

Q: Comment on the power and control relationship in gender based violence (CSS-2020)

Ans

1. Introduction: Power and control through the prism of gender based violence

Power and control is basically a concept which provides an insight into how perpetrator uses power and control to the victim in gender based violence. Perpetrator uses various forms of violence to control the victim by doing physical violence, psychological violence, indirect violence like threat to kill, confining the victim, threatening her of separation from children, and similar tactics. The power and control tactics have sparked criticism from a sound the prudent mindset of the world.

2. Commenting on the power and control relationship in gender based violence.

Power and control tactics have always been a double-edged sword.

of patriarchal, ethnocentric, homophobic and gender based violence. A strong nexus exists with gender based violence.

Following are the key arguments in this regard:

2.1, Physical violence as an attempt to power and control:

Perpetrators use physical violence which include hurting, beating, assaulting and providing

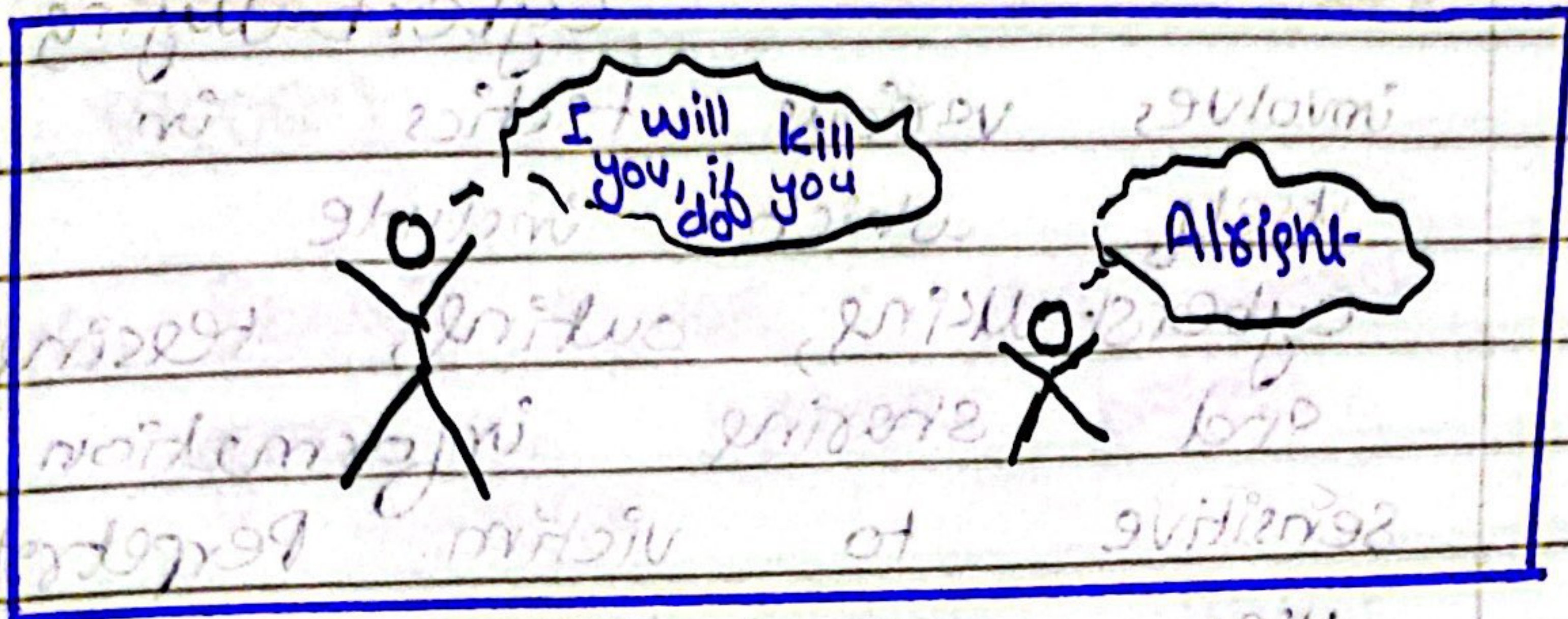
harm to the victim. All of this is done by perpetrator to control the victim by exerting

power. PEW research provides that every third woman in the world has been the victim of physical violence once in her world.

