

Q: Critically examine the differences between Gender Studies and Women Studies. Shed light on sex vs. gender debate as well.

1. Introduction:

Gender studies and women studies seem to emerge in order to contribute in the academic domain by raising issues and challenges faced by women. Both these subjects differ in many respects i.e. regarding their approach, types of feminism, and subject matter. Gender studies attempts to raise its plight for equal opportunities for both males and females. Women studies asks for the equal opportunities to be provided by women, as they are the weaker and suppressed in society. Moreover, the sex versus gender debate is also critical in gender studies which one being biological and the other one social.

2. An Overview of Gender Studies and Women Studies

Gender Studies is a holistic discipline that tends to explain the role of males and females in the society, their responsibilities and the challenges they face in the socio-economic and political aspects of the society.

On the other hand, Women Studies tends to raise its voice for the roles and responsibilities of women, their ^{limited} participation in the social spheres and the challenges confronted by women.

Both these disciplines are crucial in highlighting women's efforts, their participation and issues pertaining to their decreased plight in the social sphere.

3. Differences between Gender Studies and Women Studies

1-2 Nature of Subjects

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| 1- Gender Studies | Women Studies |
| Gender studies tends to discuss the role of all gender in the societal fabric. | Women studies tends to discuss women's participation in the social sphere and factors limiting the role. |

2- Theoretical Perspective

Gender Studies

Gender Studies works on the idea of Liberal theory - that men and women should be considered equal and there should be equal opportunities for them.	Women Studies is an offshoot of radical feminism - that women should be autonomous in their positions of authority.
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3- Scope of Subject:

The scope of Gender studies is holistic as it encompasses all the genders and their roles in society.	The scope of women studies is limited as it only addresses the concerns related to women and girls.
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4- Waves of Feminism:

Gender studies comp	Women studies
Lies with third wave of feminism which demands legislative rights for women and other genders.	complies to the second wave of feminism that demands women's recognition in the socio political sphere.

5- Differences with respect to the approaches of development:

It adheres to the Women and Development approach (WAD) in development (WID); which calls for women inclusivity to policy making along with men.	Women studies adheres to Women in development (WID); that women should frame women-friendly policies and work for their implementation.
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6- Difference with respect to subject matter:

Gender studies sets for is interdisciplinary as well as multidisciplinary in relation with other subjects.	Women studies is interdisciplinary in its relation with other disciplines.
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4. Sex versus Gender debate

The sex versus gender debate in gender studies impacts the difference between these two ~~subjects~~ ^{concepts}.

Sex is the biological makeup or characteristics that determine masculinity or femininity.

On the other hand, gender is the social construction of being a male or female. It demonstrates the ~~social~~ constructs that are prevalent in the society; that determine one to be a male or female. For example: if a one complies to the soft voice and caring nature, it is attributed to females, while men are characterized by ~~to~~ their aggressive or muscular traits in the society.

Simon de Beauvoir in her book "The Second Sex" said:

"One is not born but rather becomes a woman" symbolizes

gender as a social construct; shaped and nurtured by the society.

In this way, sex is biologically determined whereas gender is the social construct that determine masculinity and femininity.

5. Conclusion:

To sum it up, gender studies and women studies have evolved slowly and gradually. Both are different in multiple respects including their scope, nature and theoretical frameworks. The concept of sex versus gender is also discussed in gender studies to clarify its biological or social nature.

Q1. Discuss different types of feminism and their contribution in elevating

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the socio-economic status of women globally.

1. Introduction:

The concept of feminism adheres to the idea that ~~not~~ women and men both are the essential pillars of humanity, so they must be treated equally and given equal rights in social, political, economic and legal domains.

There are various types of feminism depicting the idea with its underlying causes of women oppression and subjugation in the society.

