

MODULE 1

INTRODUCTION TO



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What is Gender Studies?



Gender studies is an **academic field** devoted to analysing **gender identity** and gendered **representation**. It includes **women's studies** (concerning **women, feminism, gender, and politics**), **men's studies**

Features of Gender Studies

Gender studies refers to the academic study of the phenomena of gender. What is meant by 'gender'? Within feminist thought, a distinction has been made between 'sex' and 'gender'. Sex here refers to the fact of being either male or female, and gender to the cultural and social ideas of masculinity and femininity that are assigned to different sexes. Gender refers to those traits and 3 characteristics that a person is expected to possess by virtue of being male or female, as well as the different roles that the person is expected to perform

Three characteristics are **economic, social, political**







Gender and Sex Femininity/Masculinity

MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY : *The sex / gender differences raises the issues of male - female; masculine and feminine, male associated with masculinity and female with femininity. With each constructions the biological differences between men and women get translated into social terms and descriptions. Feminist writers argue that biological differences get heightened through social descriptions of masculinity and femininity.*

IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN STUDIES

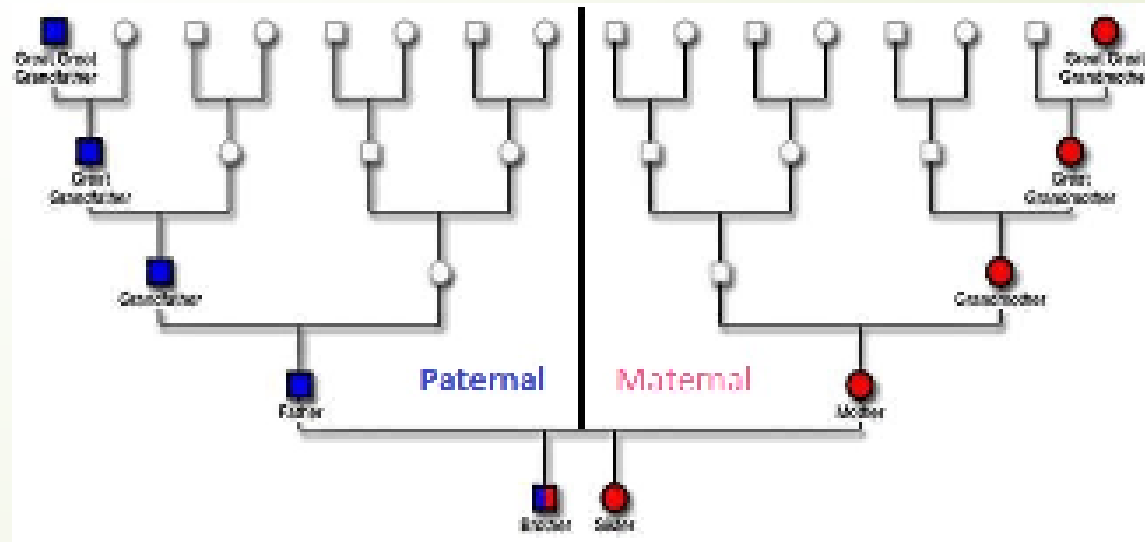
There is commonly adapted belief that women's studies are for the sole benefit of women and women's rights. This is great misconception, if women is empowered the whole society is empowered therefore it is an important aspect of any society It will enhance our GDP growth which in turn increase our per capita income,



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- What is the difference between a matrilineal society and a patrilineal society?
 - Matrilineal: people trace ancestry through their mothers
 - Patrilineal: people trace ancestry through their fathers

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Few examples

What shifts the power to the mother is the matrilineal system of inheritance; the property is passed from the mother to daughter.

The Khasi tribe:

The majority of this tribe resides in the state of Meghalaya.

Given the hilly terrain and dense forests of the region, it is relatively isolated from the societies residing in the plains.

Though women of the tribe still lack any representation in the political arena of the state, the affairs of the tribe as well as domestic affairs are controlled by the women of the house.

Following the matrilineal law of inheritance, the youngest daughter of the house will stay with the parents and inherit the house that is named after her mother. The husband is expected to leave his house and live with his wife in his mother-in-law's house.





The Garo tribe:

Neighbours to Khasi, this tribe has a similar social formation and also follows the matrilineal methodology to trace property. A Garo family is headed by the mother of the house but the father is responsible for providing sustenance. The tribe is divided into sub-tribes and clans, with marriage outside the tribe highly discouraged.

The daughter of the family carries the clan name throughout her life, whereas the son takes up his wife's clan name after marriage.



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The matrilineal societies of Kerala:

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Kerala has the best sex ratio of the country, a fact which is not only to be credited to the high literacy rate, but also to the fading culture of a matrilineal society.

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On the other hand, women in Kerala enjoy a higher political stature compared to most women across the country, A few families still follow the matrilineal tradition of carrying the mother's name throughout their life.



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