2.2, Psychological violence: A handle for perpetrator

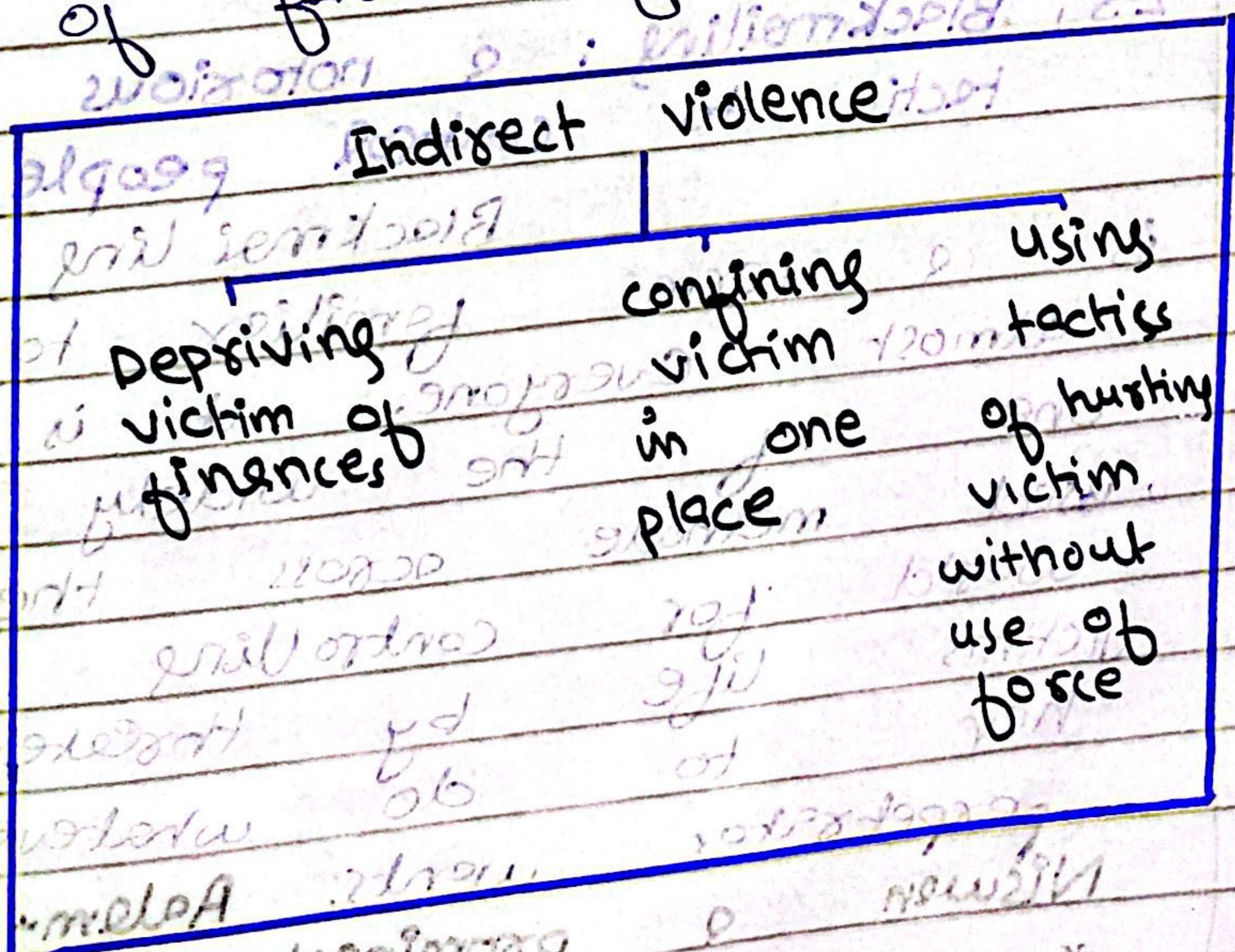
Psychological violence is another form of power and control in gender based violence, where perpetrator exerts power by threatening the victim of dire

