

Question # 02: Write a note on status of gender studies in Pakistan. Give your views on the autonomy versus integration debate in gender studies.

Answer # 02

1) Introduction

Gender studies has seen a noted progress in succeeding years. It has not only progressed in West but also in other regions of the world. Although, the material and the thought of subject is West-centric. However, it has progressed in other countries like Pakistan.

In Pakistan, Gender Studies came out of Center of Excellence for Gender Studies (CEWS) project developed by the Ministry of Women Development, Government of Pakistan in 1989. Though there was effect of feminist thought even in initial years of Pakistan. However, it became a discipline in University in 1989. Moreover, since the beginning of the subject, there has been a debate where scholars contend on autonomy of the discipline. Other group propagate for integration of the subject. The autonomy of integration debate is only about the location of gender studies in University. Both schools of thought criticize the other.

2) Status of Gender Studies in Pakistan

The efforts of the "Center of Excellence for (Gender) Women Studies" (CEWS) in 1989 and Ministry of Women Development led to the formation of Women Studies programs in the universities. Moreover, the Pakistan Association for Women's Studies (PAWS) that was formed in 1991 in Karachi has also played a key role in establishing gender studies as a program in many universities.

2.1) Gender Studies or Women's Studies and University of Karachi

University of Karachi through "Center of Excellence for Women's Studies" (CEWS) developed P.M.A program in Women's studies in 1996. It initiated Mphil and Ph.D program in 2002. Moreover, University of Karachi actively organized sessions and conferences to aware the educated people about the discipline.

2.2) Other Universities followed University of Karachi Gender Studies or Women Studies

as a discipline were introduced in many universities. Mostly, public universities were among these universities that had introduced the Women's studies or Gender Studies. It started progressing in all the universities. It led to the further consolidation of feminist movements in Pakistan. Moreover, Gender Studies in Pakistan still can improve when the local perspective in the subject is added.

2.3) Local perspective in Gender Studies in Pakistan

Pakistan must add the local perspective in the gender studies. This way, the discipline can be made inclusive in Pakistan.

Currently, the focus of discipline is only on Western thought. It must be made sure that there is enough local perspective of the subject. The issues of local women's should be highlighted. It will also help to devise academic strategies to resolve the issues of women and other oppressed genders in Pakistan.

3) Autonomy Versus Integration Debate

This debate is all about the location of Gender Studies or Women Studies at university. Those who are integrationists come from Women Study Centers that were developed in the West. Those who support autonomy of the discipline are from Women's studies programs discipline.

3.1) What is the debate?

The debate of the two schools of thought is about the location of Gender/Women Studies program of university. Both schools of thought present the drawbacks of the other.

3.2) Major ideas of integrationists

Integrationists are from Women's Studies Centers, they believe that autonomy of the subject will lead to ghettoization. The integration of the subject is necessary to confront gender blindness. If believes that,

integration of gender studies in other disciplines will help in developing feminist perspective in other disciplines. Moreover, they believe that separation will lead to segregation.

3.3) Major ideas of autonomists

These scholars are from Women's Studies Disciplines, they believe that the liberty of the ~~disc~~ discipline will give an ability to make decisions and if will ~~for~~ give place in university politics also. Moreover, autonomists believe that for development of any discipline institutional marginality is necessary. Moreover, they believe that the autonomy confers power to the discipline. As the integrationists fear that with autonomy there will "ghettoization," ~~they~~ ~~to~~ autonomists believe that the integration will lead to dilution of the subject.

3.4) Both / Strategy

Jean Fox O' Barr has taken a mediatory approach by declaring

that both can coexist. It can be autonomous as well as integrated in the other disciplines. According to Jean, Gender studies is both a discipline and interdisciplinary field.

3.5) Critical Analysis

Integrationists are criticized by Isolationists by saying that autonomy men will no longer have access to women. They fear this and this is why oppose autonomy. Moreover, was the Political Science segregated when it was separated? Same goes for women's studies.

