

Gender Studies: A Distinct Theory of Feminist Literature

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Abstract:

Gender studies is an interdisciplinary field covering literature, linguistics, sociology, politics, history and other disciplines of social science. It talks on the multifaceted communication of gender with different identities such as competition, civilization, sex, culture and faith. It was concerned with power dynamics that relates to sex. It covers a wide range that encompasses people's educations, and queer educations. Though gender educations is a branch of feminism and is concerned with women's marginal social status including oppression and exploitation, it is not akin to feminism. Feminism focuses on women's concerns while gender studies deal with the whole gender realities. Gender studies emphasizes on gender individuality as the main concept but feminism focuses the roles, knowledges and attainments of women in civilization. In literature, literature gender is used to define the authors and depict society and evaluate them

on the basis of gender. Sex, gender and sexuality shape narrative texts. Feminist literature exposes women's subordination to men and denial of rights and freedom and voices for gender quality. Gender studies is not confined to women's studies only; it comprises people's studies, opening up a new genre that may be called 'gendered literature'.

Keywords: Gender, sex, feminism, interdisciplinary field, feminist literature, gender equality, patriarchy, feminist literature

Introduction

Gender studies though a branch of feminism is a new arena which is concerned the multifaceted communication of gender with other individualities including race, civilization, sex, state and faith. Gender is the basis of gender studies. It focuses on gender bias and social and political realities about gender difference. In literature, gender denotes the way by which writers and fonts describe themselves, attempting how civilization assesses them founded on gender analysis but also with the greater systematic nature of communal disparity – control and honor. The word 'gender' denotes most commonly the perceived and natural differences between men and women Sex, gender and sexuality shape narrative texts and the understanding of reader of the texts in many ways. Research so far conducted on the issues of gender highlights the glitches of the burdened and exploited. But it started a conversation of the rank of the classifying the part of honor in perpetuating systems of inequality (Woehrle, Lynne M. and Engelmann, Donna, 2015). Gender studies emphasis on control subtleties telling sex. That arena covers whole studies, and infrequently speeches extensive communal concern. Gender studies industrialized together with and merged out of females' studies which combined the arena of enquiry.

It tests the male-oriented countryside of civilization and gender roles thrust upon women. It explores and explains that the world culture as well as the society is male-centred and controlled, and females are subordinated to men in all social areas. Even, literature carries the stamp of male dominance. Gender studies attempts to explore and examine dissimilar senses devoted to maleness and femaleness in fiction, past and ethos. Sex is a matter of biology as well as a matter of being masculine or feminine. Gender is a matter of culture. It shows the distinction between femininity and masculinity. Jon Peck and Martin Coyle write that the ideas of gender mainly reproduce the rational and prejudice of patriarchy. Gender bias denotes the behavior that focuses on favouritism towards one gender over another. Patriarchy is male-oriented and describes the male as lively, lucid and courageous and the female as inert, silent and expressive. The structure of gender is beached on male efforts to switch female sex. Gender studies focuses on gender inequality and has created new literature to depict the marginalized status of women in the male governed society.

Review of Literature

Brown, Mitchel & Moorer, Regina (2015) are of the view that gender studies is actually women's studies. It denotes scholarship about and the academic study of the meaning and implication of gender and gendered roles. It sheds light on power, marginal status of women in the society, oppression and the intersection of identities. Gender education is an interdisciplinary arena including literature, sociology, philosophy, history, political science and social science subjects and highlights supposed around gender and its meaning and origins. It depicts a ranked scheme of control relatives for sustained being. It identifies the process, belongings and connections of persons control relatives that form the dominant constituent of gender studies. The researchers discuss the growth of women education as an academic ground along with emerging directions from gender

studies in theory and research.

Woodward, Kath and Woodward, Sophie (2015) consider gender studies as an interdisciplinary academic field that focuses on the complex social worlds and deal with global problems associated with everyday life (Woodward, 2014). The authors explore that gender and gender relatives are the core of gender education which is not akin to women's studies. They discuss sex, gender and sexuality forming the foundation of gender education. Gender lessons include women studies and activist politics and are a campaign for redressal of gendered inequalities. Ampofo, Akosua Adomako, et al (2004) focus on various aspects of gender lessons in their article. An article clarifies the idea of gender studies and presents the empathetic of the topics and debates in the broader perspectives. The study is concerned with women's and gender studies. It contains the common feminist issues like women's well-being, globalization and effort. It also sheds light on the State, and non-government organizations in their efforts to address the conditions of African women. Besides, the researchers address theoretical and methodological trends.

Moodley, Jacqueline and Gaham, Lauren (2015) examine the relationship between poverty and disability in the exploration of African Women's social status from a Southern African perspective. Social characteristics have not been considered when this relationship is addressed. It has not been studied on the basis of gender. But they admit that research at the international level reveals that gender gaps influence the outcomes for people with disabilities. The study makes an attempt to focus on poverty and disability that form an important issue at the national level in relation to gender studies in South Africa. The philosophy of intersectionality has been used as a lens system to interpret evidence from a national level (South African Labour and Development Research Unit, 2014). The researchers assess how poverty and disability intersect to shape particular outcomes for women

in comparison with human kinds with disabilities. The South African incapacity crosses with people, resulting in negative outcomes in teaching, service and revenue in all persons with debilities.

