

Q: What are various forms of Gender Based Violence? What type of violence is more prevalent in Pakistani society? In your opinion, how it could be eliminated?

## OUTLINE

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- 2- Various Forms of Gender Based Violence
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  - (b) Forced Marriage
  - (c) Workplace Harassment
  - (d) Honor Killings
  - (e) Others
- 3- Violences more prevalent in Pakistani society
  - (a) Honor Killings
  - (b) Domestic Violence
  - (c) Acid Attacks
  - (d) Sexual Harassment
  - (e) Others
- 4- Ways of Elimination of Gender Based Violence.
  - (a) Transformative Justice and Restorative Practices
  - (b) Deconstruction of Hegemonic Narratives
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  - (d) Institutional Reforms and Policy Interventions
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## 1- Explicating the Term Gender Based Violence

The terms gender based violence and violence against women are often used interchangeably, as most violence against women is gender-based, and most gender based violence is inflicted by men on women and girls. As per the view of Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), it is "a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of women's full advancement. Violence against women is one ~~of~~ of the crucial social mechanisms by the use of which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men." The are two structural forms of Gender based violence: Direct and Indirect forms of Violence. They are, then subdivided into Physical, sexual, economic, and psychological violence, among them are violences within a larger societal context; institutions, and individuals within and outside these institutions, are all engaged in the normalization of violence against women. In the ever-evolving world, gender based violences have integrated themselves into society in somewhat invisibly.



## 2- Various Forms of Gender Based Violence:

Gender based violence is a widespread and deeply rooted problem affecting people of all ages and genders around the world. Some of the common forms of gender-based violence includes:

### (a) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

In the confines of intimate sanctuaries, where tender hearts should unite like celestial stars, a tragic veil often shrouds the once-blooming gardens of love. Domestic violence, a malevolent specter haunting the hallowed halls of trust, unleashes its cruel tempest, destroying souls with dark hues of sorrow and despair, leaving fractured hearts yearning for the dawn of serenity.

### (b) Forced Marriage:

It is a somber union veiled in coercion's lament, ensnared innocent souls in the thorns of tradition's grasp. As per the figures provided by the "Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence", in 2018 alone, there were an estimated 15.4 million people forced to marry globally. 88% of them were women. This number now has soared to 22 million globally in 2022. This trend may go even further, if not looked at.



(c) Workplace Harassment:

It is yet another insidious plague that permeates even in workplace, eroding the foundation of a conducive work environment. It takes various forms, from verbal abuse and discriminative behavior to engendering fear in women. According to Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), harassment can include "offensive jokes, slurs, epithets or name calling, physical assault or threat, intimidation, ridicule or mockery, and interference with work performance."

(d) Honor Killings:

It is a heinous and archaic practice, inflict a deep wound upon the humanity. Driven by a misguided sense of preserving family honor, this heinous act condemns individuals, especially women, to a gruesome fate. Night Taneja and Umri Khan, scholars, decried this violation of human rights, emphasizing the need for societal reform and legal measures.

(e) Others:

Along with above forms, there are many other forms as emotional, sexual, female genital mutilation, online harassment and harmful traditional practices, which plague the societies from any corner of the world, leading to ~~very~~ uncomfortable lives.



### 3- Violences more prevalent in Pakistani society

Pakistani society has been characterized more as a conventional and traditional in its narratives and actions, which cause the more ingrained violences in our society. And that too, without realizing it leads to even more gruesome and horrendous acts and murders.

Following are the more prevalent violences in Pakistani society.

#### (a) Honour Killings:

In the shadowed alleys of Pakistani society, honour killings cast their sinister shadow. "A woman's honour is like a precious gem," says Afzal and Maltoo in their ~~Journal~~ Journal Honour Killing: Where pride defies law, "once tarnished, it loses its value." And they lament at such belligerent view about the foundation of the woman's essence.

#### (b) Domestic Violence:

In the confines of homes, domestic violence greets its tragic symphony, inflicting the wound without scars. "Behind closed doors, the silent screams resonate, stifled by fear and shame," ~~the~~ the painful reality of this pervasive issue, attested by Stark, E in his 'Coercive Control: How men Entrap Women in Personal Life'.

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### (c) Acid Attacks:

In the realm of darkness, acid attacks unleash their cruel wrath, disfiguring lives and shattering dreams. "The scars etched by acid bear witness to the horrors of revenge and gender based violence," writes Mahmood in his journal "Acid Throwing: The Heinous Crime with Perpetual Consequence."

### (d) Sexual Harassment:

In the corridors of power and every day spaces, sexual harassment casts its menacing shadow, poisoning the essence of trust and safety. Jennifer Ann Diabac in the book "Sexual Harassment Law: history, cases, and theory" writes, "Silenced voices endure, yearning for a world where respect and dignity prevail over exploitation".

"Sexual harassment is an assertion of dominance, a means of control, and a way to remind women of their subordinate status." - Susan Estich.

### (e) Others:

Alongside above violences, other prevalent gender based violence includes bride kidnapping, 'watta satta' (exchange marriages), and others. These practices cast a dark shadow over lives of women, demanding urgent societal reforms.



#### 4- Ways of Elimination of Gender Based Violence:

The malaise of gender based violence has brought much evil in the society leading to a distressed and feared life of the women. Following are the ways to get rid of this gruesome malaise:

##### (a) Transformative justice and Restorative Reforms:

Tackling gender based violence demands thinking outside the box. Embracing transformative justice and restorative reforms can light the way, cutting to the ~~root~~<sup>root</sup> and fostering genuine change, chipping away at the age-old scourge.

##### (b) Deconstruction of Hegemonic Narratives:

Untangling ingrained beliefs and dominant narratives, like peeling back layers, open new perspectives and challenges the status quo, paving the way for the fresh understandings and inclusive change.

##### (c) Engendering public Sphere and Media

###### Representation:

Empowering gender representation in public spheres and media dismantles stereotypes, allowing diverse voices to ~~shine~~ shine, nurturing a more equitable and enriching societal conversation.



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(d) Institutional reforms and policy interventions:

Implementing institutional reforms and targeted policy interventions for a sturdy foundation for eradicating gender based violence, aligning systems and laws to protect and uplift those affected, forging a safer, fairer future.

(e) Others:

Eliminating gender based violence requires community engagement, education, and support services. Engaging men, promoting economic development, and international collaborations are crucial, along with those discussed.

5- CONCLUSION:

Gender based violence encompasses multiple forms such as sexual, domestic, honor killings, and forced marriages along with others. Eliminating these violences require certain reforms, education, support services etc. to foster a society built on equality and respect.