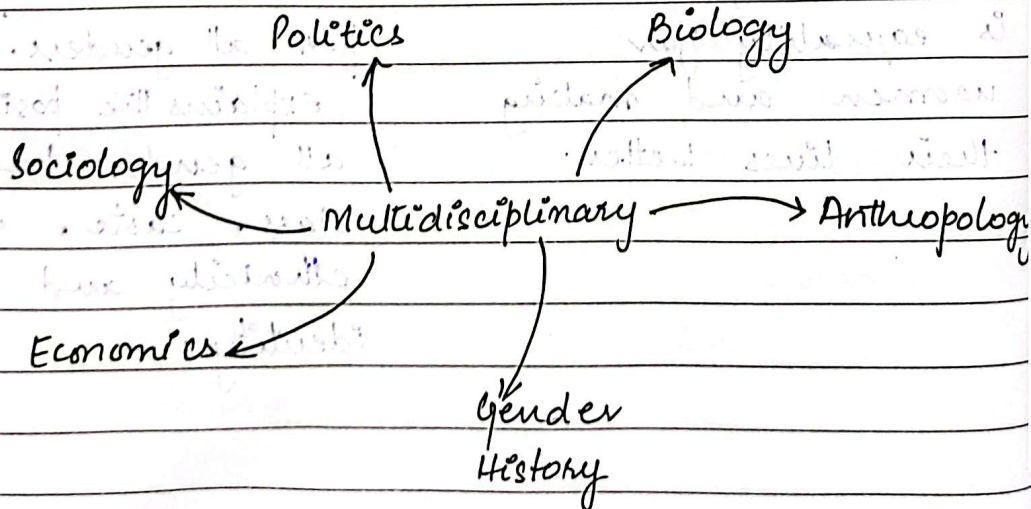
## Homogeneity.

Does not involve the concept of homogeneity.

Involves the concept of homogeneity in studies and identifies homogenous and heterogenous individuals.

## Multi-disciplinary nature of

### Gender Studies:



## Debate of 'Sex' Vs 'Gender'.

'Sex' and 'Gender' are closely related terms and are often used interchangeably. However they are two different terms with their distinct meanings.

### What is meant by the term 'Sex'?

It (sex) refers to the biological and physiological characteristics which normally define men and women and

It is the anatomical and physiological characteristics of an individual defining the maleness or femaleness of that individual.

### What is meant by the term 'Gender'?

The term 'Gender' refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for men and women.

'gender' often words, gender emphasizes that masculinity and femininity are the products of social, cultural and psychological factors and are acquired by an individual in the process of becoming a man or a woman.

### CONCLUSION:

Despite interchangeably use, 'women studies' and 'gender studies' as well as 'sex' and 'gender' are completely separate phenomena.

"I confused gender identity with sexual orientation. Your gender identity is about who you are, how you feel, the sex you feel yourself to be. Sexual orientation is who you are attracted to."

all of us - Chastity Bono

Q. NO. 02.

## Evolution of Feminist Thoughts in Pakistan.

"No nation can rise to the height of glory unless your women are side by side with you; we are the victims of civil customs. It is a crime against humanity that all our women are shut within the four walls of the house as prisoners."  
— Quaid-e-Azam.

## Gender Studies: Development of an Academic Discipline.

With the passage of time, women have learned how to express and communicate their needs and wants. For this reason, the discipline of Gender Studies has been observing expansion in Pakistan in all realms. Many women now have the opportunity to flourish

in a number of disciplines. With the efforts of the Government, the Center of Excellence for Gender Studies had been established in the year 1989. The institution is seen to have greatly impacted the feminist studies in the country.

## Status of Gender Studies in Pakistan: A Holistic View.

In Pakistan, the issues of women got much attention due to the sincere efforts of some committed feminists of that time. The Ministry of Women Development and Studies was established. The ministry is committed to the overall development of the women.

What are the Core Aims and

### Objectives of the Ministry?

- To enhance the literacy rate of women in Pakistan.
- To reduce gender gap by re-orienting the curricula and making it gender sensitive.



3. Encouraging the generation of information.
4. Improving the analysis and studies relating to the women and gender issues.
5. Spreading awareness among the masses about the actual concept of equality.
6. Critical examination of all such factors which have rendered women invisible in scientific development.
7. Development of introductory courses on women and gender studies for university students.

### Investing in the Plan of Action:-

In 1989, the women's development division gave a five year plan to make and introduce women and gender studies as a proper subject in curricula.

What initiatives and recommendations have been directed?

Several important recommendations and initiatives have been announced by

the women's rights division as under:

1. Adding of Gender Studies as a subject in competitive exams. This was implemented by 2016.
2. Active collaboration between various departments for women development and empowerment.
3. Translation of available material on Gender Studies to Pakistan's official language i.e. Urdu.
4. Directions to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to found a separate fund for the development of the subject.

## Centers of Excellence for women

Studies in Pakistan are:-

Public sectors

Private sectors.

Funded by the Government.

Funded by the International and Private donors.

## Educational Development of the Subject:-

1. First masters programme on women studies in Pakistan was introduced in the University of Karachi in 1996.
2. M.Phil and Ph.D were introduced in 2002.
3. As a course in first year on honors level was introduced in the year 2004.

## Alam-e-Niswa: A Research Journal.

The research journal Alam-e-Niswa was introduced in the year 1994 in Pakistan. It was published twice a year and was dedicated to raising awareness about women's issues and problems.