consequences if the victim does not comply with perpetrator's demand.



### 2.3, Indirect violence ; an indirect method of exerting control

Indirect violence is another form of violence used by perpetrator, where victim uses different methods of influencing victim of their children, depriving them from financial resources.



## 2.4, Cyberbullying : hurting victim through internet and social media

Cyberbullying involves various tactics in itself which include cyberstalking, outing, teasing and sharing information sensitive to victim. Perpetrator uses cyberbullying by sending repetitive texts, messages, and comments to the victim to control her. Victims Protection Cell of North Carolina provided that women in colleges, schools and universities were cyberbullied by perpetrators for not complying to their demands.

## 2.5, Blackmailing : a notorious tactic to control people

Blackmailing is a term used almost by everyone. It is one of the widely used methods across the world for controlling victim's life by threatening her to do whatever perpetrator wants. Adam-e-Niswan a prominent journal

In Pakistan published that women faced blackmailing the most during the times of Covid-19 (2022 report)

2.6; Sexual abuse: the worst form of gender based violence

Sexual abuse includes harassment, rape, assault and coercion (where?) perpetrator sexually abuses the victim by raping her, assaulting her and forcing her to do acts which she does not agree to do.

"Man has learnt to sleep with women only, the day man learns to live with her - the society will change"  
- Judith Butler

### 3, Conclusion

Power and control is a wide concept understood through the patriarchy of gender based violence. It involves exerting of power by perpetrator to

control over life, decisions, career and events of victim. It includes direct violence, physical violence, financial violence, cyberbullying and similar forms to exert power and uses gender based violence

Q

How the Colonial era influenced the status of women in the subcontinent? (CSS-2020)

1: Introduction

The colonial era influenced the status of women both in positive manner by abolishing laws like 'Sati', and several others. Contrary to that it had some lasting impacts which were against women like law of inheritance which were patriarchal in nature and favoured men while discriminating women. The colonial era had various social, political, economical and legal impacts on the status of women in subcontinent. If one sees weight

between positive and negative impacts. The facts provide that the positive impacts on status of women in South Asia during colonial rule outnumbered the negative ones.

## 2. Describing how the Colonial era influenced the status of women in the sub-continent.

Following

some points with regard to the status of women, which was heavily impacted during the colonial rule.

### 2.1, Enactment and abolishment of laws transformed status of women.

These laws were enacted and influenced the status of women, along with that there were some abolishment of laws influencing status of women.

#### a, Enactment of inheritance laws ; b more discriminatory

British colonial rulers

enacted inheritance laws which were wholly patriarchal in nature and the reason for discrimination increasingly happening against women. Inheritance laws aimed at transferring ownership of property of women to their male counterparts when they married, died or separated, (Pakistan Paradox)

**b; Abolishment of Sati practice:**  
 a life saver for women  
 Along with these discriminatory inheritance laws, British abolished some practices as of Sati which were inhuman in nature. Sati aimed at burning alive spouse of male hindu individual along with his corpse when he died. Therefore, the life of wife depended wholly upon the life of her husband.

Abolishment of Sati was a move in the right direction.

