

QUESTION No 1:

What are the different forms of gender based violence and, in your opinion what could be the workable strategies to eliminate gender based violence from Pakistani society?

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE:

According to "The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women", adopted by UNGA in 1993, defines violence against women as:

"An act of violence based on gender that results in physical, sexual or psychological suffering, whether occurring in public or private life."

It means an act of violence against woman for being woman (gender).

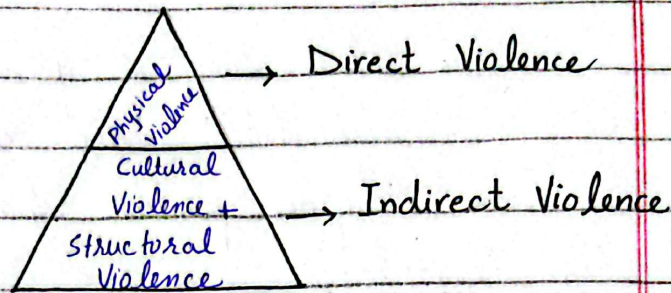
WHO Report on GBV:

An estimate published by WHO in 2021, indicates that globally about 1 in 3 (33%) of women have been subjected to either physical and sexual violence, out of which almost 27% of the women worldwide of age 15-49 have been subjected to intimate partner violence.

Different Forms of GBV:

John Galtung, a Norwegian sociologist gave a triangular concept of different types of gender based violence.

- i. Structural Violence
- ii- Cultural Violence
- ii- Direct Violence.



i- Physical / Direct Violence:

Direct violence includes classical forms of violence like physical violence, verbal violence and threats.

Beatings, sexual assaults, rape, marital torture and killings are forms of physical violence while humiliation, verbal abuses and putting someone down through language are forms of verbal violence.

ii Structural Violence:

Structural violence prevails in larger structures like economic system, social system and political system etc.

It exists when some groups, classes, genders, nationalities are assumed to be on higher position than the others.

For Example:

Patriarchy as a larger structure considers male as the dominant and superior gender than the women.

Women lack in social, political, educational, cultural and economical opportunities than their male counterparts.

So, it is considered as violence against women as they are not getting equal rights and opportunities.

Cultural Violence:

Women faces cultural violence which refers to the prevailing attitudes and beliefs that we have been taught since our childhood. The violent and aggressive behaviour of man is

considered as symbol of bravery and courage which inturns leads to domestic violence.

Mostly women who are facing cultural violence is due to:

1. Misinterpretation of religion by male clerick
2. The hegemony of male created due to financial superiority.

STRATEGIES TO ELIMINATE GBV IN PAKISTAN

There are multiple strategies to encounter gender based violence. Some of them are as under:

1- Strict Legislative Measures.

A. Weiss in his book "Interpreting Islam, Modernity and Women's Rights in Pakistan."

says, "violence against women remains a glaring issue since its inception. It has however been neglected or not properly ameliorated due to lack of proper policies and laws."

Pakistan is in dire need to make strict legislations and strictly implement them on its citizens. Although, there are acts like restriction on child marriage act, Acid crime protection act 2010, protection of women act 2006 but these are not implemented. So, by implementing these legislative acts can control gender based violence in Pakistan.

2- Promoting Women Empowerment:

Similarly, women empowerment can control gender based violence in Pakistan, as a society where women are

empowered socially, politically, and economically cannot be violated.

3- Providing Quality Education:

Providing equal opportunities to girls to get education ensures decrease in gender based violence. If a woman gets education, she becomes able to know her rights and laws which protect these rights so, they cannot be violated by anyone superior to them.

4 Ensuring Economical Independency:

Most of the domestic violence which a woman faces is due to her economical dependency on male members of her house. So, it is a great need to ensure maximum indulgence of women in jobs or

small businesses to make them financially independent.

5- Allowing women on leading positions:

Women can address, resolve and take initiative on issues related to women if they are allowed to be in decisive positions. They can also change the patriarchal mindset and talk for their rights.

6- Through Religious Preachings:

Gender based violence can be taken into control through religious preachings. The religious scholars have to play their roles in order to change the prevalent cultural dogmas. As Islam has provided equal rights to women and negated violence against women so, it must be preached to decrease gender based violence.

Awareness through Media:

The government of Pakistan ^{should} seriously aims to create an atmosphere of awareness towards women's rights, where media can play an influential and effective role. Gender based violence can be eradicated if the masses get awareness about their rights and duties.

Conclusion:

Gender based violence as an act of violence against women is a social evil which is persisting in many forms as physical, ~~social~~ cultural and structural violence. It can be treated in a proper manner which is only possible through the emancipation and empowerment of women in a society. They should be given equal opportunities

like men so that they can contribute in the social, political, economical and cultural upbringing of Pakistan, which resultantly leads to decrease or total eradication of gender based violence

As "Meghan Markle" once said:

"Women don't need to find a voice, they have a voice, and they need to feel empowered to use it, and people need to be encouraged to listen."

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