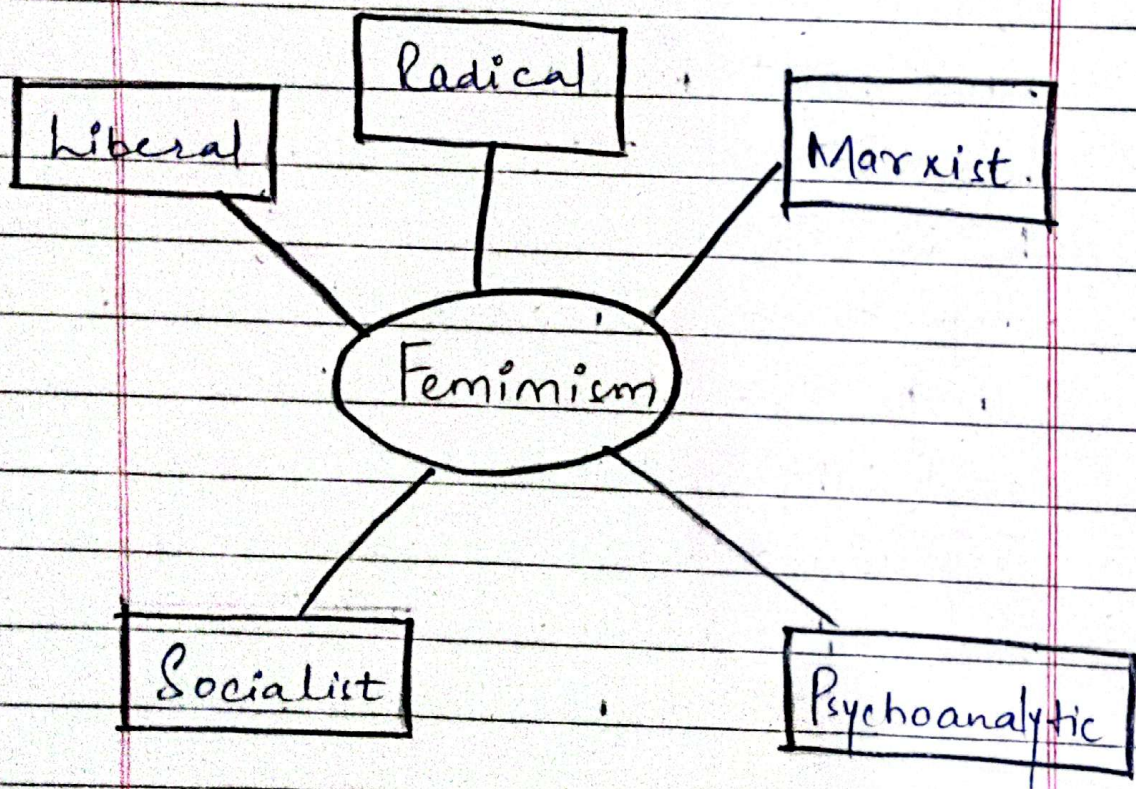
They also demand rights for women for raising their socio-economic status in the world.

2. Concept of 'Feminism'

Feminism delivers the idea that women in the society are

not given equal participation, they are oppressed and subjugated by their male counterparts. Thus, feminism tends to highlight their issues and propose possible measures in order to ameliorate their plight.

3. Types of Feminism:



1) Liberal Feminism:

Liberal feminism advocates for equal rights of men and women.

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It demands equality in opportunities of health, education ^{and} social sphere. Liberal feminists also demand equal rights for working women, political representation for women and economic independence of women.

2) Radical Feminism:

Radical feminists ^{declare} ~~make~~ patriarchy as the root cause of women oppression in the society. Patriarchy is the male-dominance in the society, in all positions of authority. This factor thus hinders their active participation, as males are ~~are~~ more dominant and authoritative, so they occupy the primary positions.

3) Marxist Feminism:

Marxist feminism; the concept given by Karl Marx, is that capitalism is the cause of women's subjugation.

in the society. It depicts the concept that capitalist or the elites suppress the working class, being ~~bein~~ women being "slaves of slaves". Women are the worst victims of capitalism, which is a system of pressing the weaker segments of society.

4. Social Feminism:

Social feminism considers ^{both} 'patriarchy' and 'capitalism' as the cause of women's oppression in the society. The advocates of this type consider that the patriarchal norms i.e. women being the caretakers of home and men being the breadwinners of family, along with capitalist class' dominance is the real reason and challenge for women's activity in the society.