4) Conclusion

Currently, Gender Studies in Pakistan has been strengthened. It has evolved as a separate discipline in many public universities. However, local perspective must be added in order to increase the progress of discipline. Lastly, the autonomy versus integration debate is all about the location of the discipline at university. It is still contended. However,

universities around the world have accepted it as a separate discipline.

Q#03: Differentiate between gender studies and women's studies. Discuss in detail the multi-disciplinary nature of gender studies.

Answer # 03

1) Introduction

Gender Studies emerged during the 3rd wave of feminism while Women Studies emerged during 2nd wave of feminism. Women studies attempted to add the knowledge and perception about women. There was the need to fill the gap in order to add the role of women in society. However, Gender Studies developed and many scholars started replacing women studies with gender studies. The difference between the two is of scope and areas of discussion. Moreover, the Gender Studies is a multidisciplinary in nature. If taken certain other

disciplines into account. It takes Economics, politics, sociology, psychology, philosophy and epistemology. The nature of the discipline for this reason is called multidisciplinary nature.

2) Gender Studies and Women's Studies

Gender studies is said to be the continuation of women studies. Women studies developed during the second wave of feminism while gender studies came on the fore during the 3rd wave of feminism. However, the two differ in the scope and their subject matter.

2.1) Women Studies

Women studies developed during the 2nd wave of feminism. It is said that it continued the efforts of feminist studies. Feminist studies attempted to highlight the issues of women and their position in the past and present.

i) Scope of Women Studies

The scope of women studies according to scholars is limited and narrow. It only discuss the women in isolation. This is why

claimed that scope of women studies is limited.

(ii) Subject matter of Women Studies

Women Studies only takes into account women. It attempts to study the position of women in the past and present.

(iii) Approaches women studies discuss

Women Studies only discuss the Women in Development (WED). It is an approach which claims that women are not part of the development process. The exclusion of women from development breeds the inequality in society.

(iv) Discussing Gender as Binary

Women Studies discusses gender as binary : Male and Female. It does not discuss other genders like LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexuals and Transgenders).

2.2) Gender Studies

Gender Studies is the study of genders, their relationship, role and status of genders. It also attempts to discuss the forces that

affect them.

i) Scope of Gender Studies

The scope of gender studies is wide. It takes all genders into account. It does not discuss gender in isolation. It attempts to study gender in wide scope, taking into account all other genders and other factors.

ii) Subject Matter of Gender Studies

Gender studies discuss all genders, including women, men and LGBT. It attempts study position of all genders in the society.

iii) Approaches Gender Studies discusses

Gender studies takes into account Women and Development and Gender And Development. It discusses these approaches to shed light upon the struggle of all genders.

iv) Discussing Gender as Fluid

Gender studies discusses genders as fluid. It discusses that why genders differ in social and biological manner.

Women's Studies	Gender Studies
Narrow in scope	Wide in scope
Subject matter is only Women	Subject matter is all genders
WID approach	WAD and GAD approaches
Radical feminism	Liberal feminism
2 nd wave of feminism	3 rd wave of feminism
Gender as binary	Gender as fluid

Figure: Difference between Gender Studies and Women Studies

3) Multi-disciplinary Nature of Gender Studies

Gender Studies is called as a multi-disciplinary nature discipline because it does not discuss the genders and issues of genders in isolation. It, instead, takes into account majority of disciplines to discuss the position of genders.

It discusses Economics, Politics, Sociology, Biology, Psychology, Philosophy and Epistemology while defining position of gender studies.

