

Study Material

Vivekananda College
Thakurpukur





Subject: Women's Studies

Topic: About Women's studies

Dept. of Women's Studies

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□ About Women's Studies

- ▶ Women Studies is an academic field of women and gender. That draws on feminist and interdisciplinary methods. The rise and spread of a remarkably new field of knowledge focusing on women, their lives and their struggles, has been witnessed from the mid 1970s. Early on course drew specially on history, literature and sociology but they quickly expanded to their humanities, philosophy, religious studies, comparative literature, art, music and social science, economics. Women's studies is closely related to the fields of gender studies, feminist studies and sexuality studies.




□ Growth and History of Women's Studies

Women's Studies, as a concept and a site of learning, really began with Second wave of the women's movement in the late 1960s

The first scholarly journal interdisciplinary women's studies, feminist studies began publishing in 1972. The national women's association was established in 1977. The first accredited women's Studies courses in the U.S was held in 1969 at Cornell university.

The rise of numerous social and political struggles in Urban and rural location across the country, a growing international Feminist movement and most importantly. The findings of the towards



Equality report. Beginning the section with the reflections of Neera Dsai, Who became the director of the first women's studies center at the SNDT women's university in Bombay in 1974.

The field of women's studies continued to growth during The 1990s and into the 2000s with expansion of universities offering Majors minors and certificates in women's studies, gender studies and Feminist studies.



□ Women's Studies and Education :

We now come to the more intractable aspects of the development of women's studies, namely its impact on the educational system . It was widely agreed that the absence of women in most of these courses Contributed strongly to an unquestioning attitude and an acceptance of Gender subordination in society.

In 1983 Madhuri Shah sent a letters to all universities to incorporate women's studies in their research, teaching and extension activities. Going by the extremely unsatisfactory response, shah commented that 'the universities had not Applied their minds to the is sues of restructuring of courses or curriculum Development as apart of taking note of the new knowledge. Only a board Based movement to develop women's studies with in the general Educational system could initiate a process to prevent future injustice in The context of the marginal position of women in education.



□ Importance of Women's Studies :

If you and the women you know are worth more than that, and you want to grab your beautiful, precious, wonderful life by the horns and do something challenging and inspiring and worthwhile with it, read on some reason to major in women's studies. In our society women's issues aren't getting the mainstream attention they deserve: that women are widely underrepresented in politics; that the number of sexual assaults on college campuses is staggeringly high; that women still get paid less for equal work.

When you major in women's studies you study politics, theory, literature, history, sociology, and psychology, all with a feminist perspectives. You can understand how have women been portrayed in the media and religion. How does our society compare to others in its treatment of women.



The most important thing about women's studies is that it's not just about.

It makes you think about layers of identity and explore how oppressions like racism , sexism are comparable and intertwined.

But really, it's a theory that examines how different forms of identity like race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability intersect and interact on multiple levels.

Majoring women's studies allows to challenge these intersecting oppressions and address the systemic problems and it ins tills a huge sense of compassion for disadvantaged, oppressed groups.