5. Psychoanalytic Feminism:

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The psychoanalytic feminism proposed by Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis demonstrates the role of psyche on the genders and their individual preferences and behaviours. Childhood experiences and affiliations play a crucial role in this regard as well.

4. How different types of Feminism contribute in elevating women's socio-economic status:

The different types of feminism play crucial role in elevating women's socio-economic status. Karl Marx's Marxist feminism, on the one hand accuses capital wealth as the root cause of suppression of women, on the other side, devises socialist and communist structure of society to lower the gender troubles. Similarly liberal and radical feminist's device a society

free from patriarchal norms and equal distribution of resources for ~~women~~ mainstreaming women in the society.

5. Conclusion:

The proponents of feminism declare various causes and reasons responsible for hindering women's active role in the socio-economical spheres. The different types of feminism, contribute in devising initiatives ~~for~~ by removing patriarchal norms and capitalistic motives to elevate women's role in political and socio-economic fields.

Q2- Discuss the evolution of feminist thoughts in Pakistan by highlighting the development of Gender Studies as an academic discipline in the country.

1. Introduction:

Since the inception of Pakistan, the country has seen great efforts in order to support and mainstream women in the society. All the great leaders in the history made efforts and contributed to their support for women in political, social and economic domains in the country. Moreover, the subject got immense importance when different universities and academic centres along with NGOs started progressing for women rights and issues in Pakistan.

2. Evolution of Feminist thoughts in Pakistan:

The feminist movements were already started before the birth of Pakistan. The first wave of feminism started at the end of 19th century and the

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beginning of early 20th century. Thus, these movements were already started and had ignited the flames of women rights in Pakistan.

i. (i) M. Ali Jinnah:

Jinnah was a proponent of feminism. He was a supporter of mainstreaming women in the political activities, as once he said:

"We cannot prosper unless our women are not side-by-side us."
(Jinnah's statement restated).

ii) Liaquat Ali Khan's era:

During the era of Liaquat Ali Khan, Begham Rana Liaquat Ali Khan inaugurated All Pakistan's Women Association (APWA) in 1950.

It was a platform that would work for providing women the space to raise their concerns, help women and support them.

iii- Zia-ul-Haq's regime:

Zia passed Hudood ordinance which pertains to very strict laws regarding women sanctity and rape and qazf. Four witnesses for rape were required. Several punishments were also imposed, which was later abolished after Zia's per-time period.

iv. Benazir Bhutto and Women rights:

Benazir bhutto worked with several NGOs in supporting women. She was a great supporter of women rights and she worked and passed many bills and framed laws ⁱⁿ for women support.

v. Musharraf's Era:

Pervez Musharraf passed the bill in which 33% quota was allotted for women in the political sphere and 17% seats for women in National

Provincial assemblies and senate.
This clearly indicates Pakistan's
plight in the way of women rights.

vii). Contemporary Efforts on Feminist thoughts in Pakistan:

The Anti-Rape bill in 2016, and
Anti-Harassment Act in 2017
are still prevalent, but their pro-
per implementation can pave
way for a safe and smooth
plight in the way to support
and provide opportunities to
women.

3- Development of Gender Studies as an academic discipline

Many universities in Pakistan are
offering gender studies as a
compulsory and optional subject
to improve the scope and standard

of this subject in Pakistan.

- ~~University of~~ Fatima Jinnah University Rawalpindi:

Fatima Jinnah University is offering the course of Gender studies which is compulsory in every semester (as an allied subject).

- ~~Quaid-e-Azam~~ Quaid-e-Azam University:

Quaid-e-Azam university is offering an allied course in the department of anthropology. It enhances the understanding of gender issues in primitive times as well.

- Moreover, the University of Lahore and University of Jamshoro, Sindh also offer courses on Gender studies.

This academic inclusivity paves way for a deeper understanding of

gender studies and issues concerned to it.

4. Conclusion:

Feminism continued to pave its way in Pakistan since the independence of the country. The feminist thoughts prospered in the historical era during Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan's time period. Moreover, Benazir Bhutto also worked on it. The universities in Pakistan ^{are} also making attempts to perpetuate and increase the scope of gender studies.