3.1) Economics and Gender Studies

It discusses Economics while defining the position of gender. The approaches to development are evidence of such claim: Women in Development, Women And Development and Gender And Development. Moreover, Gender studies also analyzes the Structural Adjustment Plans.

i) Women In Development (WID)

Through this approach, gender studies sheds light upon the fact that Women are not made part of development process. According to Moises, states that are industrially developed they have made women part of development while women in under-developed countries are left behind.

ii) Women and Development (WAD)

This approach discusses that women have been part of development. However, their inclusion only serves the sustenance of the capitalism.

iii) Gender and Development (GAD)

According to this approach, women and all other genders should be part of the development process. Hence, they should all get benefit too.

iv) Structural Adjustment Plans (SAPs)

According to Hilary Campbell, women are the major shock absorbers of the adjustment conditionalities. The "Conditionality Clause" in the loans oppresses women in the countries.

3.2) Gender Studies and Sociology

Gender studies takes Sociology into account. It discusses the influence of social factors on the genders and genders roles in the society. The culture, race, caste and creed are taken into account. The evidence to this is the "Social Construction of Gender" theory which is taken into account by defining that gender is a social construct.

3.3) Gender Studies and Politics

Gender Studies also takes into account the politics. It is necessary to discuss while

defining the role of genders in society. The legislation about women and laws and limitations on women are set by the politics. For instance, the suffrage right of women in the USA was sought by women from Woodrow Wilson.

3.4) Gender Studies and Biology

Gender Studies also attempts to study the biological reasons behind the gender roles in the society. The influence of testosterone and chromosomes of XX, and XY defining the sex of the child is the evidence that gender studies also takes biology into account.

3.5) Gender Studies and Psychology

Moreover, through developmental psychology, social psychology and cognitive psychology, gender studies attempts to define the mental development of genders. It also defines through psychology that what is the role of psyche in domination of one gender is.

3.6) Philosophy and Epistemology and Gender Studies

Lastly, Gender Studies also discusses the study of knowledge to understand the construction of gender.

4) Conclusion

Gender Studies and Women Studies differ in various areas. They differ in scope, subject matter, in definition of gender and approaches. Both subjects, however, propagate equality and empowerment of oppressed genders specifically women. Moreover, gender studies is known to be a multi-disciplinary nature discipline. Gender Studies while discussing genders discuss the other disciplines also. Scholars of gender studies propagate that gender cannot be studied in the isolation.

Q# 04: Define the terms masculinity and femininity. In your opinion where do traditional gender roles come from?

Answer # 04

1) Introduction

The two terms masculinity and femininity are traits and characteristics associated with male and female or men and women respectively. Some traits are stereotypically associated with masculinity and femininity and some are given or assigned by two schemas of gender. Moreover, the traditional roles of male and female are assigned through the socialization process. Socialization is the process through which genders learn their roles from parents, relatives, school and social interaction with people.

2) Defining the term "Femininity"

The term femininity is associated with women or female. There are personality traits and characteristics which are called as feminine characteristics and associated with

females or women. These feminine characteristics and traits associated with female are called as femininity.

2.1) Feminine characteristics

There are some characteristics which are stereotypically associated with female. For instance, women are called weak, emotional, sentimental and born to ~~be~~ serve men. However, some characteristics makes women hegemon in whole male - female class. For instance, white women, belonging to powerful family than male and from an elite class, associated with the ruling class.

3) Defining the term "Masculinity"

The traits associated with male and actions of male are said to be masculinity. These traits are developed by the process of the socialization through which traits of the personality on man. The traits associated with male are called as masculinity.

3.1) Masculine characteristics

Masculine characteristics can be

into two kinds: Hegemonic Masculinity and Sub-ordinate masculinity.

2i) Hegemonic Masculinity

There are some traits of man which makes him hegemon. For instance, if he is a bread-winner in the family, he dominates in at home, his trait of being heterosexual, being the strong and bold and traditionally controlling home. These are the traits which makes his hegemon at home and society.

