

(3/1)

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Gender Studies (1)

NOA (Final Mark)

Q1 Critically examine the differences between Gender Studies and women studies. Shed light on Sex vs gender debate as well.

⇒ Gender Studies: Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field that examines the roles, experiences, and identities of all genders, including men, women, and non-binary individuals. It explores how gender intersects with other social categories like race, class, sexuality, and ability. Gender Studies seeks to understand how societal norms and structures shape gender identities and relations. For example, a Gender Studies program might analyze how masculinity is constructed in different cultures by considering men's power and their will or how gender roles affect workplace dynamics.

⇒ women Studies: women Studies primarily focuses on women's experiences, contributions,

and issue. It emerged from feminist movements and aims to highlight women's roles in society, the challenges they face, and the historical context of women's rights. Women Studies often emphasizes the importance of women's voices and perspectives in various fields, such as literature, history, and politics. For instance, a women studies course might examine the impact of the suffrage movement on contemporary women's rights.

→ Key differences:

1) Scope: Gender Studies encompasses a broader analysis of gender as a social construct affecting all genders, while women studies especially focuses on women's experiences and issues.

2) Intersectionality:

Gender Studies often employs an intersectional approach, considering how various identities (race, class, etc.)

intersects with gender studies. Women Studies may also consider intersectionality but often centres on women's specific issues.

3) Methodology:

Gender Studies utilizes a wider range of theoretical frameworks, including queer theory and masculinity studies, while Women Studies traditionally draws from feminist theory.

⇒ Examples to illustrate these differences include:

a) A Gender Studies analysis might explore how societal expectations of masculinity contribute to mental health issues among men, whereas a Women Studies project might focus on the historical struggle of women in gaining voting rights.

b) Gender Trouble (by Judith Butler) which discusses the performative nature of gender.

c) The Second Sex (by Simone de Beauvoir), a foundational text in Women Studies that examines

women's oppression and liberation.

⇒ The Sex VS Gender debate:

Sex vs Gender debate is a significant discussion in contemporary sociology and gender studies, focusing on the differences between biological sex and social gender.

⇒ Sex: Sex refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that define humans as male or female, such as reproductive organs, chromosomes, and hormones. This classification is generally assigned at birth based on physical attributes. For example, individuals with XY chromosomes are typically classified as male, while those with XX chromosomes are classified as female.

⇒ Gender: Gender is a social construct that encompasses the roles, behaviors, activities, and expectations that society considers appropriate for men and women. Gender identity refers to how individuals

perceive themselves and what they call themselves, which may not necessarily align with their biological sex. For instance, a person assigned female at birth may identify as a man or non-binary, highlighting the distinction between sex and gender.

⇒

Prominent examples in this debate (experience of transgender). The transgender people often face significant societal challenges as their assigned sex at birth. For instance, a transgender woman (assigned male at birth but identifies as female) may encounter discrimination in various areas, including health care, employment, and personal relationships. This illustrates how gender identity can be more complex than mere biological categorization. Additionally, the concept of gender fluidity demonstrates that gender is not

binary and can exist along a spectrum. Some individuals may identify as genderqueer or non-binary, meaning they do not exclusively identify as male or female. This further complicates the traditional understanding of gender roles and expectations.

"The Gender Society" by: Michael Kimmel, which discusses how gender shapes social interactions and institutions.

In conclusion, the sex vs. gender debate highlights the distinction between biological attributes and social roles, emphasizing that gender is a fluid and complex construct shaped by cultural, social, and individual factors.

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

The evolution of feminist thought in Pakistan has

been a complex journey, shaped by historical, cultural, and socio-political factors.

Feminism in Pakistan has evolved through various phases, each marked by distinct ideologies and movements that have influenced the development of gender studies as an academic discipline.

In the early years following Pakistan's independence in 1947, women's rights were primarily framed within the context of national development. The All-India Muslim Women's Conference in the 1930s laid the groundwork for women's activism, but it wasn't until the 1980s that feminist thought began to gain a more defined voice. The introduction of Islamic laws during the regime of General Zia-ul-Haq, particularly the Hudood Ordinances, sparked significant backlash among women activists.