**2.2, Economic opportunities being**



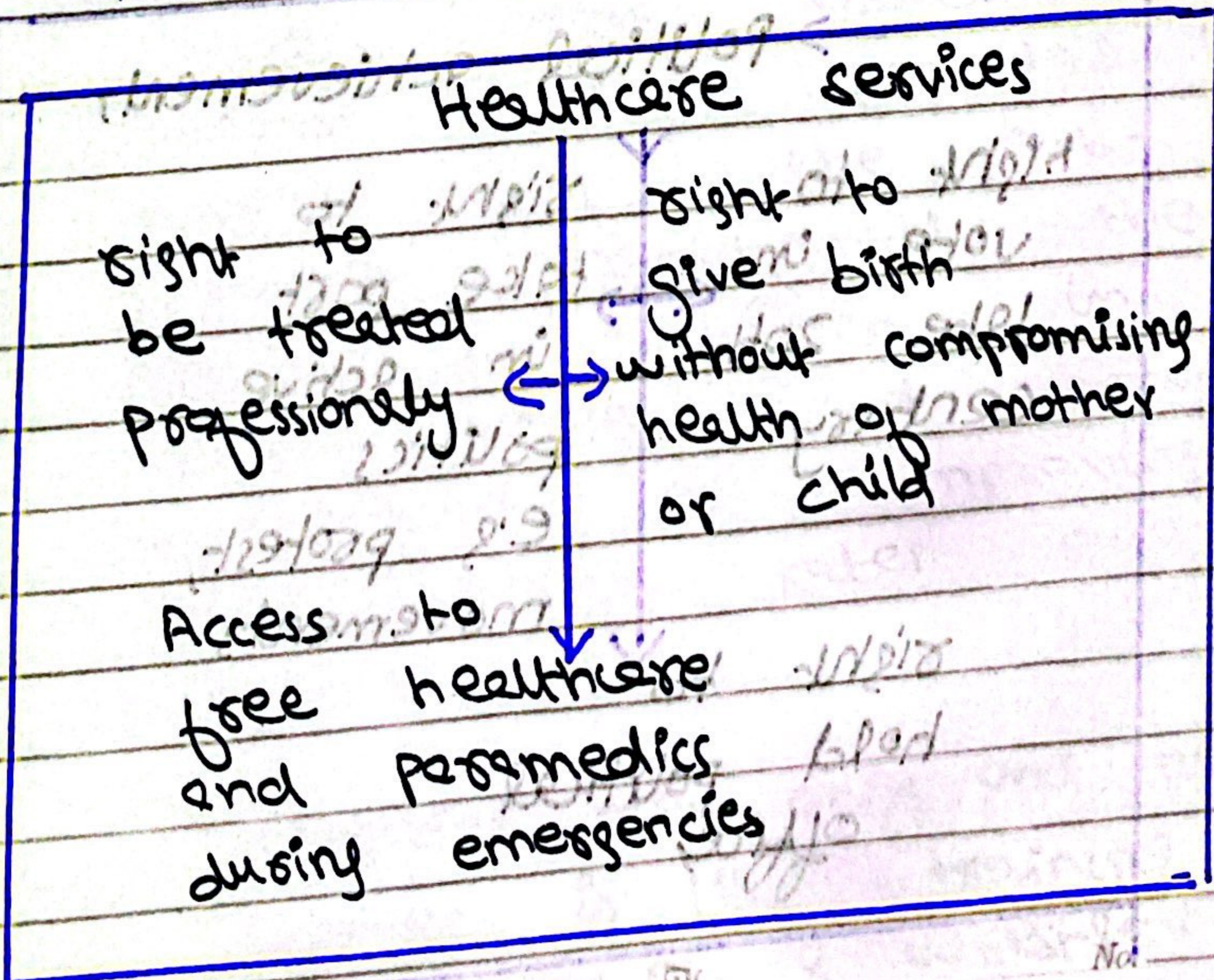
provided to women of sub-continent.