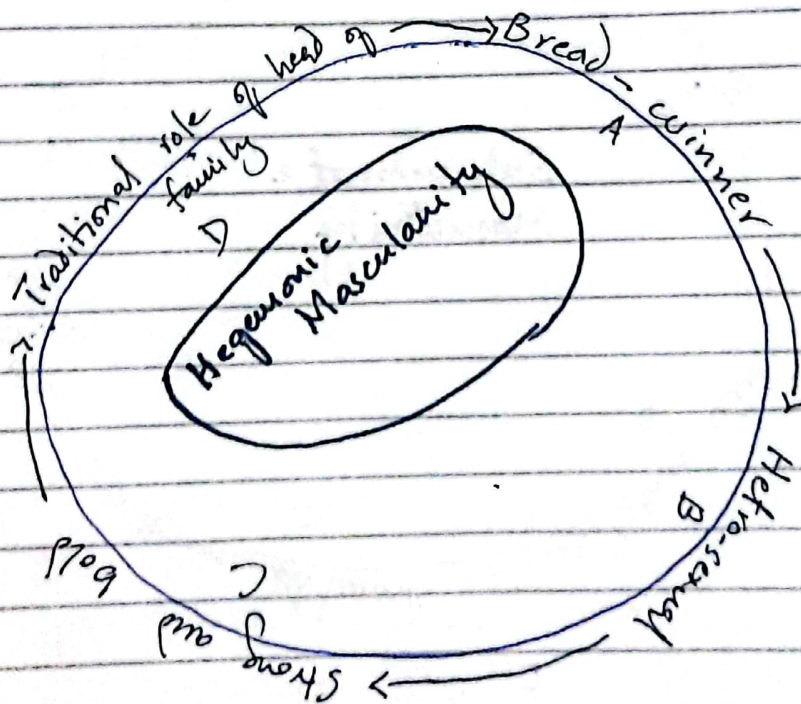


Figure: Holistic view of hegemonic masculinity

ii) Subordinate masculinity

There are few roles which are rejected in the society. They are called subordinate because they make a man subordinate of someone. For instance, being a house-husband, gay, homo-sexual (weak), from labour class and black. These traits are rejected in the society. These traits make him sub-ordinate to others.

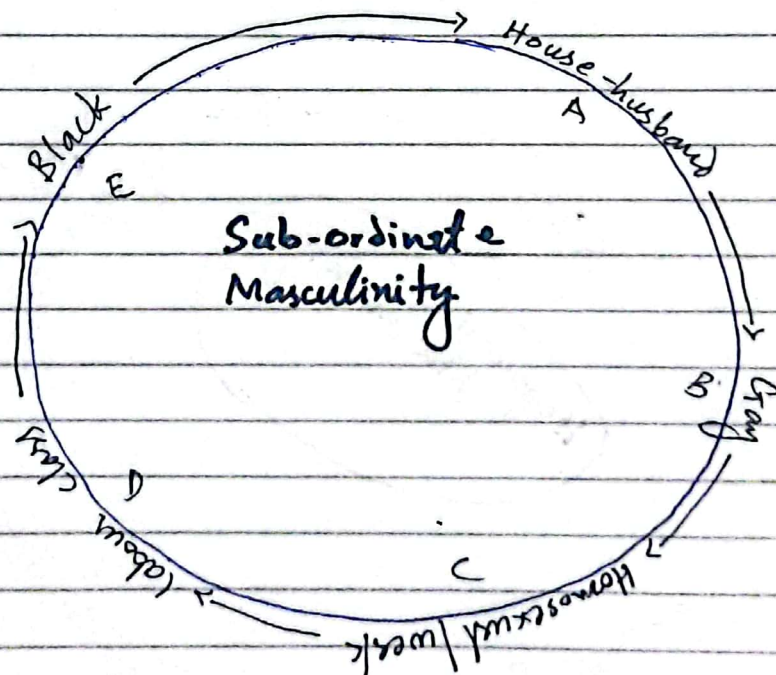


Figure: Holistic view of subordinate Masculinity

4) Traditional Roles of Genders

There are various factors through which traditional roles are born. There are two schools of thought on this. Some scholars assert that gender roles are social construct and other group of scholars give biological reasons for the gender roles. They say that custom is destiny.