## Efforts by Pakistan's Association for

Women's Studies are:

The association introduced Gender studies as a subject in following universities:

1. Allama Iqbal Open University.

- 2- Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi.
- 3- University of Sindh, Jamshoro.
- 4- Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.
- 5- University of Balochistan.
- 6- University of Punjab.

## CONCLUSION:

It is quite visible from the above discussion that the feminist thought has earned imminent importance in Pakistan. This has been clearly demonstrated in the words of Quaid-e-Azam that without women, no nation can prosper. The same has been realized in Pakistan and the respective ministries and division have taken numerous steps to ensure women's development and empowerment.

"We realize the importance of our voice when we are silenced."

— Malala Yousuf  
Zai.

Q. NO. 06:

## Gender Based Violence.

Gender based violence is a crucial concern for the contemporary world. It can be seen via the presence of 35 percent violence throughout the globe. However, in Pakistan this rate amounts to 40 percent. These acts of violence include early childhood marriages of girls, acts inflicting physical, sexual or mental sufferings by individuals. The violence by states include war rapes, sexual slavery during conflicts, forced sterilization, forced abortion and what not.

## Forms of Violence against

### Genders.

1. Structural/Indirect violence.
2. Direct violence.

**Direct Violence:** This includes physical, sexual, psychological, economic violence.

**Causes:** The most common cause of direct violence is Patriarchal mindsets and power disparities among men and women.



**Indirect or Structural Violence:** These include norms, attitudes and stereotypes about gender. This form of violence operates within large societal contexts.

**Causes:** Normalize violence against women in societies and institutions.

### CASE STUDY: MUKHTARAN MAI

Mukhtara Mai was a member of Gujjar tribe of Mirwala. She was gang-raped by four men of Mastoi tribe of the same town. The Mastoi tribe accused Mai's brother of having illicit relationship with one of the girls of their tribe. The tribal council called Mai to the front to apologize on behalf of her brother when she was dragged in a near hut and gang-raped by four men with whole town witnessing the incident. They named the rape in the name of honor.

**Most common Gender-based violence**

**in Pakistan are:**

Honor killings, child marriages,

honor rape, domestic torture, sexual harassment at public places, etc.

## Effectiveness of contemporary laws against preventing Gender-Based violence in Pakistan:-

### 1. Protection of Women Act (2006)

Intent: Amended Hudood Ordinance to safeguard injustice against women in zina.

Effectiveness:

- Reduced misuse of zina laws against women.

### 2. The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2012)

Intent: Criminalize domestic violence and protection of victims.

Effectiveness:

- Weak enforcement due to lack of awareness and training of public, police and judicial officials.



### 3. Acid Control and Acid Crime

#### Prevention Act (2011).

Intent: Regulation of sale of acids and imposing harsh penalties for acid ~~violation~~ attacks.

Effectiveness:

• Reduced number of acid attacks.

### 4. Anti Rape Ordinance (2020).

Intent: Established anti-rape crisis cell, more vigorous punishments.

Effectiveness:

• Fast tracked trials in some cases.

- lack of resources, victim blaming and societal stigma are still hindering it from achieving its full potential.

### Analysis:-

The gender based violence rate in Pakistan among women is 70 percent. This rate speaks for itself. The laws enforced might have somewhat positive implications, however, the incidents of

GBV in the country are still hoarding.



What are the measures that can be adopted by Pakistan to eliminate

GBV?

Restriction on alcohol consumption to avoid drunken violence.

Control on media: censor sexual material and pornography.

Early marriages should be preferred to fulfil sexual needs in societal manner.

Strengthening law enforcement.

Strict compliance to code of conduct at schools, workplace, homes etc.

Infusing moral and religious values in children.

Gender sensitisation.

Spreading awareness on available remedies for the victims and penalties for doers to reinforce deterrence against such crime

## CONCLUSION:

Despite some development, the status of gender based violence in Pakistan is a serious concern. The laws are facing hinderance in enforcement and implementation. Being a vulnerable group, women are especially facing hardships and are the majority victims in such incidents. In order to improve the situation, authorities should start protecting the marginalized group of women with better plans and strategies.

Q. NO. 07:-

## Barriers to women's Political Participation are:

1. Patriarchal mindsets.
2. Stereotypical beliefs.
3. Dynamics of Political Parties.
4. Party preferences on the basis of gender.
5. Inexperience and hurdles in securing opportunities.
6. Young age, limited education and unfortunate socio-economic status.
7. Dual responsibilities: managing home and career.
8. Non-supportive attitude of family and friends.
9. Community pressure, inaccessible or inadequate polling stations.

10. Issues of physical mobility

Current status of women in Political

Participation in Pakistan:

- 1 - 60 out of 336 seats in National Assembly reserved for women and 17 out of 100 seats in Senate
- 2 - Women contest on general seats, but low resources and limited political outreach restrict them
- 3 - low women voter turn-out - especially in rural areas of Pakistan
- 4 - Women representation in leadership:
  - \* Benazir Bhutto → former Prime Minister of Pakistan
  - \* Aina Rabbani → first female foreign minister of Pakistan

## Impact of Quota system:-

### Positive Implications:

- 1- Increased representation in Parliament
- 2 - Platform for advocacy of women's rights.
- 3- Women in legislature serve as role model for others.

e.g: Barrister Shahida Jamil - former Parliamentarian.

### Negative Implications:

1. women on quota seats are often selected by party leaders: reduces effectiveness and independence.
2. No increased participation at the local government level.

### CONCLUSION:

Despite certain shortcomings, women's quota system has been significant in increasing their participation in politics. However, for further representation women should be empowered and encouraged to participate and contest on general seats as well.