During the colonial rule, women, unlike before, were recruited in public offices and in industry, "British textiles were the first firms to hire women in their industries"

- Begum Raana Liaquat Ali Khan (APWA)

### 2.3, Healthcare services provided to women in sub-continent.

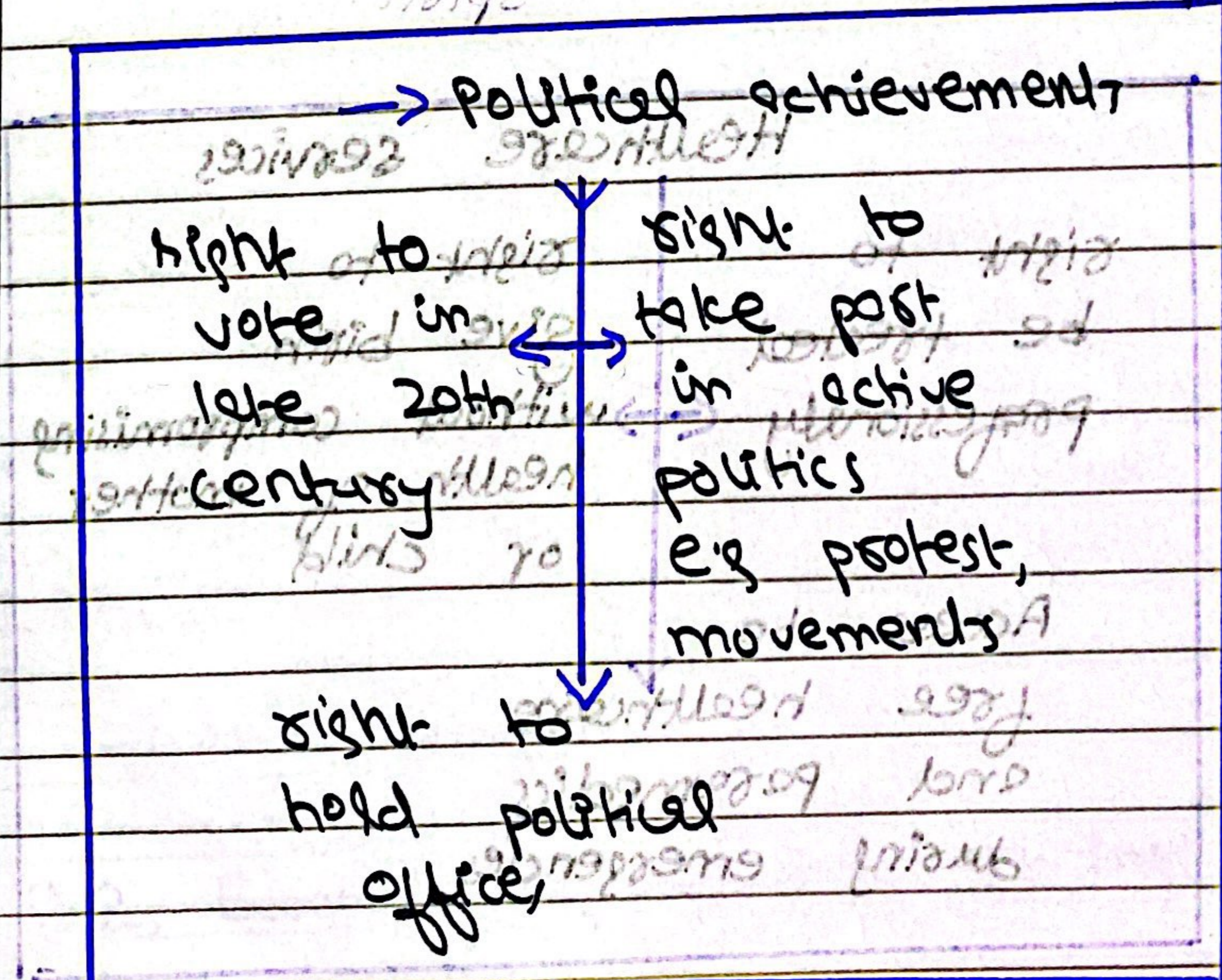
for the first time during the colonial rule that healthcare services were provided to women of the subcontinent in both letter and spirit.