4.1) Gender roles are Social Construct

The practical analysis of whole male - female organization proves that gender roles are social construct. A child learns his or her role when he is only 3 three to five years. If will be analyzed here with the help of theories like social learning theory, the school experience, gender schema theory and Media and language. These theories are enough to prove that gender roles are socially constructed.

i) Social learning theory

It asserts that child learns gender roles from parents and

around him. According to this theory, child practices what he sees and observes in his or her surroundings. Social surroundings teach a person from early age the gender roles. For instance, A child watches his mother all the time in kitchen and his sister helping her in house-chores while his father is served, he himself is served. He sees his father going to offices, sees his elder cousins roam outside home and his female cousins at home. This whole process unconsciously develop the gender roles from very early age.

ii) School Experience and Cultural Sexism

Secondly, the child learns gender role from his school and culture. He observes the treatment of teacher that is different for male and different for female. The Reward and Punishment concept for certain behaviour tends to develop the gender roles in society.

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iii) Gender Schema theory

There are two gender schemas which are used to define that gender is a social construct. 1st schema begins at very early stage when child starts observing behaviours at home and other schema is when the child grows and through reward and punishment process, he/she starts differentiating the feminine behaviour and masculine behaviours.

iv) Media and Language

Lastly, it is media and gendered language which discriminates the behaviour of male and female. For instance, women in movies and dramas are shown to be only at home mostly and weak. Mostly, these women in dramas are stereotypically shown.

v) Process of Socialization

Moreover, the whole process of socialization unconsciously teaches children from early age about their gender roles. Male child is given cars and guns toys to play while female child is given dolls and other such toys. This

leads to the construction of gender roles in society.

5) Conclusion

In a nutshell, masculinity and the femininity are associated traits and characteristics with male and female. For this reason, they are known as feminine and masculine. Masculinity is divided into two forms. One is hegemonic while the other is sub-ordinate. The dilemma exist in both, femininity as well as masculinity. Lastly, the gender roles are constructed through socialization not biological reasons. Anatomy may permanently define the sex of a person; however, it can not permanently assign the gender role. It is the social culture which construct the traditional roles in the society. Hence, it can be said that gender is a social construct and so are traditional gender roles.

Q# 08 :: Define Gender based violence. Explain various forms of violence against women in Pakistan and devise some practical strategies which can be helpful in the eradication of gender based violence from our society.

Answer # 08

1) Introduction

Gender based violence is the form of violence which is done on a particular gender solely because of gender. Weak genders are made subject to violence at home, at workplace and on the streets. There are various forms of violence that are happened in Pakistan. Violence against women, domestic violence, ~~or~~ marital rape, psychological violence; physical violence, sexual violence; mental torture, blackmailing and gender-based violence. Women and children are not even spared on streets, schools and workplaces. Pakistan must devise strong strategy to combat the ill of violence in Pakistan. Following measures can be instrumental: educating people; sex education at schools, punishing the aggressors through rule of law, legislation should be passed in order to fight all forms of violence. Special cells for women and ^{against} violence

should be formed to provide emergency help to victims.

2) Defining Gender Based Violence

Gender Based Violence (GB) is the form of violence which is committed on the basis of gender. Victim is made object of violence because of gender, this is done due to the power imbalance between the genders. When a gender, mostly a woman, is considered weak by opposite gender, mostly men, the gender is tortured either physically, mentally or sexually. This is known as the gender based violence.

3) Various forms of Violence against Women in Pakistan

There are various forms of violence that happen in Pakistan. They are as follows: domestic violence, physical violence, marital rape, rape, honour killing, forced marriages, mental violence, economic violence, social violence, marriage with Dauran, violence at workplace and state-sponsored violence against women. These are the forms of violence happening against women in Pakistan.