This period saw the rise of women's rights organizations

like the Women's Action Forum (WAF), which played a crucial role in advocating for women's rights and challenging oppressive laws

⇒ The 1990's: It marked a pivotal shift in feminist discourse, with an increasing focus on issues such as violence against women, economic empowerment, and education. The establishment of various NGOs and women's organizations contributed to raising awareness and mobilizing support for gender equality. The Lahore Declaration of 1996, which emphasized women's rights as human rights, was a significant milestone in this regard.

⇒ Feminist activism and academic interest: As feminist activism grew, so did the academic interest in gender studies. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, universities in Pakistan

began to introduce gender studies programs, recognizing the need to analyze gender issues within the socio-cultural context of the country. Institutions like the University of Management Sciences (LUMS) established gender studies departments, fostering research and scholarship in this field.

⇒ Gender Studies in Pakistan:

Gender studies in Pakistan has since evolved to encompass various topics, including gender-based violence, women's health, and the intersectionality of gender with class, ethnicity, and religion. Research conducted by organizations like the Aurat Foundation has highlighted alarming statistics, such as the fact that 70% of women in Pakistan experience some form of domestic violence in their lifetime. This data has been crucial in informing policy and advocating for

efforts of activists and scholars alike are essential for promoting gender equality and challenging ~~past~~ patriarchal norms in Pakistan society.

⇒ "Feminism in Pakistan: A history of the women's Movement" by: Atiya Shehrbano.

⇒ "Gender Studies in Pakistan: A historical Perspective" by: Nida Kirmani.

Reports from the Aurat Foundation, which provide statistical insights and analysis on women's rights issues in Pakistan.

Q 6. Elaborate different forms of gender based violence. Also, evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws and policies in addressing gender-based violence in Pakistan.

Gender-based violence (GBV) in Pakistan is a multifaceted issue that affects individuals across various social strata.

From a gender studies perspective, it's essential to analyze the different forms of (GBV) and

evaluate the effectiveness of existing laws and policies in addressing various challenges.

⇒ "Forms of Gender based violence"

1) Domestic violence: This is one of the most common forms of gender based violence in Pakistan, encompassing physical, emotional, and psychological abuse within the household. Many women face violence from intimate partners, often justified by patriarchal norms that endorse male dominance.

2) Honor Killings: Honor-related violence is a grave issue, where women are murdered by family members for perceived violations of family honor. Such acts are often rooted in rigid cultural norms and expectations regarding women's behavior and autonomy.

3) Sexual Harassment: Women frequently encounter sexual harassment in public

spaces and workplaces. This form of violence not only affects their physical safety but also limits their freedom and participation in society.

4) Trafficking and Exploitation:

women and girls are at risk of trafficking for forced labor or sexual exploitation.

This form of gender based violence is often linked to poverty and lack of education, making vulnerable populations targets for trafficking traffickers.

⇒ Effectiveness of Existing Laws and Policies:

Pakistan has made some progress in enacting laws to combat gender base violence, such as the Protection Against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act (2010) and the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2012). However, the implementation of these laws faces significant challenges.

Lack of Awareness: Many women are unaware of their rights and the legal protections available to them. This lack of knowledge prevents them from seeking help and reporting incidents of violence.

2) Cultural Barriers: Societal stigma and cultural attitudes often discourage women from speaking out against violence. Fear of retribution or social ostracism can silence victims and perpetuate the cycle of abuse.

3) Inadequate Law Enforcement: Law enforcement agencies often lack the training and sensitivity required to handle gender based violence cases effectively. This can lead to underreporting and a lack of accountability for perpetrators.

4) Need for Comprehensive approach: While legal frameworks exist, a multi-faceted approach that includes education, community engagement, and

Support services is essential for addressing the root causes of gender based violence and promoting gender equality.

In conclusion, while Pakistan has established some legal frameworks to address gender-based violence, their effectiveness is limited by cultural barriers, lack of awareness, and inadequate implementation.