2.4, Suffrage in the later years : a stone laying for entrance of women in active politics

Post colonial era provided women of the subcontinent right to vote, which proved instrumental in transforming their status - by including them in political arena.

It was because of suffrage and political rights that women like Bi Amme - mother of Maulana Mh AU Jahan and Shaukat Ali Jauhar, Fatima Jinnah, Rubina Saigol, Begum Rana Liaqat Ali Khan and several others, came actively in politics.



### 2.5, Sense of social security :

is an essential in influencing the status of women

Colonial rule although was tyrannical in nature, but it provided

sense of social security to women by

providing them with health care services, political

rights the limited ones,

and education. All of this

positively influenced the status

of women in the sub-

### 2.6, Ensuring education of women & transformation in true sense.

status of women was uplifted by nothing

more than education.

Education being provided to

women of the sub-

continent transformed the

status of women in

true sense; and proved

instrumental in improving

literacy rates and awareness.

"Educating men only and not

women is like training

one arm of a wrestler" - Aristotle

3. Conclusion

All the above-mentioned arguments provide that status of women was heavily influenced by colonial rule in sub-continent. It provided some detrimental impacts along with majority of helpful measures which improved the status of women legally, socially, and politically.

Q

'Language is gendered', what does this imply? Explain with examples (CSS-2020)

Ans:

1. Introduction: Language is Gendered

The statement that language is gendered posits that specific terms and concepts have been allocated to specific genders. Like fire fighter and Nurse. Both these give

prompt imagination as to who will be a firefighter and who will be a nurse.

Therefore, to say language is gendered carries significant weight, because society has gendered the language.

patriarchal nurtured mindsets in particular. Gendered - language is a stereotype and is widely present across all corners of the world. This has severe implication for women in specific, who are already suffering from practices like gendered script.

## 2. Describing what does gendered language imply

Gendered language is instrumental in allocating specific roles to specific genders. "Segregation at all tiers and corners has discriminated women"

Patricia Hill

Following are key points in regards with the gendered language

### 2.1. A Handle in Creating Stereotypes

Gendered language had always been present in society due to presence of male-dominated hierarchy at the helm of institutional affairs of the world. "All offices, in the world be it public or private, are

run by "men" - Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany

### 2.2, Specific roles for specific genders

Gendered language implies that specific roles in society are supposed to be for specific genders. 'military men', 'monarch', 'fire-fighter', 'drivers'.

It is very unfortunate that upon listening to these words an individual's instant thought is that it would be for men. 'Nurse', 'cook', 'maid' unfortunately roles as these are perceived to be for women only.

### 2.3, Language sets present in society

Take one key example of English language. 'He' means masculine, 'She' means feminine. These are present in every native language. Consider the case of national language of Pakistan; 'Larka' means masculine, 'Larki' means feminine. However, there are

neutral pronouns like 'They' also present.

## 2.4, Reflecting Power Dynamics

The often use of He, Him, His pronouns in society succumbs to the fact that there are more patriarchal minds in society, more than that of subjugated innocent women. This frequent use of male-gendered pronouns can further marginalize women in society.

## 3, Gendered language poses a grave threat to gender identity

The cognizant of the fact that language is gendered has led to efforts which aim at neutralizing gendered language. These attempts include use of neutral pronouns like 'They' and words like 'One' and 'individual', key case of Swedish government is best in this regard because they have implemented neutral language in public sectors.

## 4, Conclusion

It is unfortunate and

prime reason for stereotype.  
that language is gendered.  
it is visible from gendered  
pronouns like He and She.  
it has allotted specific  
roles to specific genders  
as well. Therefore, there  
are made several attempts  
to neutralize and minimize  
use of gendered language

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