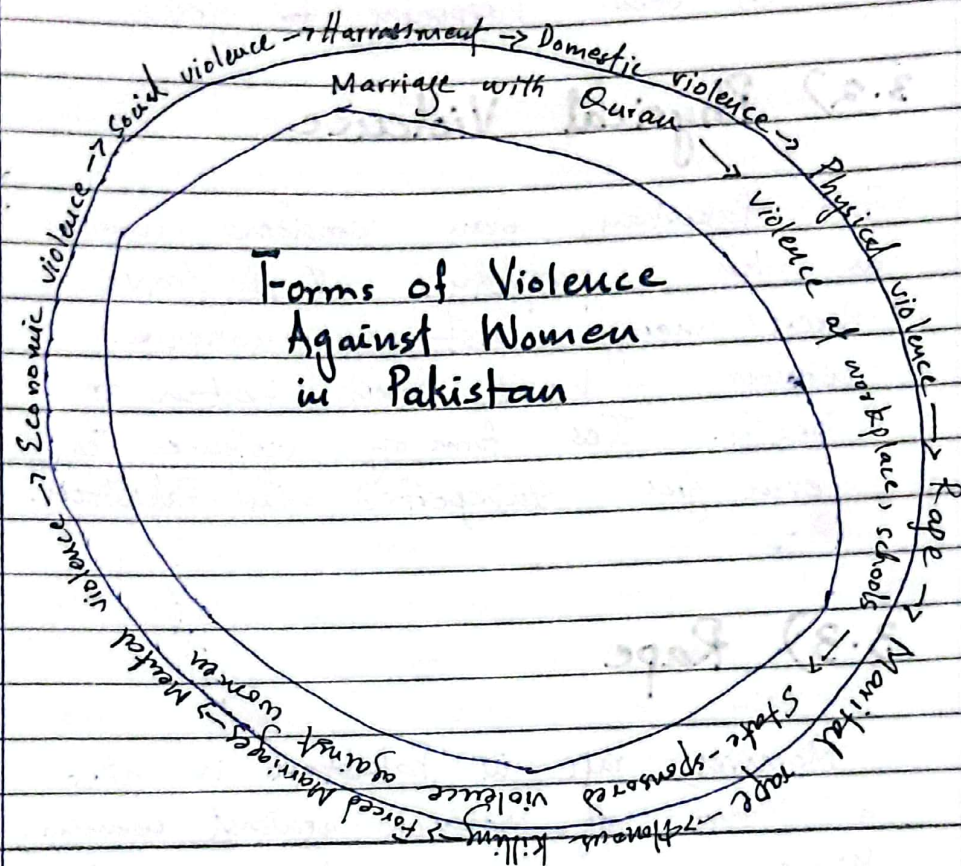


Figure: Holistic view of Violence against women in Pakistan

3.1) Domestic Violence against Women

Violence against women is an ignominious blot on society. It was said by Hilary Clinton in one of her speeches. It is true. The domestic violence is kind of violence which is conducted against women at home by either her husband, her mother-in-law or any other family

member. According to UN Women report the violence against women, specifically increased in COVID-19 in Pakistan. It has been happening for years.

3.2) Physical Violence

In Pakistan, man considers women as her property. There have been many instances where women have been beaten to death. This form of violence is even goes unreported in Pakistan.

3.3) Rape

Moreover, rape in Pakistan is also a form of violence against women. Women are even raped on roads by roaming and mad men. Several cases of rape also goes unreported in Pakistan.

3.4) Marital Rape

Furthermore, women face marital rape as well. Man rape his wife without her consent. It goes unreported in Pakistan. This is not even considered by the orthodox elements of people.

3.5) Honour Killing

Honour killing is also a form

of violence against women in Pakistan. Predator here is mostly immediate close of the woman; father, brother or cousin.

3.6) Forced Marriages & Early

Forced marriages and early marriages are also heinous crimes committed in Pakistan. These crimes goes unpunished and forced and early marriages keep happening in Pakistan.

3.7) Mental Violence

Mental violence is also a form of violence against women in Pakistan. This is done by husband or his family members on women for certain reasons. Women even reach to the level of depression.