Doyal, Lesley (2000) emphasizes promotion of gender evenhandedness in well-being and parity in well-being results between opposite sexes. The researcher points out important changes in the well-being needs of men and women. It has been found that poverty is one of the factors blocking the passage for both men and women to have their possible for well-being. The implementation of the policy for the promotion of gender impartiality needs equitable distribution of health related resources. This may be possible if the resemblances and changes in the healthiness requests for people are properly identified and the gendered obstacles are analyzed. The present paper discovers the influence of gender separations in the strength and the well-being care of people. The researcher attractions the conclusion of the study on the point that well-being outcomes for both persons and inhabitants have been over powering ly predisposed by aspects like competition, lesson, civilization status.

Methodology

The present study is descriptive, qualitative one. The investigation for data of the study is mainly based on research articles and research papers and literature on gender studies and feminist literature. Various research articles were studied to collect data for the study. Feminist literature and gender studies based literature were read and examined to collect data to show that gender studies also focuses on the oppression, repression, suppression, exploitation and denial of rights and freedom to women. The feminist writers have focused on gender inequality. The collected data were examined objectively to arrive at the conclusion that most of the world societies are patriarchal and gender inequality is present there. The study is a description of the outcomes

of gender disparity and the roles at patriarchal society in the marginalization of females in society. The data collected from the authentic sources speak of gender studies is mainly concerned with females' status onto the civilization and the suggestions for the redressal of women's problems.

Discussion

The thoughts of gender mainly reflect the rational and prejudice of patriarchy. Patriarchy is masculine concerned with. This is male in nature, character and spirit, and owns masculine structure as the normal and shapes the communal instruction everywhere male sex. Patriarchy expresses the male as vigorous, balanced and valiant and womanlike as inactive, noiseless and demonstrative. The creation of gender is grounded in masculine efforts to control woman like sex. The identical imagines of females by way of, on the one pointer, the sensual stuff of males and on the other, the virtuous mommies of their families have been the income whereas males safeguard both holiness of their families and their additional matrimonial sexual pleasure.

Gender governs all including language. This is a confidence of approximately that the whole idea of feminine change has caused female oppression. The passage concludes by stating that both of these academic fields, whether it's male critics in feminist studies or detractors in gay studies, are less concerned with a writer's or reader's biological sex (referred to as "organic sex") and more interested in certain aspects of masculinity and femininity. This suggests that these scholars are more concerned with the cultural, social, and psychological dimensions of gender identity and gender roles than with the physical or biological aspects of sex.

Feminism which led to the initiation of gender studies called for 'liberation' of female after sure procedures of gender-based discrimination which disadvantaged females of the chances for self-glorification and parity with men folk merely since they remained females. Women were unjustly described

as inferior to men. "The Subjection of Women" (1869) by John Stuart Mill and "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" (1792) by Mary Will stone craft exposed the complete unfairness in custody females burdened by forward influences which were fund a mentally prejudiced and they bare he affected country side of communal buildings. Mill supposed that 'the right of the separate is unconditionally essential for the growth of the society' and watched ladies' liberty as an vital disorder. Mary Will stone craft powerfully begged for the liberation of females and complained in contradiction of organizations which wrinkled ladies 'individuality and put on ward that females were brow beaten and wronged ubiquitously by asset of their gender. The book "A Room of One's Own" underscores the severe intelligence of existence excepted and relegated. This develops a big melody with the activist author safter ward 1960.

B.K. Das (2004) says, "Feminist literary criticism primarily responds to the way woman is presented in literature" (143). Elaine Showalter's essays clarify the presentation of woman in literature. She describes men writer's portrayal of woman and women writer's portrayal of woman. In the latter also the predominant ideological constructs influence the writer's perceptions and choices of narrative. Though Simeon de Beauvoir is regarded to have pioneered the feminist standpoint in her "The Second Sex", feminist criticism has now shown remarkable maturity and diversification. Feminism explores and examines all aspects of the socio-cultural constructs in which women get portrayed in literary works, and seeks to deconstruct them in order to bring to the fore the systematically evolved genderist or sexist biases.

Mary Ellmann's "Thinking About women" (1968) and Kate Millett's "Sexual Politics" represent an attempt to understand the changing scenario in the dominant theoretical discourse and the importance of gender factor in formulating new strategies. Elaine Showalter's two important essays "Towards a Feminist Poetics" and "Feminist Criticism in the

Wilderness” consider both the male theory and feminist criticism in detail and emphasize the need for feminist stand to be revealed is-a-vis its position and relation with the male theorist. Kate Millett in her “Sexual Politics” lays emphasis on the most universal and eldest procedure of misuse which is the one trained by men over women. One of the protuberant habits of combining the male-controlled scheme of party-political and communal control is finished groups of supreme control.