3.8) Economic Violence against Women

Husband mostly blackmails wife through economic means. Because man is a breadwinner in the family, for certain reasons he tortures his wife.

3.9) Social or Cultural Violence

Women are confined in the cruel cultural cages of society. She is not allowed to practice her basic rights because of some cultural norms.

3.10) Harassment at workplace, Schools and Streets

Moreover, women are made subject to violence through harassment at workplace, schools and streets.

3.11) Marriage with Quran

Moreover, marriage with Holy Quran is also a practice done in Pakistan. It is done so that man does not have to ~~repot~~ share property with outgoing women.

3.12) State - Sponsored Violence Against Women

State-sponsored violence against women is conducted through state's discriminatory policies. Moreover, state of Pakistan has failed to execute the aggressors in Pakistan. Punishment ratio is very low in case of violence against women. Hence, state is also involved in the violence against women. Moreover, there have been many instances where state authorities have done victim blaming.

4) Strategy to Root Out Violence from Pakistan against Women

There are many measure which can be taken to root out the violence against women.

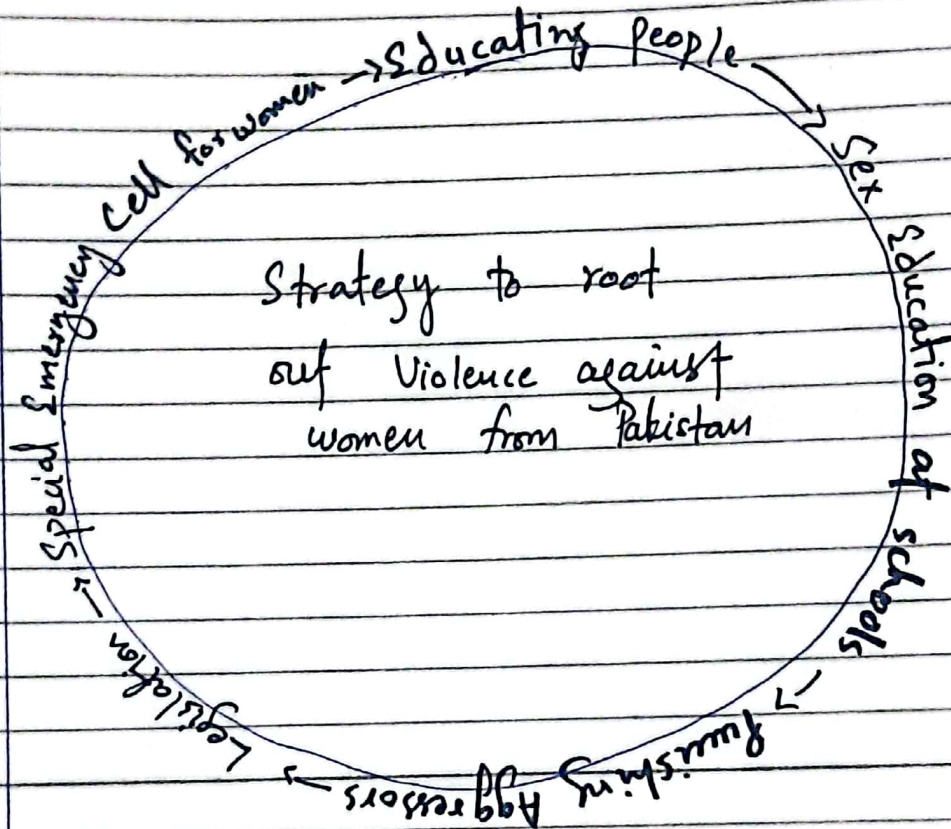


Figure: Holistic view of strategy to root out violence against women from Pakistan

5) Conclusion

There are various forms of violence which happen in Pakistan. Gender based violence is the most common form of violence against women. However, through proper strategy, it can be rooted out from Pakistan.