Toril Moi defines ‘feminine’ as a cultural construct distinct from the female and the feminist. By this she means designs of sex and behaviour compulsory by social norms” (209). Women are the oppressed group. Even what is natural for women is determined by men. Feminity is a cultural construct. Male-dominated culture has over centuries evolved a whole set of ‘feminine’ characters. Toril Moi divisions campaigner censure into feminine ensure and feminine criticism. In her opinion, feminine theory is concerned with the construction of feminity. A theory with female qualities at its centre is open to attacks both from the biologism and patriarchal categories (Rajimwale, Sharad, 2012). Toril Moi defines ‘feminine’ as a cultural construct distinct from the female and the feminist. By this she means designs of sex and behaviour compulsory by social norms” (209). Women are the oppressed group. Even what is natural for women is determined by men. Feminity is a cultural construct. Male-dominated culture has over centuries evolved a whole set of ‘feminine’ characters. Toril Moi divisions campaigner censure into feminine ensure and feminine criticism. In her opinion, feminine theory is concerned with the construction of feminity. A theory with female qualities at its centre is open to attacks both from the biologism and patriarchal categories (Rajimwale, Sharad, 2012).

Literary disapproval has not only been conquered by masculine supposition and thoughts but also first-rate to study and admiration manuscripts that reproduce masculine welfares. It is also supposed that script is inscription and cannot be considered as male womanly. But equalist critics

disagree and need the booklovers to understand the original male-controlled molds:

“Feminist critics consider how the narrative structure of a text can influence the reader’s understanding of gender. They explore elements such as plot development, point of view, and narrative voice to assess whether they reflect or challenge dominant gender norms. In essence, Myra Jehlen’s perspective aligns with feminist literary criticism, which seeks to analyze and appreciate literature through the lens of gender and other identity factors. Rather than diminishing literature, feminist criticism aims to illuminate and celebrate the diversity of voices and experiences present in literary works. It challenges the traditional, often male-dominated canon and encourages a broader and more inclusive understanding of literature. In other words, literary criticism can reveal the implicit gender-related themes and ideas within a text, even if the author did not consciously intend for those themes to be present. This perspective highlights the importance of considering gender as a significant aspect of literary analysis and interpretation. By doing so, readers and critics can gain a deeper understanding of the text and the cultural and societal context in which it was created. Overall, feminist scholarship is a diverse field with various perspectives and approaches, but its overarching goal is to promote gender equality, challenge patriarchal structures, and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society. It does so through rigorous research, analysis, and critique of gender-related issues, including the social constructions of femaleness and maleness. It’s important to note that feminist scholarship is a diverse field with various schools of thought and approaches. While the statement you provided captures one perspective within feminist scholarship, there are many other viewpoints and debates within the field. Additionally, feminism itself is not a monolithic movement, and different feminists may have differing views on issues such as the role of “male values” or the extent to which gender considerations

should be abolished in various aspects of society, including literature and the arts.

Conclusion

Gender studies is an interdisciplinary field that indeed focuses on the complex interaction of gender with various aspects of human identity, including race, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, culture, customs, and religion. However, your statement that gender studies is not associated with a particular gender and is concerned mainly with masculinity and femininity needs some clarification. Gender identity refers to a person's deeply held sense of their own gender, which may or may not align with the sex assigned to them at birth. Gender identity can be diverse and includes not only being male or female but also non-binary identities, genderqueer, genderfluid, and more. It's important to note that gender identity is a deeply personal and individual experience. One of Millett's central arguments in "Sexual Politics" is that male dominance is a pervasive and fundamental form of power in society. She suggests that patriarchy, a social system in which men hold primary power and women are systematically disadvantaged, shapes many aspects of our culture and institutions.

This male dominance is seen as a significant source of inequality and oppression. Gender studies is indeed a multidisciplinary field that examines the social, cultural, and political aspects of gender and its impact on society. While it is related to feminism and often addresses issues related to patriarchy and the role of men and women in society, it is a broader discipline that goes beyond just examining the power dynamics between the sexes. Recognizing these intersections is essential for understanding the full complexity of individuals' experiences and addressing systemic inequalities. It highlights the importance of an intersectional approach to feminism and social justice, which acknowledges that different aspects of a person's identity and social position

interact to shape their lived experiences.

Advocacy and policies must consider these intersections to create more inclusive and equitable societies. Initially, Women's Studies focused on the experiences and perspectives of women, particularly as they related to issues of gender and sexuality. However, the field has since expanded its scope to examine how gender operates as a social construct beyond mere individual identity. Gender Studies seeks to understand the broader structures and systems that shape and perpetuate gender norms, roles, and expectations. This includes examining how gender is constructed, maintained, and enforced across different historical and cultural contexts." (Halberstn, Jack, 2014). As women's studies continued to evolve, scholars began to recognize that gender was not solely about women but also encompassed the study of masculinity, non-binary genders, and the intersectionality of gender with other social categories like race, class, and sexuality. This broader perspective led to the emergence of gender studies, which shifted the focus from women exclusively to a more comprehensive examination of gender as a social construct.

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